

Rules
2026 Scholarship
South Central Nebraska Czech Society

1. Documents

Four documents set forth how the South Central Nebraska Czech Society (SCNCS) operates and awards scholarships.

1. Announcement
2. Application
3. Award Procedure
4. Rules (**this document**)

All four documents are available to those who are interested, especially applicants.

This document sets forth the *rules* by which the scholarships of the SCNCS operate and award scholarships.

2. Philosophy

The scholarship is intended to be a reward to a high school senior for their contributions to the South Central Nebraska Czech and Slovak community during their teenage years.

3. Eligibility

3.1. Ancestral

The scholarship is offered to those persons who are under 21 years of age on June 30 of each year who are of Czech or Slovak ancestry by birth, or who are the adopted children of person of Czech or Slovak ancestry.

Czech ancestry for the purposes of this scholarship program is a person whose ancestors emigrated from the geographic regions Czech Republic, Bohemia, or Moravia. Slovak ancestry for the purposes of this scholarship program is a person whose ancestors emigrated from the geographic regions of Slovak Republic.

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3.2. Geographic

The scholarship is available to those students whose home address is in the following eleven (11) Nebraska counties. For this scholarship program these counties are considered the south central part of the State of Nebraska.

Buffalo				
Kearney	Adams	Clay	Filmore	Saline
Franklin	Webster	Nuckolls	Thayer	Jefferson

4. Submission

Applications are to be submitted to the Secretary of the SCNCS by email (secretary@soucennebczesoc.com) . It is preferred that applications be submitted by email.

Applications will be accepted if they are sent by postal mail or are hand delivered, provided they are physically received by the Secretary by the April deadline.

5. Due Date

An application must be received and email date and time stamped by 11:59 PM, Thursday, April 30, 2026.

If the application is mailed by the United States Postal Service (USPS), it must be date and time stamped by 11:59 PM, Thursday, April 30, 2026.

- Note that recently the USPS has announced that it may no longer date and time stamp letters at the time the letter is posted, rather, it may be date and time stamped several days later when the letter passes through a regional sorting center. That is, mailed applications need to be sent several days before April 30, 2026.

6. Jury of Award

By May 1 of each year, or after the due date of the applications, whichever is later, the Officers of the SCNCS creates and announces the Jury of Award.

The members of the Jury of Award are chosen from the Czech and Slovak community of Southcentral Nebraska.

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The Jury of Award is to be composed of an odd number (3, 5, etc.) of people. Setting an odd number of jury members is intended to minimize the possibility of a tie on an issue.

The members of the Jury of Award shall not be any parent, grandparent, or great-grandparent of an applicant.

A member of the Jury of Award shall recuse themselves if there is any appearance of a conflict of interest between the member of the Jury of Award and any applicant. The Jury of Award or the Officers of the SCNCS can dismiss a member of the Jury of Award if the member does not recuse themselves. The Officers of the SCNCS determine on a case-by-case basis what constitutes a conflict of interest.

It is encouraged that the Officers of the SCNCS are not to be on the Jury of Award since the Officers may be handling any appeals of the award of the scholarship. However, Officers of the SCNCS may be on the Jury of Award if the need arises.

7. Award Procedure

The award procedure is set forth in a companion document.

8. Schedule

January – Officers of the SCNCS determine whether an award will be offered that year. The Officers also set the financial amount of the award.

February – the Announcements is posted, made available, and distributed.

April 30 – Applications are due at the end of the day, April 30, of the year. Applicants are to send their Application to the Secretary of the SCNCS (secretary@soucennebczesoc.com).

May – Jury of Award meets to determine (1) whether there is a winner, and (2) who the winner is.

The above deadlines may be adjusted by the Officers of the SCNCS as needed.

9. Announcement

The Officers announce the winner in the first week of June of the year.

The winner will be notified in May 2026.

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The winner is customarily announced publicly at the SCNCS Czech Festival held on the first Saturday of June. The winner need not be present at the June festival to win the scholarship.

10. Amount

The financial amount of the award is determined each year by the officers of the SCNCS at the start of the year.

The amount of the award is to be included in the Announcement.

The award is made in US Dollars.

The total amount is shared among the winners.

The award amount is not adjusted for inflation between the time when the award is announced and when the funds are paid. The period between these two times could be several months.

11. Payment

The award will be paid fully in one payment.

Taxes will not be withheld from the award amount. The SCNCS will not issue a 1099 tax form for the payment.

The amount will be paid to the winner after the person has been enrolled in *and* attending an accredited college, university, community college, or trade school for at least nine (9) weeks.

The award winner is to submit to the SCNCS Officers evidence acceptable to the Officers of completion of the first nine weeks of attendance. This evidence could be a copy of a report card, copy of a transcript from the Registrar of the school, or a letter or email from the winner attesting to their completion of the nine weeks. A text (SMS) message is not acceptable since it cannot be easily printed.

The winner must enroll in an accredited college, university, community college, or trade school within eighteen months of being announced as the winner. Else, the scholarship is recalled.

The accreditation of the college, university, community college, or trade school must be acceptable to the Officers of the SCNCS.

On-line colleges, universities, community colleges, and trade schools are acceptable.

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There are no geographic requirements on the location of the college, university, community college, or trade school.

There are no subject matter requirements; that is, the winner can be enrolled in whatever program they want, as long as the program is accredited and acceptable to the Officers of the SCNCS.

12. Disqualification

An applicant or a winner can be disqualified if an intentional misrepresentation is made in the Application.

The disqualification is made by the Jury of Award.

13. Appeal

An applicant who is not the winner of the scholarship may appeal the decision once.

The appeal is to be made to the Officers of the SCNCS within one week of the announcement of the winner. The appeal can only be made once. The decision of the Officers is final.

14. Originality of Responses

The responses (for example, content, authorship) submitted by the applicant to the various sections of the Application are to be their own creation.

Parents, relatives, friends, artificial intelligence, chat bots, large language models, etc. are not to be used to generate, edit, or polish the responses.

It is acceptable to use spelling and grammar checkers in word processor programs or text editing programs.

15. Announcing the Scholarship Application

Announcements about applications being accepted for the scholarship should be sent to some of the following. The Officers of SCNCS determine where and how the announcements about receiving applications are distributed.

The primary method of announcement is an email to members on the email list of the SCNCS.

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Members of the SCNCS are to be encouraged to forward the above mentioned email announcing the scholarship to additional persons how they believe may be interested in the scholarship program.

Besides generating applicants for scholarships, the distribution of the scholarship announcements further presents the activities of the SCNCS to the Southcentral Nebraska populace.

16. Questions, Comments, or Suggestions

Questions, comments, or suggestions should be sent to the Secretary of the SCNCS at Secretary@SouCenNebCzeSoc.org.

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