

# Bohemian Citizens' Benevolent Society of Astoria Annual Scholarship



# 2012

The Bohemian Citizens' Benevolent Society of Astoria ("Society") administers a scholarship that financially assists students who are enrolling into a college or graduate program. The scholarship was founded out of a desire to improve the lives of Czech-Americans and Slovak-Americans. Education remains a critical issue in the lives of thousands of Czech-American and Slovak-American students in our community. We see the need for education firsthand.

## Scholarship Application & Requirements

# The Bohemian Citizens' Benevolent Society of Astoria Scholarship

## INTRODUCTION

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The Bohemian Citizens' Benevolent Society of Astoria located in New York City is committed to fostering an appreciation of Czech and Slovak heritage and achievement. It is the society's hope that future generations of Czech and Slovak Americans will honor those who came before them by upholding the love of country, family, and cultural traditions. BCBSA offers **College and Graduate Program Scholarships** to full time matriculated students.

“Scholarship shall “provide [for] financial support for the education of Czech-American students, Slovak-American students, Czech students, Slovak students, and other students of Czech and Slovak ancestry through the creation of a scholarship fund to ensure that these students have the opportunity to fulfill their college and graduate studies and educational goals”.

*Articles of Incorporation of Bohemian Citizens' Benevolent Society of Astoria Scholarship Fund, Inc., (“Fund”) December, 2010.*

## The Bohemian Citizens' Benevolent Society of Astoria Foundation

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The society has articulated that its membership should strive to serve our community in order to:

1. Operate a Czech and Slovak language school for children that teaches both, language and cultural values.
2. Maintain a social hall where recreational and social activities can be held in order to strengthen Czech-American and Slovak-American community ties.
3. Provide opportunities for individuals within the Czech-American and Slovak-American community to excel in academics, music, sports, or other competitive areas, through the granting of scholarships or other awards.

4. Organize sports, recreation, and social activities for the Czech-American and Slovak-American community.
5. Assist individuals of the Czech-American and Slovak-American community who may be in special need.
6. Enhance the cultural diversity of our locality, and to play a positive role in the multiethnic American community to which we belong.
7. Operate a successful restaurant and beer hall with an authentic Czech and Slovak atmosphere in order to generate funds to finance the goals stated above. Other potential business opportunities and sources of funding should also be considered, provided that they are in keeping with the Czech and Slovak heritage.

## Scholarship Criteria

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To be considered for this scholarship, your application must show the following:

- **Existence of Czech-American and/or Slovak-American Ancestry**
- **Academic Excellence (at least 3.00 Grade Point Average)**
- **Service to School and Community**
- **Current Residency in the New York Metropolitan Area**

### **The Bohemian Citizens' Benevolent Society of Astoria Scholarship Program**

The society will consider all four year accredited universities and graduate programs in the United States. Applicants must be pursuing a full time course of study on a matriculating basis. The check will be payable to the selected individual. Selected applicants will be contacted by **Wednesday, May 23, 2012.**

- 1) **Selection:** The scholarship will be granted by the Selection Committee comprised of three (3) members from the membership of the society, who are to be selected by the Board of Directors. The decision of the selection committee to award a onetime scholarship grant is final and is not subject to any legal challenges by anyone for any reason, whatsoever.
- 2) **Strict Conflict Rules Apply:** The three individuals on the Selection Committee must adhere to high standards of conflict requirements. Any appearance of conflict or even an appearance of a potential conflict shall require that the committee member resigns himself or herself. No payment shall be made for service on this committee. Judges (members of the selection committee) cannot participate if their children or relatives apply.

Members of the selection committee can step down from this committee in order for their child or relative (or themselves) to apply.

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- 3) **Scholarship Distribution:** Scholarships will be awarded to the eligible applicants based on a 3:2 ratio, out of which three (3) scholarships will be available to Czech-American and Slovak-American community members, while two (2) scholarships will be accessible to the Society members and their families. Society members cannot submit one member and one non-member application.

# INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANT

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- 1) **Deadline:** Applications must be received **no later than Wednesday, March 21, 2012**. Application packages should be mailed via certified or registered mail to ensure receipt to:

**The Bohemian Citizens' Benevolent Society—Scholarship**  
**29-19 24th Avenue**  
**Astoria, New York 11102**

- 2) **We Strongly Encourage:** Your application should be complete, presentable and legible. Please print clearly using blue or black ink (no pencil) or type your responses to all questions. Submit only Part A and Part B of the application package.
- 3) **Letters of Recommendation:** You must submit *two* letters of recommendation that specifically address why you should be selected as a scholarship recipient. One recommendation should be of an academic nature (i.e. Teacher, Principal, Guidance Counselor, etc.). The other should be of a non-academic nature (i.e. Community, Church, Employer, Coach, Youth Group Coordinator, etc.). **Do not send more than two letters of recommendation.** It will not help your chances of receiving a scholarship and could disqualify your application.
- 4) **Personal Statement:** Type your essay (double spaced) on a separate sheet of paper and make sure your name is identified on the top and included in your application package.
- 5) **Academic Performance Verification:** We request verification of your academic performance. Your school Guidance Counselor or Principal must complete this Section. **The information must be provided in a sealed envelope and included in your application package.** It is your responsibility to ensure you obtain this information and that it is sent with your application.
- 6) **Supporting Documentation:** In various areas of the application, we request supporting documentation. Please ensure you include this information with your application.
- 7) **Copy For Your Files:** The original application and supporting documentation (essay, recommendation letters, etc.) will become property of the Society and **will not be returned to you.** Please note that all information will be treated in a private and confidential manner.

# A. STUDENT INFORMATION

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## 2012 Scholarship Application

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt#: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home #: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile#: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### II. CZECH OR SLOVAK HERITAGE

My Czech or Slovak ancestry is derived through:

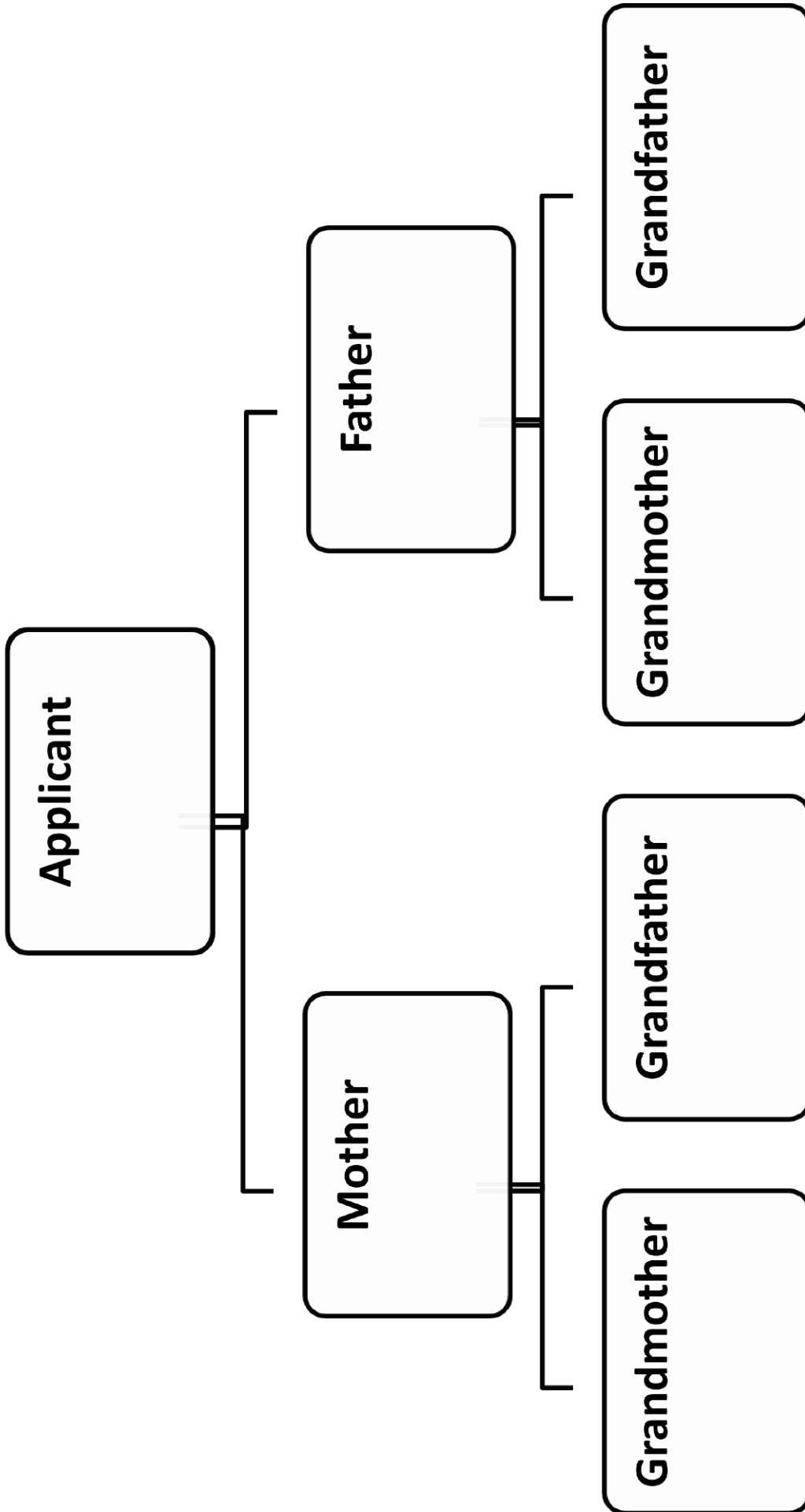
Father    Mother    Guardian

#### Applicant Ancestor Family Tree

Your family history is very important to us. Please do the following:

- Include a short statement on a separate sheet of paper, describing your genetic lineage and the transmission of cultural values in your family.
- Complete the ancestor family tree in full below by filling in the boxes to include the *Legal Names and Places of Birth of the Applicant, Parents, and Grandparents*. If the family tree is more complex, feel free to use a separate sheet of paper.

# FAMILY TREE





**IV. ESSAY**

*Please compose a personal statement of 200-300 words. Your essay must be typed, double-spaced, and include a title and your name. **Very important:** Please check for spelling and grammatical errors before submitting your application.*

Essay Topic:

**Imagine that you are an 18-year old young man or woman leaving Czechoslovakia for America in the early or mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. Give an account of your experience, describing your emotions as you leave your home for a foreign country, alone and without much money. Why did you leave Czechoslovakia? What did you expect to find in America? Describe your experience at arrival, as well as your job, living space, and activities as a young immigrant in America during this time. Use historical facts to substantiate your story.**

**V. COLLEGE TUITION / SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

List Colleges applied to *in order of preference*.

Please provide supporting documentation to substantiate tuition costs:

School Name	Annual Tuition	Application Status
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Intended Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Career Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

# B. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE VERIFICATION

**(To be completed by a Guidance Counselor, College Advisor, or Principal)**

**This part of the application is to be completed by the school Guidance Counselor, College Advisor, or Principal accompanied by an official transcript/report card of the student's grades.** Please complete all questions, even if the information is included in the transcript/report card. Please return to the student in a sealed envelope so that it can be presented to the Bohemian Benevolent Society as part of the student's application package.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

High School / College: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

High School /College Grade Point Average (G.P.A.): \_\_\_\_\_

Class Rank: # \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_

Student's S.A.T. Scores (If applicable):

Combine	
Math	
Critical reading	
Writing	

Student's GRE, GMAT, LSAT, or Other Relevant Test Scores (If applicable)

Verbal	
Quantitative	
Writing	

**Checklist:**

1. Transcript/Report Card attached.  Yes  No
2. SAT or GRE, GMAT, LSAT or Other Relevant Test Scores provided.  
 Yes  No
3. I have attached a separate Letter of Recommendation.  Yes  No

**Important:** I certify that the information provided is accurate, and I have provided this information to the above-mentioned student in a sealed envelope for inclusion in the student's scholarship application package.

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #, Fax #, E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Title (Principal/College Advisor/ Guidance Counselor) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION?**

- 1) Will you enroll in a college or graduate program as of August/September 2012?  
 Yes. Continue  No. You do not meet the criteria to submit an application.
- 2) Are you of Czech or Slovak ancestry and have you completed the ancestor family tree?  
 Yes. Continue  No. You do not meet the criteria to submit an application.
- 3) Do you reside in the New York Metropolitan Area?  
 Yes. Continue  No. You do not meet the criteria to submit an application.
- 4) Have you submitted all supporting documentation requested?  
 Yes. Continue  No. You do not meet the criteria to submit an application.
- 5) Have you completed the required essay?  
 Yes. Continue  No. You do not meet the criteria to submit an application.
- 6) Indicate your High School or College Grade Point Average here. Is it at least 85% or 3.0?  
 Yes. Continue  No. You do not meet the criteria to submit an application.
- 7) Have you provided the complete data requested regarding College or Grad School choice, tuition costs and the status of your application?  
 Yes. Continue  No. You do not meet the criteria to submit an application.
- 8) Have you obtained and included in a sealed envelope the requested academic verification information from your Principal or Guidance Counselor?  
 Yes. Continue  No. You do not meet the criteria to submit an application.
- 9) Have you submitted two Letters of Recommendation?  
 Yes. Continue  No. You do not meet the criteria to submit an application.
- 10) Will your application be submitted no later than **Wednesday, March 21, 2012?**  
 Yes. Continue  No. You do not meet the criteria to submit an application.

# Assessment of Applications

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The Selection Committee will consider if an application meets all criteria, based on eligibility, past history, and achievements.

## 1. Basic Requirements:

- **Existence of Czech and/or Slovak Ancestry**
- **Academic Excellence (at least 85% or 3.0 Grade Point Average)**
- **Service to School and Community**
- **Current Residency in the New York Metropolitan Area**

## 2. Essay Assessment:

- **CONTENT: 50 points**  
Demonstrates knowledge of subject matter; develops and adheres to a theme; presents accurate facts; shows original approach to subject; stimulates thinking
- **WRITING STYLE: 20 points**  
Demonstrates innovative style; shows correct usage of grammar, spelling, punctuation; presents clear message that is easily understood by the reader.
- **ORGANIZATION: 20 points**  
Demonstrates proper paragraph transitions, opening, closing, and tie-ins;
- **NEATNESS: 10 points**
- **INFRACTIONS: 5 points off each**  
Incorrect length; innovative title not used
- **PERFECT SCORE: 100 points**

## 3. Academic Assessment:

- **Academic Excellence (at least 85% or 3.0 Grade Point Average)**
- **SAT score:** applicant must score **above 1750**
- **GRE score :** Verbal: **above 550**, Quantitative: **above 700** , Writing: **above 4.0**

**4. Personal Achievements**

- Extracurricular, school, community and/or religious activities
- Awards, certificates, and/or medals received
- Hobbies and/or employment

**5. Interview**

<b>Score Sheet</b>	<b>Possible</b>	<b>Score</b>
Personal Introduction (personal and professional summary)	<b>20</b>	
Leadership experiences and personal leadership philosophy (how one views his or her role as a leader, how experiences will impact the future, etc.)	<b>15</b>	
Citizenship/community service experiences/attitudes about service and its importance in personal development	<b>20</b>	
Poise, self-confidence & maturity	<b>10</b>	
Interview – ability to organize & express ideas clearly, appropriate attire, relaxed, pleasant manner, good eye contact	<b>20</b>	
Commitment to activities, attitudes & career choices	<b>5</b>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100</b>	