**Mary El-Beheri or Sandra Dieckman GTHS**

**Memorial Scholarships**

**2026 Application**

**Mary El-Beheri** (1938-2012) was a founder and the Executive Director of the Texas State German Contest for 30 years and had a deep passion and commitment to students learning and loving the German language and culture. The TSGC Steering Committee has established a fund to be used for scholarships in her memory. The intent of this scholarship is to recognize a student who also shares a passion for and love of learning the German language and culture. A scholarship in the amount of at least $1000.00 will be awarded each year at the Texas State German Contest Awards Ceremony.

**MEB Eligibility:**

1. The applicant must be a senior who has competed and placed 1st – 5th place at the Texas State German Contest for at least 3 years, including their senior year.
2. The applicant must indicate an intention to continue studying German at the post-secondary level. If the applicant is not immediately attending a post-secondary institution, they must still indicate how further study of German works into their future plans.

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**Sandra Dieckman** (1968-2023) dedicated over 30 years to teaching and sharing her love of the German language and culture. She was actively involved with the German Texan Heritage Society and used her roles on their board as well as with Texas State German Contest to continually connect and advance both organizations. The German Texan Heritage Society (GTHS) has established a scholarship in her memory to be awarded annually to a student participating in the Texas State German Contest.  A scholarship in the amount of at least $1000.00 will be awarded each year at the Texas State German Contest Awards Ceremony.

**SD Eligibility:**

1. The applicant must be a senior who has competed and placed 1st – 5th place at the Texas State German Contest for at least 3 years, including their senior year.
2. The applicant must have submitted a research paper to the Research Paper event at least once during their participating years in their Regional contest (Houstonfest, Sprachfest, Winterfest), regardless of placement or qualification for Texas State German Contest.

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**Rules:**

1. Schools may submit up to 3 applications if there are eligible seniors. Teachers or students may take responsibility for submitting applications on time.
2. Applications will be evaluated by a panel of TSGC Steering Committee members and/or German Texan Heritage Society Members.
3. Sweepstakes points earned in the applicant’s best 3 years at State will play a role in the evaluation, but all other sections of the application will also be considered.
4. The recipient for each scholarship will be announced at the Texas State German Contest awards ceremony, at which time the recipients will receive a letter of instruction about how to claim the scholarship.
5. Scholarships will be paid directly to the post-secondary institution. Arrangements will be made if the student will not immediately be attending a post-secondary institution.

**The deadline to apply is Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 9:00 AM.**

The application must be typed and submitted via the Google Form provided to teachers after the regional contests. Applicants will be required to upload a **Word doc (.docx)** to the form, instead of a PDF  
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Note on filling out the application: Please use Times New Roman 12 point (default font). If necessary, you may reduce the size to 11 point, but do not change the font to anything other than Times New Roman or use a size less than 11 point. Restrict your answers to the space provided.

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| **1. Contact Information** | |
| Name of applicant |  |
| Home address (including city and zip code) |  |
| Applicant cell phone |  |
| Applicant email |  |
| Name of parent |  |
| Parent phone (home or cell) |  |
| Parent email |  |
| Name of German teacher |  |
| Teacher email |  |
| Name of school |  |
| Application consideration (check only one) | * MEB Scholarship * SD Scholarship * Both |

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| **2. State Winnings**  (Complete the columns for any years in which you placed in the top 5 in any event(s) at State. Consideration will be given to the diversity of events as well as the total sweepstakes points earned in the best 3 years.) | | | | | | |
| Row 2: Indicate the **level** of German you were in (if any) – I, II, III, IV, V  Row 3+: Indicate the **place** you won in each event (1st-5th only). For the 12th-grade column, simply enter an X for each event in which you have *qualified* for State. (Sweeps points earned will be calculated on contest day.) | | | | | | |
| **Grade** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** |
| **Contest Year** (\*Virtual Only) | **2021\*** | **2022\*** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** | **2026** |
| **Level of German** (I, II, III, etc., if any) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Advantaged Speaker Test |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Culture Test |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grammar Test |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Listening Comprehension Test |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reading Comprehension Test |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spelling Test |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vocabulary Test |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Timed Writing |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Directed Dialogue |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pair Discussion |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Oral Presentation |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Extemporaneous Speaking |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sight Reading |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Club Album |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Crafts |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Digital Logo Design |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Doll Costume |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gingerbread House (Non-Traditional) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gingerbread House (Traditional) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Needlework |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Original Models |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Photo Essay |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Photography |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Poster Design |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shirt Design |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Poetry Memory (‘21/’22 “Poetry”) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Poetry Reading |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Prose Memory (‘21/’22 “Prose”) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Prose Reading |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Duet Acting |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Puppet Show |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Skit |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Video Show |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chorus |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Classical Ensemble |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Contemporary Music |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Einzeltanz |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Folk Dance |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Polka Band |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vocal Solo |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pass auf! (Varsity) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Research Paper |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Scavenger Hunt |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Totals** (for official use; applicant leave blank) |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**\*\*\*From this point on, please avoid referring to yourself, your German teacher, or your school by name so that the evaluators can review your application without any potential bias.**

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| **3. German Activities Outside Contest** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Place an X in the box after each grade in which you were an active member of your school’s **German Club**: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **7** | | |  | **8** |  | | **9** |  | **10** | |  | **11** |  | | **12** |  |
| In the box below, describe in as much detail as possible your involvement in **German Club**: how many and which types of activities you participated in, what you enjoyed and how you benefited from this participation, any offices held, and most importantly, any ways in which you provided a contribution to the success of the club (whether as an officer or a regular member). If your school(s) did not have a German Club, put N/A. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Place an X in the box after each grade in which you were an active member of your school’s **German NHS**: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **7** | | |  | **8** |  | | **9** |  | **10** | |  | **11** |  | | **12** |  |
| In the box below, describe in as much detail as possible your involvement in **German NHS**: how many and which types of activities you participated in, what you enjoyed and how you benefited from this participation, any offices held, and most importantly, any ways in which you provided a contribution to the success of the organization (whether as an officer or a regular member). If your school(s) did not have a German NHS chapter, put N/A. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Does your school offer you the opportunity to take the **National German Exam** each year? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | yes /no | |
| If yes… | | …for each level of the NGE that you have taken, indicate whether you received **Gold** (90th-99th percentile), **Silver** (80th-89th percentile), **Bronze** (70th-79th percentile), or **Achievement** (50th-69th percentile) recognition; you **don’t know** how you scored; or **you don’t wish to say**. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I |  | | | | II |  | | | III |  | | | IV |  | | |
| Have you already taken or are you registered to take the **German AP** exam this spring? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | yes / no / not offered | |
| Have you already taken or are you registered to take the **German IB** exam? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | yes / no / not offered | |
| **3. German Activities Outside Contest (continued)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Does your school have a **GAPP exchange program**? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | yes or no | |
| If yes… | | …have you hosted (or will you host) a student from Germany as part of GAPP? | | | | | | | | | | | | | yes or no | |
| …have you traveled (or will you travel) to Germany as part of GAPP? | | | | | | | | | | | | | yes or no | |
| In the box below, describe in as much detail as possible your involvement in GAPP, if any. How did you contribute to the success of the exchange, and how did you benefit from it? If you have not done GAPP, have you had any other occasion to travel to a German-speaking region (with family, on a tour, through some other type of program) or to host a German-speaking guest? If so, what did you gain from that experience? If you haven’t had a chance to do any of this yet, no problem. We certainly don’t expect that everyone will have done so (but we hope you will some day!). | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| In the box below, describe **any other involvement you have had with the German language or culture** *outside of* German class, TSGC contests, German Club, German NHS, the various German exams, and GAPP/other travel experiences, if any. This could be taking German classes or lessons outside your regular school, participating in German-related community groups, competing at other contests besides Houstonfest/Sprachfest/Winterfest/TSGC, or many other types of activity. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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**\*\*The remaining 2 sections are based on the Mary El-beheri application or the Sandra Dieckman GTHS application. If you’re only applying for the MEB Scholarship, you need to complete #4 and #5. If you’re only applying for the SD scholarship, you need to complete #6 and #7. If you wish to be considered for either scholarship, you must complete all remaining sections.\*\***

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| **4. Role of German in Future Plans (MEB Scholarship consideration)** |
| In the box below, describe in as much detail as possible your plans for your **post-high school education** and your **career** (to the extent that you currently know them). Further, describe how you intend to continue learning German (college courses, minor/major, study abroad, etc.) and how you see German fitting into your life and career. |
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| **5. What German Contests Have Meant to You (MEB Scholarship consideration)** |
| In the box below, describe in as much detail as possible what your participation in your regional German contest and the Texas State German Contest has meant to you – what you’ve gained and how you’ve contributed to your school’s contest efforts. |
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| **6. Research Paper - German Texan Theme (SD GTHS scholarship consideration)** |
| In the box below, briefly summarize the topic(s) of any research paper(s) that you have submitted for Regional and/or State contest and describe how the experience of writing the paper(s) has changed or enhanced your understanding of German-Texan history. |
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| **7. Social Media influence on German-Texan history (SD GTHS scholarship consideration)** |
| In the box below, if you were an “influencer” for German-Texan history, describe how you would promote the study of the German language and the awareness of German-Texan history through social media. Give an example or two of tags you might use to draw interest. |
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