

The Nora Tamara Collins Scholarship (NTC) for High School Students of German

What is the NTC Scholarship?

The Nora Tamara Collins Scholarship (NTC) was established by three of her friends and former students to honor the memory of this inspired and gifted teacher of the German language. Nora had strong ties to her birth country, Germany, and a great love for its culture. Nora passed away unexpectedly in November, 2020.

The NTC Scholarship awards \$1,000 annually to a competitively selected junior or senior high school student in the Dallas-Fort Worth area who has demonstrated at least basic German language proficiency and a sincere interest in German culture with a desire to gain yet more familiarity with the country, language and culture. Funds should be spent to help further the applicant's German studies.

The NTC Scholarship is funded through donations and is offered and administered exclusively through the Dallas Goethe Center.

Who is eligible for the NTC scholarship?

Any Junior or Senior high school student of US citizenship residing in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, who has attained beginner to intermediate German language proficiency, may apply. Native or heritage speakers of German are excluded from consideration. The NTC scholarship may only be awarded once to any individual applicant.

What activities qualify for NTC Scholarship funding?

Any educational endeavors that aid the student in furthering their German language abilities or familiarity with Germany or German culture may qualify for NTC Scholarship funds. Examples include, but are not limited to, continued German language instruction, travel to Germany, or other learning opportunities that could further language and cultural proficiency.

How to apply for the NTC scholarship?

To be considered for the NTC scholarship, all applicants must submit:

- a completed application form (See application section below)
- a short original essay of approximately 300 words in length in German on a topic of interest to the applicant. This may be a fictional story, a creative work, or a narrative about a topic of interest to the applicant.
- a letter of recommendation from a teacher, mentor, or appropriate referent (not a family member), who can comment on the character, language abilities, and the applicant's interest in German culture. Recommenders should submit their letters directly to the Dallas Goethe Center.

Only complete applications with all required supporting materials received by the published deadline will be considered by the NTC Scholarship Review Committee. All decisions by the NTC Scholarship

Review Committee are final and any attempts by applicants to lobby or persuade the committee during the process will result in immediate disqualification.

When are NTC scholarship applications accepted?

The application window is from February 15th – April 15th. All applications will be forwarded to the current Chair of The NTC Scholarship Review Committee for review.

How will the winner be determined?

Applications are subject to a two-tier blinded review process. The initial evaluation consists of a review by the Essay Committee of all submitted German language essays accompanying fully completed applications received by the established deadline. The Essay Committee members are selected by the Dallas Goethe Center to evaluate all essays. The Essay Committee will then forward applications from no more than three finalists to the Award Committee. The Award Committee will consider the quality and content of each finalist's essay (as rated by the Essay Committee) along with the recommendation letter, the intended use of funds, and the overall cultural and linguistic goals of the applicant. The three finalists will be invited to a short video interview in English with the entire Award Committee. The Award Committee will make a final selection from the finalists based on application review and the interview. Finalists who are not awarded the scholarship may receive certificates of honorable mention from the Dallas Goethe Center.

Who makes up the Award Committee and the Essay Committee?

The Award Committee consists of five members, including one member of the Essay Committee and four additional members representing the family and the original founders of the NTC scholarship, or designated representatives. The Essay Committee members are designated by Dallas Goethe Center President and should have no conflicts of interest vis-à-vis any of the applicants. The Essay Committee positions will be filled by German professors, instructors, schoolteachers, or other qualified professionals. Prior to their selection, The Dallas Goethe Center will review all Essay Committee member qualifications before appointment.

When are NTC scholarships awarded?

The NTC scholarships will be awarded by a member of the Collins family and/or their representative in May. Scholarship winners are expected to report back to the Dallas Goethe Center about how they used their awarded funds. Scholarship money is awarded based on criteria determined by the NTC Scholarship Review Committee and availability of funds.

How are NTC Scholarship awards communicated?

The NTC Scholarship Review Committee will notify the scholarship winner via email using the address provided on the application. This email will be sent by the chair of the NTC Scholarship Review Committee.

Essay Guidelines for the Nora Tamara Collins Scholarship

This subject of the essay is left to the applicant. It may be a creative work of fiction, a narrative about a topic of interest, or a description of the applicant's motivations for learning German. All submissions should be text only and approximately 300 words in length. The essay should be double spaced with 1-inch margins and written in a 12-point Times New Roman font. Submissions far beyond or below this range will not be considered. All essays should be original submissions written without the aid of second parties, online translators, or translation software. Dictionaries may be consulted for help with individual words. Any quotes, paraphrased material, or unoriginal ideas should be properly cited using endnotes or citations within the text. All submissions should include the following signed statement attached to the end of the essay:

I (name) hereby verify that no uncited sources, persons or other prohibited aids were used in writing this essay beyond dictionaries and/or grammar guides. This essay represents the sole intellectual property of the writer. (Signature, date).

Failure to hold to this policy will result in the disqualification of the submission. All submissions should be forwarded electronically as a word document to info@dallasgoethecenter.org no later than April 15th, 2026.