

Alliance Française Omaha
PROGRAMME DE BOURSES SCOLAIRES
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

The Alliance Française Omaha (AFO) invites high school students of French to apply to our scholarship program that will offer from \$50 up to a \$1000 scholarship to fund a project you have designed that will enable you to enhance your study of French in one of three categories listed below. Projects could be similar to these or be another creative idea!)

- **Giving Back** – Organize an activity for your French classmates, French Club, your school, or community. Plan a French meal, a competition, a dance, a film night. Could be held jointly with another Omaha-area high school. Teach French to younger students, create a brochure to spread the news of the value of learning French.
- **Language Proficiency** – Attend a French Language Camp [E.g., *Concordia Language Villages in MN*]; be an exchange student [There are many opportunities found online!]; purchase a subscription to French language podcasts/French learning apps, subscribe to online periodicals, or pair with an on-line native speaker tutor; purchase software, books, or other language learning materials. (May not be used for college credits.)
- **Cultural Enrichment** - Travel to a French-speaking destination with classmates on a trip sponsored by your school/French teacher. May include a homestay. (At least one trip organizer must be a French teacher.)

For additional ideas & inspiration, view examples of projects
from previous participants posted on the main Scholarship page
& click the link to the Slideshow!

*All recipients are encouraged to seek out opportunities to share his/her project
with current or potential French students in their school district.*

GOALS OF THE AFO OMAHA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- to reach out to the community with our mission to promote French language and culture.
- to spark lifelong interest in the French language and culture among young people.
- to support the efforts of area French teachers.
- to increase the visibility of the AFO and its many activities.

Any student with a relative who is a general member of the AFO is invited to apply. You may not apply if you have a relative who is an AFO board member, officer, contractor, or instructor.

ELIGIBILITY

To apply you must:

- be 16 years of age or older by October 15 of this year.
- have successfully completed a minimum of two years of high school French (not including middle school) and must currently be enrolled in French in an Omaha area high school or one within 25 miles of Omaha. This includes Blair, Valley, Elkhorn, Gretna, Plattsmouth, and Springfield, etc. (Not included are Fremont, Ashland, Wahoo, Lincoln, etc.)
- demonstrate outstanding academic achievement and responsibility.
- agree to the *Commitment Statement* on the Application Form.
- complete and submit all application materials by October 15 of this year.
- design a project that meets the framework and timeline of the program.

APPLICATION STEPS

1. **Create** a project of your choosing from one of the three possible categories.
2. Complete the on-line **Application Form**.
3. **Write an Essay**. Before you begin, be sure to read the instructions for writing your essay very carefully. The essay (written in English!) should be 500-750 words and address all the questions.
4. **Ask two adults to submit a Letter of Recommendation**.
Provide your evaluators with the link to the online Letter of Recommendation form to complete.
 - A. One from your current French Teacher.
 - B. One from another adult who knows you well. (May not be a parent.)

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all the components of the application are submitted on time. Those received after October 15th will not be eligible for consideration. Only those students who fulfill **all** the requirements of the scholarship procedure will be considered. The number of recipients selected in each category will be determined by the quantity and quality of the submitted applications and the amount of available funds.

**If you have any questions, contact us at:
scholarship@afomaha.org or 402.650.5005**

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TIMELINE

May 1 - Oct 15 — Students consider & create a project. Prepare application materials.

Oct 1 - 15 — Students will make sure that the completed application form, essay, and letters of recommendation are received online by Scholarship Administrator. Note: Applications that are incomplete, do not meet eligibility requirements, or are late will be eliminated. When complete application is received, the student will be notified.

Nov 1 - 15 — Judging – Up to 5-7 judges will read every essay and evaluate and score them based on a rubric. To avoid bias, judges will not be allowed to discuss the essays with each other nor have demographic knowledge of any of the applicants. The Administrator (who cannot be a judge) will tally the evaluation scores. Winners will be determined primarily by the quality of the project and the written essay, and to a lesser degree on overall presentation, grammar, and format. Letters of Recommendation will also be used to choose the worthiest recipients.

Nov 16 - 20 — Winners contacted and announced - We will personally call the winners & their parents and the student's teacher will receive an email. After this, the winners will be announced on the AFO Website, to the AFO Membership, to Omaha-area French teachers and to NILA and the NAATF.

Nov 21 - 30 — Applicants who were not chosen will receive notification via email.

January — Attend AFO Scholarship Program Event – Recipients, parent(s) & French teacher will be honored. Student will receive a certificate for funds to be awarded. Reimbursement will occur once all requirements of the project have been met. Students will be expected to share a brief presentation about his/her planned project. The honoree must attend this event or forfeit the award.

late July — Project completion — Students must fulfill all components of the project within the time frame described in the essay at which time funds will be distributed. **Prior to August 1st**, the recipient must submit: **A.** the summary questionnaire; **B.** a copy of (a) receipt(s), (b) cancelled check(s) or (c) invoice(s) that total(s) the amount awarded for the project. These must come from the identified vendor. **C.** Two to three pictures that capture the success of the project for posting at our website. **You must appear in the photo!** Appropriate images will be a close up of you [and possibly others] *involved* in the project. (i.e., You [and others?] making/eating a French dish; you at a French Camp; you teaching a French lesson; you and your host sibling in front of a local attraction.) These items should be sent to: scholarship.afo@gmail.com

AFO's policy for reimbursement will be to pay once all project requirements have been satisfactorily completed. Any questions about the process may be discussed with the Scholarship Administrator. The student must submit all documentation no later than August 1st to be eligible for reimbursement.

Bon courage et Bonne chance à tous !

WE THANK OUR DONORS!

The Alliance Française Omaha wishes to thank its members who have contributed to the scholarship fund. Their generosity serves to encourage, enable, and promote the study of the French language and culture among our community's deserving young people. These donors will be recognized at an AFO program.