RULES AT A GLANCE
of THE TEXAS STATE GERMAN CONTESTS, INC

GENERAL RULES

- Only German teachers may register students for German contests; we do not accept registration from individual students.
- Any German teacher who registers one or more contestants must attend the contest and serve as a judge (unless the director grants an exemption, which will be done only in extremely extraordinary situations).
- Each contestant…
  - must be in grade 7*, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12; (*7th graders may only participate if the course is a full year German I credit course)
  - must be a student at a school where the registering teacher works;
  - must be currently enrolled in a German course at that school, or if not, must have previously completed at least two years of German instruction AND be a current member of that school's German Club or German NHS. (EXCEPTION: Polka Band may have 2 non-German student members and Classical Ensemble may have 1 non-German student.) The spirit of this rule is to prevent a team from recruiting "mercenary" artists, dancers, musicians, writers, etc. who have no real connection to the school's German program in order to bolster the team's chorus, folk dance team, poster, photo essay, research paper, etc. On the other hand, we do not want to exclude the occasional student who loves German and who took two or three years of it and who wants to continue participating in contest but who, for whatever reason, is not currently taking German. Please note, however, that any contestant not currently enrolled in a German course should be entered in the level he/she would be in if he/she *had* continued taking German. For example, if John stops taking German after completing German III but still wants to enter contest the next year, he should be entered in Level 4 events.
- For liability reasons, video recordings are not allowed in any room where students are competing or performing. If parents and/or teachers wish to record a performance, they should plan on doing it during any rehearsal or performance at their respective school. The contest director may assign a designated contest photographer to take pictures or video footage throughout contest for informational or publicity purposes. This will be immediately submitted to the director on contest day. No student faces may be used from this footage. However, the contest director will accept video segments as well as still photos from individual schools after contest has occurred (to be used for promotional purposes, e.g., on the website). By submitting these, teachers give permission for contest directors to use them for informational or publicity purposes. Before submitting such photos/videos, teachers must make sure that students have permission forms on file at their school allowing for photos/videos to be used on the website.
- Teachers should follow their district policy regarding student participation in contest.
- NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED IN COMPETITION ROOMS!!!

* These events are only performed at some/all Regionals, but DO NOT advance to the state level contest!

ARTS

General rules: When an event has a <u>spending limit</u> and requires that <u>receipts</u> be provided (Crafts, Doll Costume, Gingerbread House, Needlework, Original Model, T-Shirt), it is acceptable to use items that you already have at home (e.g., flour for your gingerbread house, fabric for your doll costume, etc.), but you MUST include with your receipts a written statement explaining which items you already had on hand along with documentation of the approximate price you would have had to pay for those items had you actually purchased them (e.g., a clipping from a store's weekly sales flyer, a price quote from an online retailer, ebay, Craig's List, etc. -- not a random number that you pulled out of the air). The value of any such items DOES count toward your spending limit. Additionally, students must include identifying information on their project. If a student does not include the requested information, there will be a 10 point deduction to the cumulative score.

Club Album:
<u>Entry Limit:</u> One per school: may be an individual or group project

The album may be dated from the day of the previous year's Regional Contest (usually the first Saturday in February) until the day before the current year's Regional Contest (usually the first Saturday in February). It should include pictures, articles, artifacts, etc., concerning activities of the German Club. Size and format is open to the choice of the contestants. Originality is strongly encouraged. This should not just be a photo album, but rather a record of the German Club activities. <u>Be sure to include the name(s) of contestant(s), the school, and the city in a conspicuous place on or inside the entry</u>.

Crafts:
<u>Entry Limit:</u> One craft per school: may be an individual or group project
<u>Spending Limit:</u> $60.00 max. (Items used from home must be accounted for, given a monetary value, and included with receipts.)

A craft is the creation of something new and unique. It should be representative of a style or genre, without being a copy or model of an existing item or structure; however, it must relate to German culture. **Contestants must create all projects from scratch**. No kits. The craft must be clearly named, e.g. Dom, Kuckucksuhr, Trachtenhut, etc. and it should include a backdrop or diorama. Project should include some form of documentation showing the style or genre that the student is trying to use, e.g. gothic style cathedrals, Black Forest cuckoo clock, crocheted article in Bavarian colors, etc. <u>Possible entries are by no means limited to examples cited within these rules.</u> Documentation should include appropriate citation of sources. Photos of the various stages of the creation process would also be helpful to the judges in determining if the project was actually constructed by the contestant(s). Receipts for expenses must also be included in the documentation. <u>Each entry should have a card with the name(s) of the contestant(s), the school, the city, and the category "Crafts" on it</u>.

Digital Logo Design: (Virtual Event)
<u>Entry Limit:</u> 2 entries per school: may be an individual or group project - entries must be submitted by 2 separate contestants or groups of contestants
<u>Size Limits and Formats:</u> 1-2 megabytes; 2400 × 2000 px; .jpg, .gif, or .pdf

The first-place logo from each regional contest and the Texas State German Contest will become the official logo of that contest for the following year. It may be used for print and digital materials, including the contest website. Thus, if incorporating a year into the logo (it is <u>not</u> required), use the <u>next</u> year, e.g., at the 2040 contest, use the year 2041 if you use any year at all. **State qualifiers are encouraged to adapt their regional design to reflect the State contest.** Contestant(s) should NOT include your name or school in the image of the logo itself.

The logo must be German-related and some element of the design must relate to German contest. The logo may be animated or still. All images within the design must be original artwork and/or photos designed by or taken by the contestant(s). Images taken from the Internet or any other source are unacceptable. Contestant(s) may use pictures they have taken from prior contest years; however, no student faces may be visible. Photos of the various stages of creation and design by contestant(s) must be included. Any words, except for the contest name, must be in German.

Doll Costume:
Entry Limit: Two dolls per school: may be an individual or group project – Dolls must be submitted by 2 separate contestants or groups of contestants
Doll Size Limits: 12 inches – 36 inches tall; Barbie-doll-size costumes are unacceptable.
Spending Limit: $60.00 max. (Items used from home must be accounted for, given a monetary value, and included with receipts.)
The costume may be representative of traditions in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, or Liechtenstein but must be a student-made folk costume for a doll. The doll itself may be hand-made or store bought. Contestant(s) must include a backdrop, which contains information about the costume and the place it represents. Documentation should include appropriate citation of sources. Receipts for expenses must also be included in the documentation. Each entry should have a card with the name(s) of the contestant(s), the school, the city, and the category "Doll Costume" on it.

Gingerbread House:
Entry Limit: One house of each style, per school (may be an individual or group project): Non-traditional, Traditional
Spending Limit: $60.00 max. (Items used from home must be accounted for, given a monetary value, and included with receipts.)
Size Limits:
Length and width of **primary structure**: minimum 9" per dimension, maximum 24" per dimension; height: 24" max. (Measurements will be made from wall to wall with a 1/2" variance.)
Length and width of **base**: maximum 36" per dimension.

There are two categories, in which each school may enter: **traditional houses** (like the Hänsel and Gretel house) and **non-traditional houses** (such as tree houses, shoe houses, castles, churches, etc.). **Contestant(s) must build all houses from scratch**. No kits. Use any recipe. All visible elements of project must be edible, except for the base. The primary house or structure must have a roof on it. Photos of the actual building of the house would be helpful to the judges in determining if the house was actually built by the contestant(s). Receipts for expenses must also be included in the documentation. Each house should have a card with the name(s) of the contestant(s), the school, the city, and the category of house (traditional or non-traditional) on it.

Needlework:
Entry Limit: Two entries per school: may be an individual or a group project - entries must be submitted by 2 separate contestants or groups of contestants
Spending Limit: $60.00 max. (Items used from home must be accounted for, given a monetary value, and included with receipts.)
Only embroidery, needlepoint, cross-stitch, or quilting are allowed. Sewing machines may be used; however handwork must be prominently featured in the finished product. Everything must be related to a German theme, such as state or national symbols of German-speaking areas, landscapes, folk traditions, fairy tales, proverbs, etc.   Needlework should include some brief form of documentation depicting the design process and progress of the work. Documentation should include appropriate citation of sources. Receipts for expenses must also be included in the documentation. Each entry should have a card with the name(s) of the contestant(s), the school, the city, and the category "Needlework" on it.

Original Models:
Entry Limit: One model per school: may be an individual or group project
Spending Limit: $60.00 max. (Items used from home must be accounted for, given a monetary value, and included with receipts.)

An original model is a re-creation of a specific object that exists or existed in a German-speaking country or is/was a German-Texan structure. **Contestants must build all projects from scratch**. No kits. The model must be clearly named, e.g. Kölner Dom, Brandenburger Tor, Bavarian Battle Helmet, etc and it should include a backdrop or diorama. Project should include some form of documentation as to how the original structure/object looked, from various angles if possible. Documentation should include appropriate citation of sources. Photos of the various stages of construction would also be helpful to the judges in determining if the project was actually constructed by the contestant(s). Receipts for expenses must also be included in the documentation. Each entry should have a card with the name(s) of the contestant(s), the school, the city, and the category "Original Model" on it.

Photo Essay: (Virtual Event)
Entry Limit: 1 entry per school (may be an individual or a group project)
Photo Limits: 10-20 photos

Contestant(s) will write an **original** story in German to accompany a series of photographs. The story may not be taken in whole or in part from any print or online source, and no advantaged or native speakers may assist with the writing of the story. Photos must be originals taken by the contestant(s). Photos may be either black-and-white or color, or a combination of both. Any size photo is acceptable. The photos may concern any subject, but the part of the story telling what is happening in each photo should be displayed directly under/over/next to the photo.

Submission Process:
1. You may choose one of two methods for assembling the photo essay:
   a) arrange the photos and captions digitally in Google Slides, Microsoft PowerPoint, etc.
      OR
   b) mount the photos and captions physically on a poster board (22" x 28", no larger, no smaller) and then take a picture of the entire poster, as well as individual pictures of the photos and captions and then assemble these pictures in Google Slides, Microsoft PowerPoint, etc.
2. With either method, you must add a title slide with **your name**(s), **school**, the event **"Photo Essay**," and the **title of the project**.
3. Convert this file to a PDF and upload it according to the instructions provided.

Photography:
Entry Limit: Two entries per school: Entries consist of a single student's work – NO group entries. Photos must be submitted by two separate contestants.
Size Limits: 5" X 7" minimum

Entries consist of 1 photograph, which may include only one image or multiple images. Image(s) must be original and taken by the contestant. Image(s) taken from the Internet or any other source is/are unacceptable. Image(s) may be either black-and-white or color, or a combination of both. Photo must be matted and/or framed. The photo must have a German theme, which may be candid or staged. The name of the contestant, the school, and the city must be on the back of the matte/frame. **For all images used, additional documentation must include 4" X 6" original, unaltered photo(s) indicating when and where taken.**

Poster Design:
Entry Limit: 2 entries per school: may be an individual or group project - entries must be submitted by 2 separate contestants or groups of contestants
Size Limit: One piece of poster board, 22" by 28", no larger and no smaller

The poster may be about any German related topic. There must be at least 10 different German words on the poster, or at least 10 words forming a complete German sentence or phrase. Posters must be made by hand-drawing and/or with hand-made extras. No computer-made posters will be accepted. The name(s) of the contestant(s), the school, and the city must be on the back of the poster.

Shirt Design:
Entry Limit: 2 entries per school: may be an individual or group project - entries must be submitted by 2 separate contestants or groups of contestants
Spending Limit: $60.00 max. (Items used from home must be accounted for, given a monetary value, and included with receipts.)

No German Club shirts. The design of the shirt should be German related. All words must be in German, with a minimum of 5 different words - no maximum. Design must be artistically hand-designed, i.e., no store bought decals **AND** the design must be hand-applied by contestant(s), regardless of technique used, e.g. silk-screened, copied, or painted. Photos of the design and application process would also be helpful to the judges. For the design to be eligible, it must be on a shirt or sweatshirt. Receipts for the shirt and the supplies must be provided with the entry. Each shirt should have a card with the name(s) of the contestant(s), the school, and the city attached to it.

DECLAMATION

General rules: A student may not perform the same poem or prose selection in both the Memory and Reading competitions, and a student may not perform the same poem or prose selection that he/she has performed in any previous year. Failure to provide at least 2 copies of the piece to the judge will result in a 10 point deduction from the cumulative score.

Poetry and Prose Memory:
Entry Limit: 3 contestants per level (**except** for the Advantaged level, where the limit is **two** contestants), per school:
Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, & Adv.
Length and Time Limits:
Level 1: 16-24 lines **OR** 1-2 min.
Level 2: 20-32 **lines OR** 1.5-2.5 min.
Levels 3, 4 & Adv: 24-46 **lines OR** 2-3 min.

The selection must be by a German-speaking author, i.e., originally published in German. It may not be a translation from a non-German speaking author, even if it has been published, but it may be by a non-German who writes in German, e.g., Kishon. Poems may be edited to fit time or line limits. Poetry Memory is dramatic interpretation, but without costumes and props. The contestant may use one chair and may move during the presentation. At least two copies of the selection must be presented to the judges at the contest. Poetry Memory selections may not be used as Poetry Reading selections or vice versa by the same person.

Poetry and Prose Reading: (Virtual Events)
Entry Limit: 3 contestants per level, per school (Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4)
Length and Time Limits:
Level 1: 16-24 lines **OR** 1-2 minutes
Level 2: 20-32 lines **OR** 1.5-2.5 minutes
Levels 3 and 4: 24-46 lines **OR** 2-3 minutes
The selection must be by a German-speaking author, i.e., originally published in German. It may not be a translation from a non-German-speaking author, even if it has been published, but it may be by a non-German who writes in German, e.g., Kishon. Poems may be edited to fit the time or line limits. Poetry Reading is judged on the basis of reading and not on any interpretation by the contestant, other than the use of voice changes, eye contact, facial expressions, and some use of hands. No props or costumes may be used. The contestant may not walk around. Poetry Reading selections may not be used as Poetry Memory selections or vice versa by the same person.

Submission Process:
1. Record yourself reading the selection (or have someone else record you). Don't forget to say the title and author. You may do as many "takes" as you want until you're satisfied with the result, but the submitted recording must be a single continuous unedited take, not a spliced-together compilation of the best parts of multiple takes.
2. Upload the video of your reading to YouTube or Vimeo.
3. Create a single Word document or Google Doc, etc. with **the full text of the selection**, including title and author. To get the text of your reading selection into the document, you can cut and paste it if you have access to an electronic version of the piece or simply take a (clear!) picture or pictures of the text if you are working from a hard copy and paste the picture(s) into the document.
4. Include a title page with **your name**, **your school**, the **name and level of the event**, e.g., "Poetry Reading 2," and **a hyperlink to your YouTube/Vimeo recording**. **If you are concerned about privacy and want to password-protect your video, include the password with the hyperlink in the document.
5. Convert this document to a PDF file and upload it according to the instructions provided. Do NOT upload the video itself; the judges will access your video via the link that you include in the PDF.

DRAMA

General rules: It is not allowed to use the same script (or a substantially similar script) in more than one event at the same contest if there are any common cast members in both events. For example: A school may not use the same script for a skit and a puppet show if one or more students are in both casts. It is also not allowed for any cast member to perform a script which he/she has performed in any previous year. For example: If your Skit 2 in 2024 was "Rotkäppchen," you may not use "Rotkäppchen" for Skit 3 in 2025 or for Skit 4 in 2026 (unless the casts from one year to the next are 100% different). The spirit of both these rules is that students should be challenged to work with different material in each event they enter, both within the same year and from one year to the next. Cell phones may not be used at any time during the performances. Failure to provide at least 2 copies of the piece to the judges will result in a 10 point deduction from the cumulative score. All drama entries must be memorized. Points will be deducted for prompting.

Duet Acting:
Entry Limit: Two Lower Level (German I-II) per school; Two Upper Level (German III-V) per school
Time Limits: Lower Level: 3-5 minutes   Upper Level: 5-7 minutes

This competition follows the basic rules of the National Forensic League, which include the following: The 2 contestants may use no more than 2 chairs, no other props and no costumes; may only pantomime actions; must have a memorized introduction in German; may have no prompting; must use a piece from a published work (including movie or television transcriptions) by a German-speaking author (no translations); must have 2 copies of this piece for the judges; and must adhere to the time limits set forth above with a 30-second grace period (under or over). The merit of the selection will be a criterion in judging. Duets may not be excerpts from a play, skit or puppet show, in which the contestants are performing.

Puppet Show:
Entry Limit: One Lower Level (German I-II) play per school; one Upper Level (German III-V, incl. advantaged speakers) play per school
Time Limits: Lower Level: 4-8 minutes   Upper Level: 7-10 minutes,

Contestants have a 30-second grace period (under or over) plus a maximum of 3 minutes to set up.
Puppet shows may be written by the class, the teacher, German-speaking authors, or others. Fairy tales may be adapted as puppet shows. The performers must memorize all lines from the script. The judges will ensure that the performers have no scripts. No stage will be provided, nor used on the contest site, but rather, contestants will perform behind chairs or desks covered by a black cloth (which is provided onsite). Each group must provide its own puppets, props, backdrops, and painter's tape. Backdrops should be no larger than 10' X 10'. They may be secured to the wall with painter's tape only. **If advantaged speakers are included in an Upper-Level cast, this information must be given to the judges.** Two copies of the script must be provided for the judges. Excerpts from the puppet show may not be reused in other categories by the same cast member.

Skit:
Entry Limit: One skit per level, per school: Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4. There must be a minimum of 3 performers with speaking parts, no maximum.
Time Limits: Levels 1 & 2: 4-8 minutes   Levels 3 & 4, 7-10 minutes

Contestants have a 30-second grace period (under or over), plus a maximum of 3 minutes to set up.
If it is a mixed-level skit, then it must be entered on the level of the most-advanced cast member. **If advantaged speakers are included in a level 4 skit, this information must be given to the judges.** Skits may be written by the class, the teacher, German-speaking authors, or others. Skits may be from fairy tales. Good pronunciation and grammatically-correct German are most important in the judging. Costumes and props may be added for flavor and effect, but are not required. Two copies of the script must be provided for the judges. Excerpts from the skit may not be reused in other categories by the same cast member.

Video Show: (Digital Submission Event)
Entry Limit: 1 video per school; at least 6 contestants must be included in the video
Time Limit: 6-15 minutes

The video may be an original screenplay or a documentary and may <u>not</u> include animation. This may not be a video of one of your school's drama entries (puppet show, skit, etc.). All dialogue must be in German. Judging includes originality, German dialogue, and the professional quality of the video presentation. Creativity is encouraged.

Submission Process:
1. Upload the finished video to YouTube or Vimeo.
2. Type the script in Microsoft Word, Google Docs, etc.
3. Create a title page with the **student names**, **school**, **title of the video**, and **the YouTube/Vimeo hyperlink to the video**. **If you are concerned about privacy and want to password-protect your video, include the password along with the hyperlink.
4. Convert the document to a PDF and upload it according to the instructions provided. Do NOT upload the video itself; the judges will access your video via the link that you include on the title page.

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MUSIC

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General rules: A student or student group in Vocal Solos, Contemp. Music, or Classical Ensemble may not perform the same piece/musical selection(s) that he/she/group has performed in any previous year. Failure to provide at least 2 copies of the piece to the judge will result in a 10 point deduction from the cumulative score.

Classical Instrumental Ensemble:
Entry Limit: One ensemble per school: 3 – 6 musicians; 1 member may be a student who has never been enrolled in German.
Time Limits: 5 – 10 minutes, with a 30-second grace period
The piece(s) must be by a German-speaking composer and be a recognized work of music, e.g., Beethoven, Bach, Brahms, Haydn, Schubert, Strauss, Mozart, Schumann, Mendelssohn. Music must be classical and groups may do medleys of songs. No electric instruments, other than one electric keyboard, are allowed. No music stands will be provided at the contest site. Attire is part of the judging criteria. **If a non-German student is included in the ensemble, this information must be given to the judges.** Two copies of the **sheet music** must be provided for the judges.

Contemporary German Music:
Entry Limit: One entry per school: 1 – 5 musicians (singers and/or instrumentalists)
Time Limits: 2 – 4 minutes, with a 30-second grace period; contestants must be able to set up and break down in a **total** of 5 minutes.

One piece is to be sung from a contemporary (post WWII) German-speaking musical artist or group, which may include rap (must be school appropriate.) Lyrics must be predominately sung in the German language, and be memorized. Contestants may sing *a cappella* or with pre-recorded accompaniment, or with one or more group members playing instruments live (acoustic or electric). However, no playback devices, microphones, speakers, or instruments will be provided at the contest site; contestants are responsible for providing their own equipment and instruments. Two copies of the lyrics must be provided for the judges.

Einzeltanz:
The couple's dance will alternate between different dances/styles from year to year.
Entry Limit: Two couples per school: (Couples are eligible to also participate in Folk Dance.) Couples must consist of 4 separate contestants, when entering 2 pairs.
Selection of Dance: You must check website for current year's dance!!!!

All couples dance the same dance, which will be posted on the website by early fall of each school year. Couples DO NOT need to provide dance notes or music, as judges will already have dance notes. The same recording from the website will be provided at contest. Only one couple will dance at a time, and the boy and girl will be judged/critiqued separately, i.e., one or more judges will judge the boy, and one or more different judges will judge the girl. The boy's points and the girl's points will then be added together to obtain the final score for the couple. See the critique sheet for the specific judging criteria.

In years when the dance is an Einzelplattler, the dance will take place inside a four-meter circle marked on the floor, with an X marked in the middle. In other years, there may not be a circle. Dance must follow posted documentation. After being introduced, the couple will walk to the middle of the circle (or middle of the dance floor). The boy will be asked "(Name), are you ready?" When he replies yes, the music will begin.

Costumes (Tracht):
Tracht comes from the word "Tragen" meaning "to wear." Thus, Tracht means that which one wears. As each region has its own distinctive Tracht, and Trachten are far too diverse to describe in just a few short sentences, Tracht will not be judged whether it is worn properly or authentically, only whether it is worn uniformly.

Folk Dance:
Entry limit: One entry per school; total group size: minimum 6 dancers, no maximum
          Active dancers on the floor at any time: minimum 4 dancers performing, maximum 16 dancers performing
Dance limits: 4 dances minimum, 5 dances maximum
Time limits: 10 minutes minimum, 15 minutes maximum, including entrance, exit, and transitions, with a 30-second grace period. There is a 10-point penalty for going under the minimum time limit or over the maximum time limit.

There is no required dance. Dancers must provide their own music, music-player, and extension cord, if needed. The group must provide at least 3 copies of the following: provide a list of the dancers' names and documentation of each dance, including the categorization (Level I, II, III) of the dance and the region of origin of the dance. Points will be deducted from "Authenticity" if documentation is not provided. Dances not already categorized on the contest website must be submitted to the regional director by November 1 so that they can be categorized by an expert panel.

Polka Band:
Entry Limit: One band per school: 5 – 12 musicians + 1 director (i.e. max. 13 members); 2 members may be students who have never been enrolled in German.
Time Limits: 5 – 10 minutes, with a 30-second grace period

All pieces of music must be from German-speaking composers. No electric instruments are allowed. No music stands will be provided at the contest site. **If a non-German student is included in the band, this information must be given to the judges.** Two copies of the **sheet music** must be provided for the judges.

Vocal Solo:
Entry Limit: Two soloists per school
Time Limits: 2 - 5 minutes, with a 30-second grace period

Contestant must sing a recognized classical or folk song from a German-speaking composer. Song must be sung in German and must be memorized. Soloist is responsible for his/her own accompaniment, whether recorded or live, or may sing *a cappella*. No instruments or audio-players will be provided at the contest site. Two copies of the **sheet music (notes and lyrics)** must be provided for the judges.

ORAL TESTS

Directed Dialogue:
Entry Limit: Two contestants per level, per school: Level 1 & Level 2 only

The judges will ask the contestant questions on his/her level of understanding (things generally covered in first-year and second-year textbooks). Questions will be selected by a combination of students drawing 3 questions and judges asking the same 2 standard questions to all contestants. Judges will grade on pronunciation, degree of complexity and fluency, knowledge of topic, and grammatical correctness.

Extemporaneous Speaking:
Entry Limit: Two contestants per level, per school: Level 3, Level 4 & Advanced
Speech Time Limits: Level 3: 1-3 minutes   Level 4: 2-4 minutes   Level Adv: 3-5 minutes

The contestant will draw a topic at the beginning of his/her time slot.***** The topics will not be technical and will pertain to daily life. Different contestants will receive different topics, but the topics will be of approximately equal difficulty. After drawing a topic, the contestant will have a maximum of 10 minutes to prepare. He/she may write during this time, but no books or dictionaries may be used in preparation, and NO notes, even those made during the preparation period, may be used in the speech. ***At Regionals only, students may draw 2 topics and choose one of the two to prepare.**

Oral Presentation: (Virtual Event)
Entry Limit: 2 contestants per level, per school: Level 4 & Advanced only (EXCEPTION: If a school has no Level 4 students or advanced speakers attending contest, Level 3 contestants may enter, but with the understanding that they will be competing against Level 4 contestants.)
 Time Limit: 2-4 minutes

The contestant gives a **prepared** presentation based on a provided picture prompt. The picture will be posted on the contest website by December 1 each year and will relate to some current cultural topic. The presentation must compare cultural perspectives between one or more German-speaking countries and your own region related to the topic suggested by the picture. Contestant may use notes (maximum 10 bullet points, maximum 5 words per bullet), but the presentation is otherwise memorized. The presentation may be accompanied by a visual component (picture cards, poster, photo story, images on a tablet or laptop), but the visuals cannot include any words. Note: Contestant must remain fully in view of the camera for the entire presentation, so if close ups of visuals are necessary, the contestant must make sure he/she is still 100% visible. The video may not cut back and forth between contestant and visuals.

Submission Process:
1. Record yourself (or have someone record you) giving your presentation. You may do as many "takes" as you want until you're satisfied with the result, but the submitted recording must be a single continuous unedited take, not a spliced-together compilation of the best parts of multiple takes. (See rules above regarding use of visuals.)
2. If notes were used, hold the note card(s) up to the camera for at least 5 seconds (each) at the end of the presentation so that the judges can get a good look at it (them). The time it takes to display the note cards does not count toward the time limit.
3. Upload the video of your presentation to YouTube or Vimeo.
4. Create a single Word document or Google Doc with **your name**, **your school**, an image (or images) of your "**visual component**" if you used one, and **a hyperlink to your YouTube/Vimeo recording**. **If you are concerned about privacy and want to password-protect your video, include the password with the hyperlink in the document.
5. Convert this document to a PDF file and upload it according to the instructions provided. Do NOT upload the video itself; the judges will access your video via the link that you include on the document.

Pair Discussion:
Entry Limit: 2 entries (pairs) per school (Level 3 only)
Discussion time: 3 minutes (not including a 30-second reflection time)

A pair of contestants draws a topic instructing them to plan something (trip, purchase, celebration, etc.). **Both are expected to make suggestions and voice opinions, to agree or disagree, and to make alternative suggestions**. At the end of the discussion, they must come to an agreement. The topics will pertain to the daily life of teenagers. No contestant pairs will have the same topic. From the time the topic is drawn, the contestants may take up to 30 seconds to read the topic and gather their thoughts, but they may not speak to each other during this time. At the end of the 30 seconds, the contestants have 3 minutes to role-play the situation. **Contestants will be judged independently of one another. Both scores will be added together for their team score.**

Sight Reading:
Entry Limit: Two contestants per level, per school: Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4
Time Limits: up to 1 minute preparation time plus 2 minutes to read the piece to judges

The contestant will receive a copy of a prose piece that he/she has never seen before. The contestant may look at the prose for up to 1 minute before reading it for the judges. Contestants then have 2 minutes to read aloud the prose selection. The judges will stop the contestant after 2 minutes, regardless of how far he/she has read into the selection.

PASS AUF!

NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED IN THE COMPETITION ROOMS!!!
Abridged rules (see contest websites for complete rules): One novice and one varsity team per school, competing in separate tournaments. Novice teams, consisting only of students in German I and German II who have never competed in *Pass auf!* before, compete only at the regional level and do not advance to state. A team may consist of up to seven players, with no advantaged speakers. However, only up to five players may compete in a given round. Two teams play head-to-head in each game. Each game consists of **25 questions**, 5 questions each from the following categories: History & Politics, Arts & Letters, Odds & Ends, *Erdkunde*, and Current Events & Special Topic. For each category, there will be 1 question each valued at 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 points, based upon difficulty. Erdkunde will be asked in German and must be answered in German. From the time that a question is read for the first time, the teams have 30 seconds in which to signal. After signaling, a team has 30 seconds to confer before beginning to give the answer. If a team gives a correct answer, it receives the points designated for the question. If the team's answer is not accepted by the moderator, the moderator will reread the question for the opposing team. It then has 30 seconds to signal whether it wants to try to answer the question. After it signals, it has 30 seconds in which to answer.

RESEARCH PAPER (Virtual Event)

Entry Limit: 2 research papers per school, with 1-2 authors each; if 2 entries are submitted, they must be written by 2 different authors or pairs of authors (i.e., no contestant may work on more than one paper)
Length Limits: minimum 700 words, maximum 1000 words, not including Works Cited

Write a research paper in English on an interesting German-Texan cultural and/or historical topic. The topic should be a little-known person, family, place, building, business, area, group, settlement, organization, church, tradition, activity, practice, etc. The paper should contribute to a greater understanding of German-Texan history and/or culture.

**The entry must be typed, double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font and include proper in-text citation and a Works Cited page, as per MLA (Modern Language Association) guidelines. Follow the rules in the latest MLA Style Sheet, paying special attention to rules for entering Internet sources.

Contestants must use a minimum of three sources, at least two of which must be non-Internet. Digitally archived sources originally published in hard copy are acceptable as non-Internet sources. **Sources must include both primary and secondary sources**. Primary sources are evidence in the form of artifacts, photos, letters, interviews, music, charts, illustrations, etc. with a direct connection to the era being studied. They may be personally documented by the contestant(s) (photos taken, interviews recorded) or found in personal collections, archives, libraries, museums, etc. Secondary sources are documents that discuss or analyze primary sources and topics – primarily other academic work.

Important: All entries **must be written solely in Google Docs**. The revision history of the paper will be checked from inception (blank document) to submission. Writing in/from a different platform and then pasting into a Google Doc will result in disqualification of the entry. Plagiarism, which may include insufficient internal citation or Works Cited, as well as AI generated text will result in automatic disqualification.

Submission Process:
1. Using MLA Style, include **your name(s), your school**, the **date**, and the **title** of the paper at the top of page 1.
2. To include photographs, other images, and/or audio materials, add an appendix after the Works Cited page. Images may be pasted directly into the document. Audio files should be linked, e.g., via a Google Drive link.
3. Submit the entry according to Google Form instructions, which will include BOTH the link* to the Google Doc of the completed research paper, including the Works Cited and any appendix according to the instructions provided **AND** a PDF of the full document.
   *Link settings must be set on "Editor" under "General Access - Anyone with the link"

SCAVENGER HUNT

Entry Limit: One team per school; 2 to 4 contestants (4 is highly recommended); a team may have 1 upper-level student (German III or above) **IF** the team consists of 4 members but **NOT** if the team consists of 2 or 3 members, and no advantaged speakers may be on a team.
Time Limit: The time limit for both parts combined is one hour. Teams may split their time between Parts One and Two in any way, but 35 minutes for Part One and 25 minutes for Part Two are recommended. Time Penalties: For each team member that exceeds the one-hour time limit up to 5 minutes, 20 points will be deducted from his/her quiz score. If any team member exceeds the time limit by more than 5 minutes, the entire team will be disqualified.

There are TWO parts to the event. Team members will work together on Part One but individually on Part Two. All team members must be present for all of both parts. Each team should have at least one SmartPhone or tablet (iPad, etc.) with a digital QR-code reader app already installed, but it is recommended that each team member have his/her own such device along with earbuds or headphones.
Part One: Follow written German directions to find four QR codes posted around the contest venue. At each of the four stations, teams will use their devices to access a video (max. 3 minutes per video). All team members should view all videos. (See Schnitzeljagd General Instructions for more details.) Total video running time is about 12 minutes.
Part Two: Each team member will complete a written quiz independently. The quiz will have four multiple-choice questions and one question requiring a written German response based on each of the four videos that have been viewed

(20 items total). The questions are in German. (See Schnitzeljagd General Instructions for more details.) All team members' scores will be averaged to obtain the team's final score.

WRITTEN TESTS

Note for all contestants in written testing: You are responsible for bringing as many No. 2 pencils as you may need to take these tests. Scantron answer sheets will be used for all tests except Spelling. NO CELL PHONES OR SMART WATCHES ALLOWED IN THE TESTING ROOMS!!!

Advantaged Written Test: Three entries per school (Advantaged Speakers only). Multiple-choice test (100 questions, 20 each in the areas of culture, grammar, listening comprehension, reading comprehension, and vocabulary) plus spelling test (20 questions). The test will be given ONE time on the day of contest and will take approximately 90 minutes. It must be completed in one sitting.

Culture: Three entries per school per level: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4. Multiple-choice, scantron test. All materials will be taken from *AMSCO: Level One (Erstes Buch)*; *AMSCO: Level Two* (1985); *Komm mit!* (I, II, and III) and any or all sources listed under the *Pass auf!* category. The level 3 and 4 tests will be in German.

Grammar: Three entries per school per level: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4. Multiple-choice, scantron test. See description of Culture test for the sources to be used. Add: Any texts or books you may have.
Listening Comprehension: Three entries per school per level: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4. Multiple-choice, scantron test. Listen to recorded items in German and answer questions about the content of the information you heard. Levels 1 and 2 take the same test and Levels 3 and 4 take the same test, but they are ranked separately for each level.

Reading Comprehension: Three entries per school per level: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4. Multiple-choice, scantron test. The test will consist of questions about a series of short readings. Questions will generally be in German.

Spelling: Two entries per school per level: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4. Levels 1 and 2 take the same test and Levels 3 and 4 take the same test, but they are ranked separately for each level. A series of words will be called out in German (the speaker will say the word, its part of speech, a sentence using the word, and the word again). The words will probably be recorded, not called live. Contestants write the called words on their answer sheets. Spelling (including umlauts) and capitalization (nouns capitalized, other parts of speech not capitalized) must be perfect in order to receive credit for a given item. Spelling lists are based on the glossaries in the back of all German textbooks.

Timed Writing: Two contestants per level, per school (Levels 1 & 2 only)

The contestants will have 25 minutes to write a response to a prompt that is appropriate for their level of German. All contestants in each level will have the same prompt, but the prompts will change from year to year. The contestants may not use any print or electronic aids (phones, dictionaries, etc.). Either one or two writing sessions will be offered early in the day to allow sufficient time for judging.

Vocabulary: Three entries per school per level: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4. Multiple-choice, scantron test. Vocabulary will be taken from approved textbooks on the appropriate level. The test will consist mostly of items in which you choose the correct English meaning for a given German word, but other formats are possible as well.