

FL-A-CH Mini Grants



Four grants of up to \$250 will be awarded to support creative and innovative learning projects focused on the language and culture of Austria, Switzerland, or Liechtenstein. Eligible applicants are teachers at Saturday schools, elementary schools, middle schools, high schools and post-secondary institutions, or teams of teachers from multiple institutions. Each AATG member may submit one proposal. Projects must be completed by December 15, 2020.

Applications should include:



- goals for the project;
- activities to be undertaken during the project period with a detailed implementation plan;
- information on how the project will help promote learning about Austria, Switzerland, or Liechtenstein;
- the ability of classroom materials or models to be shared and used with other programs;
- number of students/community members impacted;
- a letter of support from principal, departmental chair, or other administrator;
- other supporting documentation that applicants deem appropriate;
- a detailed project budget.



Submit your proposal as a pdf file via email to info@aatg.org. Project proposals will be reviewed and funded on an ongoing basis. The final deadline for submission is **April 15, 2020**.

Let's see how members carried out FL-A-CH mini-grant projects in 2019.

Trilingual Swiss Trivia Night

The German, French and Italian Programs in the Department of World Languages and Literatures at Southern Methodist University carried out a trilingual Swiss trivia night. Third-semester students read short texts and did mini research projects on famous Swiss people like Peter Bichsel, Paul Klee, Mario Botta, and then conducted poster presentations in class in the target language. Next came the trilingual trivia night, supported by the French, German and Italian programs and clubs, held with our annual International Food Fair, and open to the public. Students provided English-language versions of their posters and several related trivia questions in English. Students presented their research on the famous persons, cultures, and cultural products, then participated in the trivia quiz. The FLACH Mini-Grant helped us focus some curricular emphasis on the languages, literatures and cultures of Switzerland.

—Gizen Arslan, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas



Räbeliechtli

Students first learned about the Swiss Räbeliechtli tradition, carving designs and hollowing out turnips to light with tealight candles, both as a celebration of the end of the harvest, and in comparison to Germany's and Austria's Sankt Martin's Tag holidays. German 2 students compared the traditional song *Räbeliechtli, Räbeliechtli, wo gasch hii?* in the original Swiss dialect to its equivalent in Hochdeutsch. Students researched online for examples of Räbeliechtli and specific favorite carving designs, and explored to find ideas for Umzugswagen (in particular, to try and make our own in the shape of our school mascot). They also watched videos of the Kinderumzüge.

At the German Club meeting, about 20 students gathered outside school to carve the turnips, and were happy to throw our turnip innards into the forest behind us—staying *grün!* Students received cording from which to hang their Räbeliechtli at home. And the students are excited to do this again next year!

—Jillian Reilly, Jasper High School, Plano, Texas



Liechtenstein, Austria, and Switzerland

An Austrian Atmosphere

The FLACH mini-grant was able to allow us to update our classroom with an Austrian “Fachwerk” façade and Café theme. We decorated our smartboard “window” with a flower box filled with red silk geraniums and even hung a hanging “iron” sign, echoing the same styles of the hanging signs of the old shopping district of the Getreidegasse in Salzburg.

Throughout the school year, we incorporated the cultural themes of Wiener Kaffeehäuser, Wiener Naschmarkt, Austrian geography and vocabulary unique to Austria into our curriculum with texts, authentic Austrian websites and video clips. These Austrian themes were conceptualized into projects, which were displayed in our authentic Austrian-themed classroom at our school’s annual showcase of student artwork, music, projects and talent. Students, families and the greater community were able to tour the classroom and view student work relating to these uniquely Austrian themes.



Thanks to this FLACH grant, our classroom has become a highlight of the school. This project is unique in that it was not just a one-time event—this project will have a lasting impact on our school and German program for years to come. Additionally, it has provided a unique backdrop to our lessons on Austrian culture and has promoted an appreciation for the language and culture of Austria in our school and community.

—Kimberly Kroenke, North Allegheny Intermediate High School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Natur und Umweltbildung: “Was wir kennen, das schützen wir auch!”

The community engagement project offered students the opportunity to explore how nature education is envisioned and implemented in nature education centers and nature parks in Switzerland, Austria, and Germany. Goals included increasing cultural literacy regarding the relationship of humans and nature, the role of nature explorations in early childhood education (Waldkindergarten) and the capacity of nature education to integrate diverse audiences around shared values. Students became active promoters of nature education concepts they studied by planning for a community wide Nature and Environment Day with rich offerings of engaging activities for different age groups.

Students in German III (Intermediate) and in German Culture (Advanced) courses developed information posters, presentations, interactive skits and competitive games for audiences of different ages and proficiency levels. Activities ranged from creating epitaphs commemorating the loss of natural features like glaciers, based on our readings about the death and the memorial ceremony for the Icelandic glacier Okjökull, writing Thank You notes to climate activists like Greta Thunberg, articulating the value and importance of activism and hope for young people, to interactive appeals for increased mindfulness about recycling and sustainability on and off our campus. Using authentic materials from the [OER Grenzenlos Deutsch – Umwelt](#) and materials collected in Austria and Switzerland, students created environmental appeals for increased sustainability on and off campus, integrating references to practices and statistics from Austria and Switzerland. Students practiced their programming ideas in classes and in German Club community engagement events, also preparing for a Natur- und Umweltbildung open house community engagement event.

—Erika Berroth, Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas

