PRESS RELEASE--WINTERFEST REGIONAL GERMAN CONTEST

[number] German students from [Name] High School [will compete this coming/competed this past] Saturday, Feb. [date], at the Winterfest Regional German Contest, [to be] held at [Location]. Every year, roughly 1000 German students from middle and high schools throughout Texas compete in 36 events representing a wide range of interests, including competitions in music, academic knowledge, arts and crafts, extemporaneous and conversational speaking, skits, and declamation. Among the popular events are the "Pass auf!" ("Pay attention!") quiz bowl, folk dancing, polka band, and gingerbread house construction. Participants compete at their level of German, and are awarded ribbons and trophies in individual and group events. Schools receive sweepstakes points based on their success, and compete for overall sweepstakes honors.

Students who rank in the top five in an event at one of the three regional contests are eligible to compete at the Texas State German Contest in San Marcos, TX on [date]. Within the contest system, approximately 1500 students from 90 schools will participate.

Winterfest was first held in 1972, Sprachfest was added in 1976 and Houstonfest in 1980. The Texas State German Contest was introduced in 1982 to allow students to move to the next level of competition. The three regional contests and state contest comprise the largest German contest system in the United States. More information on the Winterfest German Contest can be found at www.ntrwinterfest.org.