

2024

**SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA
(SWANA)**

Robert P. Stearns/SCS Engineers

and

**MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAMS**

CATEGORY 3

(Graduate Student)

INSTRUCTIONS and APPLICATION

(Application due date is May 1, 2024.)

**SWANA
MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER'S**

CATEGORY 3

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR
GRADUATE STUDENTS**

I. DEADLINES

May 1 -- All completed application forms and back-up documentation shall be **received** by the Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairperson.

June 1 – The most qualified and eligible Chapter winner as determined by the Chapter shall be forwarded by the Chapter to the International Scholarship Committee for review.

June --Announcement and award of any Chapter scholarship winner(s).

July/August -- Announcement of International Scholarship winners.

I. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

A. Eligibility

Category 3 applicants must be full-time students who are entering or who are in graduate school and are pursuing a degree in environmental science, engineering or other suitable major related to the field of solid waste management.

To be considered for an award, the candidate must be either:

- (1) the natural, adopted, or step child, or grandchild of a SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Member in good standing at the time of the recommendation, the application submittal, the selection, and the award, or
- (2) a Student member (enrolled at a college or university located in Maryland, Delaware, or Washington DC) at the time of application submittal, the selection, and the award, or
- (3) the natural, adopted, or step child, or grandchild of an employee in the solid waste field in Maryland, Delaware, or Washington, DC; and is sponsored by a Chapter member in good standing at the time of recommendation, the application submittal, the selection, and the award, or
- (4) a Mid-Atlantic Chapter member in good standing at the time of the application submittal, the selection, and the award, or
- (5) an employee in the solid waste field in Maryland, Delaware, or Washington, DC; and is sponsored by a Chapter member in good standing at the time of recommendation, application submittal, the selection, and the award.

(Note--This category is not open to SWANA employees and members of SWANA employees' families).

SWANA and the Chapter pledges to uphold the policy that all persons shall have equal access to these programs, regardless of race, color, age, sex, marital or veteran status, creed, religion, or disability.

Only those applicants in the (1) and (2) eligibility categories above are eligible to be submitted by the Chapter to SWANA for consideration for the Robert P. Stearns/SCS Engineers scholarship. Eligibility categories (3), (4), and (5) are eligible for only a Chapter scholarship.

B. Award(s) by SWANA: Depending on the number and quality of applications, SWANA and SCS Engineers intend to make an award of \$5,000 this year.

C. Award(s) by Chapter

Each Chapter Category 3 scholarship amount is typically \$750-\$1,500, but may be decreased or increased based on the number of applicants for all scholarship categories, the quality of the applications and their resultant scores, the availability of funds, etc., as solely determined by the Chapter at the time of the scholarship selection.

Likewise, the number of Chapter Category 3 scholarships to be awarded by the Chapter will vary depending on the number of applicants for all of the scholarship categories, the quality of the applications and their resultant scores, the availability of funds, etc., as solely determined by the Chapter at the time of scholarship selection. In addition, the Chapter may elect not to award any Category 3 scholarships if there are no qualified applications, as solely determined by the Chapter.

III. SCORING OF APPLICANTS for the Robert P. Stearns/SCS Engineers Scholarship and Mid-Atlantic Chapter Category 3 Scholarship (graduate student)

1. Academics -- **30%**
 - GPA
2. Activities (whether on campus, community, or home) -- **10%**
 - Research Intern/Assistantship
 - Military Service
 - Volunteer Activities
 - Charitable, civic, or religious
 - Other
3. Relation of Studies to Solid Waste Management -- **60%**
 - Current courses and completed courses
 - Discussion on solid waste management
 - Clarity and organization of the work
 - Grammar and spelling
 - Accuracy and originality
 - Neatness

IV. COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

Each applicant will be required to submit the **completed application form with all of the appropriate attached forms** and to ensure that all of the following **back-up documentation** is sent to the Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairperson by **May 1**.

- Current grade point average, and
- College/university transcripts.

The back-up documentation, in sealed envelopes, should be sent to the **Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairperson** by the institution issuing the grade and transcript.

Any of the above back-up documentation provided directly from the applicant will be considered invalid except in extreme cases where written permission is granted in advance by the Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairperson. Applicants have the responsibility for verifying that their back-up documentation has been received by the Scholarship Committee Chairperson. Please leave sufficient time for the institution to process and mail your requested documentation. Be aware that if you miss the deadline of **May 1** for submittal of your application and back-up documentation, you may be disqualified at the sole option of the Chapter Scholarship Committee

Illegible applications or applications without proper signatures will not be accepted. If more space is required to document activities, these forms may be copied.

V. SUMMARY

With this document, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWANA has attempted to outline the application requirements for the Chapter Category 3 and Robert P. Stearns/SCS Engineers Programs. We realize, however, that there will always be questions that cannot be answered on paper. If any questions or problems with submitting the requested information should arise, please feel free to contact the Chapter's Scholarship Chairperson.

SWANA believes that the education of both students and the general public is an important step in eliminating some of our biggest solid waste management problems in the world. Through the scholarship program, we are beginning to address the problem of educating you, the student, in the hopes of producing knowledgeable and responsible solid waste management professionals for the future. Good luck!

Category 3 Scholarship Application Submittals:

From applicant by **May 1:**

1. Application
2. Advisor discussion
3. Discussion on solid waste management
4. Financial needs
5. Forms
 - a. Current or Completed Research Efforts
 - b. Current Courses
 - c. Activities
6. If you are applying under eligibility group IIA(3), IIA(4), or IIA(5), then on your Application Information form, after your last name, add one of the following, whichever is applicable in your case: "ELIG. (3)" **or** "ELIG. (4)" **or** "ELG. (5)." In addition, if IIA(3) or IIA(5) eligibility, then the SWANA member sponsor must describe the eligibility/relationship to the applicant in the following Application Information field(s) of "Relationship to the Applicant" and continued, if necessary, in the "SWANA Chapter" field.

From college/university/graduate school(s) by **May 1:**

1. Grade point average
2. Transcript (through previous semester/quarter)

Scholarship Committee Chairperson:

Mr. Mehal M. Trivedi, Engineer
Chair, SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Scholarship Committee
c/o Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management
Department of Regulatory Compliance
4520 Metropolitan Court
Frederick, MD 21704
mtrivedi@frederickcountymd.gov
(301) 600-3043

Note: Before March 1, direct any question or problems to Stephen Lippy at s.lippy@verizon.net.



2024 Grant H. Flint International Scholarship Awards Program

**The Robert P. Stearns/
SCS Engineers Scholarship**





Dear Graduate Student:

Hello and thank you for your interest in the Robert P. Stearns/SCS Engineers Scholarship, offered through the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA).

Robert P. Stearns was co-founder of SCS Engineers, an employee-owned environmental consulting and construction firm that designs and implements sustainable environmental solutions. Until his death in 2013, Mr. Stearns was recognized nationally for his significant contributions to the environmental engineering profession and advancement of solid waste management practices.

SWANA is a professional association of more than 10,500 members who work in solid waste and resource management. That industry is far advanced from the old stereotypes of “garbage men.” Our membership is diverse. We encourage you to consider how your selected area of study might lead you into our professional ranks. SWANA has a place for you.

To be eligible to apply for the Robert P Stearns/SCS Engineers Scholarship, worth up to \$5,000 US, you must be:

- A full-time student entering or already in graduate school for the period of time the scholarship will be used.
- Pursuing a degree in environmental science, environmental studies, engineering, or other major applicable to the field of solid waste or resource management.
- Sponsored by a SWANA member in good standing on May 1 of the application year. This can be you as a student member or a qualifying SWANA member (see the Eligibility criteria in the application).

Applications are due to your [Chapter Scholarship Committee Chair](#) by May 1, 2024. Chapters will review all applications and can nominate one applicant for a Stearns/SCS Engineers Scholarship to SWANA by June 2, 2024. That application must be submitted on SWANA’s application form. SWANA’s awards will be announced during summer 2024.

Contact information for Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairs can be found at [SWANA.org/Scholarships](https://www.swana.org/Scholarships). You will also find a link to many of the Chapter websites and information about their local scholarship programs. Members living outside the United States, its territories or Canada should complete the application and send it directly to Sara Bixby in her role as SWANA’s Staff Scholarship Administrator no later than May 1, 2024.

For more information, check with your Chapter Scholarship Chair or membership@swana.org. We look forward to receiving your application. Best of luck as you continue your education.

Sincerely,

Mike Stringer
Chair, SWANA Scholarship Committee



Application Information

I. AWARDS:

Depending on the number and quality of applications, SWANA and SCS Engineers intend to make an award of \$5,000 US this year.

II. ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible to apply for the Robert P. Stearns/SCS Engineers Scholarship, you must satisfy all of the following requirements:

- Be a full-time student entering or already in graduate school for the period of time the scholarship will be used
- Be pursuing a degree in environmental science, environmental studies, engineering, or other major applicable to the field of solid waste or resource management.
- SWANA Sponsor—you can satisfy this in one of two ways:
 - » Become a SWANA Student Member. This is free to full-time students and you can join by visiting [SWANA.org/community/membership/student-membership](https://www.swana.org/community/membership/student-membership). This also provides you access to other SWANA benefits OR
 - » **Be the natural, adopted, or step child or grandchild of a SWANA member in good standing who will act as your Sponsor.**

SWANA employees and their family members are not eligible to apply. Beyond those exceptions, SWANA commits that all eligible persons shall have equal access to this program.

Deadlines:

- **May 1**—All completed application forms and back-up documentation must be received by your Chapter Scholarship Committee Chair.
 - » Students can join two chapters for free.
 - [Join the chapter where your school is located. Submit your application there.](#)
 - If you have an internship or work assignment in a different chapter area, check into their activities and programs as those new relationships can lead to additional support for your application.
 - » If you are geographically located outside the United States, its territories, or Canada, send your completed application directly to SWANA's Staff Scholarship Administrator by May 1, 2024.
- **June 2**—Chapters forward their nomination for scholarships to headquarters for distribution to the International Scholarship Committee.
- **August**—International Scholarship winners are announced.

CRITERIA:

The Scholarship Committee evaluates the Robert P. Stearns/SCS Engineers Scholarship applications as follows:

A. Academics = 30%

SWANA's Scholarship Committee considers past academic performance an important selection criterion. Your application must provide enough information to allow the Scholarship Committee to evaluate your academic performance.

- **REQUIRED:** Provide a transcript of your college/university transcripts through the conclusion of the most recent period (quarter, trimester, semester).
- **REQUIRED:** Provide a copy of your acceptance letter to graduate school if this will be your first year attending that school.
- **REQUIRED:** Identify any degrees currently held and provide graduation verification.

An official, unofficial, or PDF copy of your transcript is **required to be attached to the application you provide to the Chapter or SWANA**. The transcript must provide marks for all courses and a measure of your academic performance when measured on the school's standardized scoring system. Identify the scale used (e.g., 4.0 on a 4.0 scale). An example of one possible measure satisfying this request for US based students is grade point average (GPA). SWANA acknowledges that not all schools use this measure and will accept other measures **documented by the transcript**.

Application Information

International graduates attending school in the United States and Canada can ask their current school for copies of foreign transcripts/academic records and graduate verification as this may help simplify and speed the process of gaining access. If you must contact your prior university for material, be sure to allow sufficient time to receive a response (may take several weeks).

- **OPTIONAL:** Attach documentation of any other college/university-level **academic performance, awards or recognition**, and/or letters of recommendation related to academic performance you believe the Scholarship Committee should consider.

B. Relationship of Studies to Solid Waste Management = 60%

The Committee will consider your current and completed courses, advisor/professor input, and your completed essay in its evaluations.

- **REQUIRED:** Complete and sign the form that asks for additional information about coursework related to solid waste management and/or a potential career in the industry.
- **REQUIRED:** Please have your faculty advisory or a key professor in your studies related to solid waste management provide a one-page letter that discusses your academic performance.
- **REQUIRED:** If involved in a research program or an internship/assistantship, please have your faculty advisor provide documentation regarding the nature of the project and your participation and performance.
- **REQUIRED:** Write a one-page, original essay about the topic identified in Question 3. SWANA considers each essay for its potential as a blog post on social media, regardless of selection for a scholarship.
- **OPTIONAL:** Include links to published articles or a short bibliography, if applicable. Large data files transmitting full copies of books and papers are specifically discouraged and add less to the Committee's review than a succinct summary or link

C. Other Activities = 10%

Other Activities are activities and programs that can be connected with your studies (research, internships, assistantships), associated with school (participation student organizations), or entirely unrelated (volunteer activities, military service, employment).

- **REQUIRED:** Complete and sign or verify the forms that ask for information about your Other Activities.
- **OPTIONAL:** Attach documentation and/or letters of recommendation to help the Scholarship Committee appropriately score this part of your application.
- **OPTIONAL:** Attach a current copy of your resume.

D. Financial Need—not weighted

OPTIONAL: Although it is not a weighted factor, the Scholarship Committee can take financial need into consideration. ***Please do not attach forms that contain confidential personal information.***

E. Disqualification

Applying is not a guarantee of funding. The Scholarship Committee may disqualify an application for any of the following reasons:

- Applicant fails to meet the May 1 deadline for submitting the application to the Chapter or Staff Scholarship Administrator
- Chapter fails to provide its recommendations to SWANA by the June 2 deadline
- Applicant will not be enrolled in classes in the coming semester
- Application does not provide all **REQUIRED** supporting documentation and letters
- Application contains an essay or substantial parts of an essay written by another person
- Application is not legible or signed by the applicant where indicated

Questions? We realize there may be questions that aren't answered by this overview. Please direct your questions to your [Chapter's Scholarship Chairperson](#) or SWANA's Staff at membership@swana.org.

Application Information

1. Applicant Information

First Name	Last Name		
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Mailing Address

City	State/Province	Zip/Postal Code	Country
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Phone	Email Address
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SWANA Member #	Chapter Affiliation
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SWANA Sponsor Name (if applicable)	Sponsor #
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2. Academics = 30%

Degree	Major
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School	Year
--------	------

Degree	Major
--------	-------

School	Year
--------	------

Degree	Major
--------	-------

School	Year
--------	------

Graduate School Attending With Scholarship

Department Address	Telephone
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Area of Study (Please list advanced degree obtaining: ex. MS/PhD)	Expected Graduation (MM/YY)
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Required

- A copy of college/university transcripts through the conclusion of the most recent period.
- Graduation verification for schools from which degrees are reported attached.
- A copy of your acceptance letter to graduate school if this will be your first year attending that school.

Application Information

3. Relationship of Studies to Solid Waste Management = 60%

Required: All three items must be included with your application.

Complete and sign or verify the forms that ask for additional information about coursework, internships, and research related to solid waste management and/or a potential career in the industry.

Attach a letter about your academic performance from your faculty advisor or key professor in your studies related to solid waste management.

Attach a one-page, original essay about the way in which you, as a result of your studies, intend to contribute to improving the management of waste as a resource or to addressing an environmental issue related to solid waste. Note this essay is NOT a recitation of your classwork; it is a short description of your intentions and aspirations.

Optional/If Available

If involved in a research program or an internship/assistantship, please have your faculty advisor provide documentation regarding the nature of the project and your performance.

Provide links to published articles or a short bibliography. Large data files transmitting full copies of books and papers are specifically not required and add less to the Committee's review than a succinct summary or link.

4. Other Activities = 10%

Required

Complete and sign or verify the forms that asks for information about your Other Activities. If you do not participate in Other Activities, sign the bottom of the blank page.

Optional/If Available

Attach documentation and/or letters of support that will help the Scholarship Committee appropriately score your application.

Attach a current copy of your resume.

5. Financial Need—Not weighted

You may attach a short statement of your financial need, describing how this scholarship will help offset tuition and related expenses and listing any other scholarships or educational funding received to-date. Please do not attach forms or other documented containing confidential personal information.

6. Signature

Signature of Applicant Date

Signature of sponsor other than the applicant, if applicable Date



Completed Course(s) List

Please provide the course title, credit hours, grade earned, and up to a 25-word description of your course work that relates to solid waste or resource management and/or a career in the industry. Copy the page if you need more space.

Course Title	Credit Hours	Grade
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Description

Course Title	Credit Hours	Grade
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Description

Course Title	Credit Hours	Grade
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Description

Course Title	Credit Hours	Grade
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Description

Description

I verify that the information above is true to the best of my knowledge.



Internships/Assistantships

Provide enough information to allow the Committee to what you did and its relevance to solid waste or resource management. Please limit your description to no more than 250 words. Copy the page as needed to address additional internships and assistantships.

Internship/Assistantship

Supervisor's Name

Title

Phone

Email

Description

Internship/Assistantship

Supervisor's Name

Title

Phone

Email

Description

I verify that the information above is true to the best of my knowledge.



Research Efforts

Please describe the nature and purpose, research protocol, schedule status, results to date, any anticipated practical application, and any publications resulting from your current and/or completed research project(s). ***Certify each description and provide the name of your faculty advisor/supervisor for each.***

I verify that the information above is true to the best of my knowledge.



Other Activities

Other activities are activities and programs that can be connected with your studies, school participation, or entirely unrelated (volunteer activities, military service, employment). Provide enough information that Committee members can understand your participation. Keep it brief and copy the page if you need more space.

Activity

Duration & Frequency

How did you participate

Activity

Duration & Frequency

How did you participate

Activity

Duration & Frequency

How did you participate

I verify that the information above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Checklist

Have you filled out and attached the following documents to complete your scholarship application:

Required

- College/university transcripts and graduation verifications
- Letter(s) from your faculty advisor or key professor
- One-page essay on the topic identified in Question 3
- All forms

Optional/If Available

- Documentation of academic achievement, awards, and honors
- Any other material you wish the Committee to consider
- Resume

Return your completed application to your Chapter Scholarship Chair by May 1, 2024.

If you are geographically located outside the United States, its territories, or Canada, send your completed application directly to SWANA's Staff Scholarship Administrator.

Visit [SWANA.org/Scholarships](https://www.swana.org/scholarships) for more information.