

2026

**Solid Waste Association of North America
(SWANA)**

**MID-ATLANTIC
CHAPTER**

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

CATEGORY IA

**(Incoming college/university
sophomores)**

**INSTRUCTIONS AND APPLICATION
(Application due date is **May 4, 2026.**)**

**MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM**

CATEGORY IA
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
for
INCOMING COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY SOPHOMORES

I. DEADLINES and SCHEDULES

May 4 -- All completed application forms and back-up documentation shall be **received** by the Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairperson.

June— Announcement and award of Chapter Scholarship winner(s).

II. SCHOLARSHIP AWARD(S)

A. Eligibility

Category IA applicants must be either freshmen presently enrolled full-time in a junior college or four-year college or university or are re-entering college or university as a sophomore.

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

- (1) the son, daughter, adopted son, adopted granddaughter, grandson or granddaughter of a SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Member (hereon known as sponsor), in good standing at the time of the recommendation, the application submittal, the selection, and the award, or
- (2) a student member at the time of application submittal, the selection, and the award, or
- (3) the son, daughter, adopted son, adopted, granddaughter, grandson, or granddaughter of an employee in the solid waste field in the states of Maryland or 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, including a Student 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 the states of Maryland or 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.)

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.

B. Award(s) by the Chapter

Each Chapter Category IA scholarship amount is typically \$500-\$1,000, but may be increased or decreased based upon the number of applicants for all scholarship categories, the number of qualified

applicants, the availability of funds, etc., as solely determined by the Chapter at the time of the scholarship selection.

Likewise, the number of Chapter Category IA 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 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 IA scholarships if there are no qualified applications, as solely determined by the Chapter.

III. SCORING OF APPLICANTS for Category IA (college or university freshmen who are entering their sophomore year)

1. Academics -- 50%

(Note: In evaluating the academics, more weight shall be given to the academics at the college/university level.)

- a. GPA from high school and GPA to date at college/university
- b. ACT and/or SAT Scores
- c. Academic achievement awards and honors

2. Community Activities -- 20%

- a. Volunteer Activities (not at school)
- b. Scouting
- c. Charitable, civic, or religious activities
- d. High school ROTC
- e. Military Service
- f. Employment (not at school)

3. Extracurricular Activities at high school and college/university-- 20%

(Note: In evaluating the activities, more weight shall be given to the more recent ones and those at the college/university.)

- a. Athletics
- b. Music, drama, debate, student paper or yearbook, clubs, etc.
- c. Student government
- d. Employment (at school)

4. Discussion on solid waste management-- 10%

- Clarity and organization of the work
- Grammar and spelling
- Accuracy and originality
- Neatness
- NOTE: No Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and/or technologies are to be used in the completion of this assignment. Each applicant must sign below this 'code of conduct' statement.

Optional additional rating criterion at the sole option of the applicant for a maximum additional twenty (20) points to be added to the score based upon the preceding four criteria—In 200 words or less, describe why you should be considered for a scholarship and/or what are extenuating special personal or family circumstances or hardships or needs of which the Chapter Scholarship Committee should be aware. This may include an explanation of why participation in extracurricular or other activities is limited; grade point average is low, etc. Label your sheet as "Optional Discussion." Grammar and spelling will be considered too in its evaluation by the Committee.

IV. COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

Each applicant will be required to submit the **completed application form with all of the appropriate attached forms and ensure that all of the following back-up documentation** is sent to the Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairperson by **May 4**:

1. SAT/ACT/Achievement test scores,
2. Current grade point average,
3. High school transcripts,
4. College/university transcript through previous semester/quarter, and
5. Acceptance letter to an accredited institution (if not presently enrolled)

The back-up documentation for #2 and 4, *in sealed envelopes*, should be sent to the **Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairperson** by the institution issuing the award, grade, score, etc.

Any of the above back-up documentation, except for #1, 3, and 5, 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 Chapter 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 4** for submittal of your application and back-up documentation, you may be disqualified at the sole discretion of the Chapter Scholarship Committee.

Illegible applications or applications without proper signatures will not be accepted. If more space is required to document awards, citizenship qualifications or extracurricular activities, these forms may be copied. Forms that are similar in appearance and layout may be accepted at the sole discretion of the Chapter Scholarship Committee.

V. SUMMARY

With this document, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWANA has attempted to outline the application requirements for the Chapter Program. We realize, however, that there will always be questions that cannot be answered on paper. If any questions or problems should arise, please feel free to contact the Chapter's Scholarship Committee 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 facing our world. Through the scholarship programs, 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 IA Scholarship Application Submittals:

From applicant by May 4:

1. Application
2. Discussion on solid waste management
3. Statement on financial needs
4. Optional Discussion on why . . . and /or what . . .
5. Forms
 - a. Academic Achievement Awards and Honors
 - b. Citizen Activities
 - c. Extracurricular activities
6. Acceptance letter from college or university (if not presently enrolled)

From high school and/or testing agency (May also be submitted by applicant with application) by May 4:

1. High school transcript

2. SAT/ACT/Achievement test scores

From college/university by May 4:

1. Transcript (through previous semester/quarter) and GPA

Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairperson:

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

Acknowledgement of Receipt - Applicants may need to verify that their application (by Email or USPS) was received on a timely basis by emailing or calling. If they do not get acknowledgment of the receipt of their application from the Chapter within three (3) working days, then they need to contact us to confirm the receipt. To receive an acknowledgement, the applicant is required to email two (2) different individuals (MTRIVEDI@FrederickCountyMD.gov; s.lippy@verizon.net).

MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

CATEGORY IA APPLICATION (incoming sophomore)

1. Applicant's Full Name _____

2. Applicant's address and telephone number(s) (home and college/university)

If Student Member, provide membership number _____

3. Name, address and telephone number of SWANA Member sponsor (and membership number)

4. Sponsor's relationship to applicant _____

5. Sponsor's SWANA Chapter affiliation _____

6. High school name, address; and name and telephone number for Faculty Advisor

7. Have a complete high school transcript, SAT/ACT/Achievement test scores, sent to the Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairperson. (Copies may be submitted with the application.)

8. High school Grade Point Average _____ (4.0 scale) _____ (5.0 scale)

9. SAT/ACT score(s) _____ Math _____ Writing _____ Reading _____

10. Achievement Test Score(s)

11. What college/university are you attending, address, and name, address, and telephone number of any Advisor?

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12. What is your major at this time? _____
 13. College/university GPA _____
 14. Have a transcript of your college/university classes and GPA sent to the Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairperson.

Required attachments:

- A one-page discussion of your views on solid waste management: what it is, who participates, what are the current issues facing the profession, and your thoughts on its future direction. (Note: If you have applied for a Category I scholarship, the discussion must be new.)
- A short statement of your financial needs, listing any other scholarships or educational funding awarded to date for the coming year in context with estimated tuition and related expenses. If applicable, please attach a copy of your Free Application for Financial Student Aid Student Assessment Report.

Optional Attachment: Discussion of why . . . and/or what . . . (Note: If you applied for a Category I scholarship in the previous year, this discussion must be updated.)

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Signature of Sponsor _____ Date _____

SWANA
MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM
CATEGORY IA (Incoming college/university sophomores)

Discussion on solid waste management

"Code of Conduct" Statement

I, _____, verify that the above information is true to the best of my
Applicant's Signature

Knowledge and no Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and/or technologies were used in the completion of this assignment.

This form may be copied if more space is needed.