

2026

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

**MID-ATLANTIC
CHAPTER**

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PROGRAM

CATEGORY II

**(College/University Juniors & Seniors
Studying a Field Related to Solid Waste
Management)**

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

SWANA

MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

CATEGORY II APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS **for** **INCOMING COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY JUNIORS OR SENIORS**

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 of Chapter Scholarship winner(s).

II. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

A. Eligibility

Eligible Category II candidates must be currently enrolled full-time college or university students who are entering their junior or senior undergraduate year and pursuing a degree in environmental science, engineering or other suitable major related to solid waste management.

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

(1) the son, daughter, adopted son, adopted daughter, grandson, granddaughter, adopted grandson, or adopted 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 in good standing at the time of application submittal, the selection, and the award **(A Student Member must also have a M-A Chapter sponsor to be eligible for a M-A Chapter Scholarship.)**, or

(3) the son, daughter, adopted son, adopted daughter, grandson, granddaughter, adopted grandson, or adopted 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 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 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.

B. Award(s) by Chapter

Each Chapter Category II scholarship amount is typically \$750-\$2,000 but may be increased or decreased 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 II scholarships to be awarded by the Chapter will vary depending on the number of applicants for all 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 II scholarships if there are no qualified applications, as solely determined by the Chapter.

III. SCORING OF APPLICANTS for Category II (college or university upper-level undergraduate candidates who are entering their junior or senior year)

1. Academics -- 30%
 - a. GPA

2. Activities (whether on campus or community or home) -- 20%
 - b. Research Intern/Assistantship
 - c. Military Service
 - d. Volunteer Activities
 - e. Charitable, civic, or religious activities
 - f. Athletics and sports
 - g. Other

3. Relation of Studies to Solid Waste Management -- 50%
 - a. Current courses and completed courses
 - b. Discussion on solid waste management
 - Clarity and organization of the work
 - Grammar and spelling
 - Accuracy and originality
 - Neatness
 - 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.

IV. COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

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

- Current grade point average, and
- College/university transcript(s).

The back-up documentation should be sent to the **Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairperson** by the institution issuing the transcript.

Any of the above back-up documentation provided directly from the applicant will be considered valid 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 submitting 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 Scholarship Awards 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 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 II Scholarship Application Submittals:

From applicant by May 4:

1. Application
2. Discussion on solid waste management
3. Statement of financial need
4. Forms
 - a. Documentation of Completed Courses
 - b. Documentation of Activities

From college/university by May 4:

1. Current grade point average
2. Transcript

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).

SWANA
MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM
CATEGORY II APPLICATION
(incoming college/university juniors or seniors)

1. Applicant's Full Name _____

2. Applicant's address and telephone number(s) _____

If Student Member, provide membership number _____

3. Name, address and telephone number of a SWANA **Mid-Atlantic** Chapter member sponsor (including membership number)
(A Student Member must also have a M-A Chapter sponsor to be eligible for a M-A Chapter Scholarship.)

4. Sponsor's relationship with applicant _____

5. Sponsor's SWANA Chapter affiliation _____

6. College/University name and address; and name, address and telephone number for Faculty Advisor

7. Current Grade Point Average _____ (4.0 scale)

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 had applied for a Category I and/or IA 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, attach a copy of your Free Application for Financial Student Aid Student Assessment Report.

Signature of Applicant _____

Date _____

Signature of Sponsor _____

Date _____

SWANA
MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM
CATEGORY II (incoming college/university junior or senior)

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.

8484 Georgia Avenue
Suite 230
Silver Spring MD 20910
301-585-2898
SWANA.ORG



SWANA Harvey Gershman Scholarship Program

Application and Eligibility Information

I. AWARDS:

SWANA intends to give one Category II award of \$5,000 to a rising college/university junior or senior each year. Depending on the number and quality of applications, SWANA reserves the right to give more or fewer awards in this category and to adjust the number of awards in its other scholarship categories.

I. ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible to apply for SWANA's Category II Scholarship, you must satisfy all the following requirements:

- Be enrolled full-time in college or university for the period of time the scholarship will be used
- Be entering your junior or senior year of undergraduate studies
- Be pursuing a degree in an environmental science or studies area, engineering, business, etc.
- 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 stepchild, 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 4, 2026 – Application Deadline

June 12, 2026 – Recipients Notified

II. CRITERIA:

The Scholarship Committee evaluates the Harvey Gershman Scholarship applications as follows:

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 up to the conclusion of the most recent period (quarter, trimester, semester).

An official, unofficial, or PDF copy of your transcript is required to be attached *to the application sent to the Chapter and forwarded to 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.

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.



Application for this scholarship evaluated and given by SWANA (not the Mid-Atlantic Chapter) must be sent directly to the SWANA address on this page:

8484 Georgia Avenue
Suite 230
Silver Spring MD 20910
301-585-2898
SWANA.ORG



Relationship of Studies to Solid Waste Management = 50%

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

- **REQUIRED:** Complete the form that asks for additional information about coursework related to solid waste or resource 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 or resource management provide a one-page letter that discusses your academic performance.
- **REQUIRED:** Write a one-page, original essay about the topic identified in Question 4. SWANA considers each essay for its potential as a blog post on social media, regardless of selection for a Scholarship.

Other Activities = 20%

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 the forms that ask for information about your other activities.
- **OPTIONAL:** Attach a current copy of your resume.

Describe what you did and how often you participated. Attach documentation and/or letters of recommendation to help the Scholarship Committee appropriately score this part of your application.

Financial Need—not weighted

OPTIONAL: Although it is not a weighted factor, the Scholarship Committee can take financial need into consideration. Some chapters may also consider financial need in their review of applications. Please *do not attach forms that contain confidential personal information*.

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 4 deadline for submitting the application
- Applicant will not be enrolled in classes in the coming semester
- Applicant does not provide all REQUIRED supporting documentation
- Application contains an essay or substantial parts of an essay written by another person
- Application is not legible
- Application is not signed or certified by the applicant in each spot indicated.



TRANSFORMING WASTE
INTO A RESOURCE