

2026

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

MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER

CATEGORY III

**(Graduate Student) SCHOLARSHIP
AWARD PROGRAM INSTRUCTIONS**

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

SWANA

MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER'S CATEGORY III

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

I. DEADLINES

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

II. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

A. Eligibility

Category III 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 son, daughter, adopted son, adopted daughter, grandson, granddaughter, adopted grandson, or adopted granddaughter of a SWANA Mid- Atlantic Chapter Member (the 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 (**Note—A Student Member must have a sponsor who is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter 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 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.

B. Award(s) by Chapter

Each Chapter Category III scholarship amount is typically \$750-\$2,000 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 III 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 III scholarships if there are no qualified applications, as solely determined by the Chapter.

III. SCORING OF APPLICANTS for the Mid-Atlantic Chapter Category III Scholarship (graduate student)

1. Academics -- 30%
 - a. GPA
2. Activities (whether on campus, community, or home) -- 10%
 - b. Research Intern/Assistantship
 - c. Military Service
 - d. Volunteer Activities
 - e. Charitable, civic, or religious
 - f. Other
3. Relation of Studies to Solid Waste Management -- 60%
 - 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 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 4.***

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

The back-up documentation 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 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 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 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 III 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 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 III Scholarship Application Submittals:

From applicant by **May 4:**

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), IIB (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 4:**

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 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).

CATEGORY III (Graduate Student)

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.



SWANA Robert P. Stearns/SCS Engineers Scholarship

Eligibility and Application Information

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

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. 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.

III. CRITERIA:

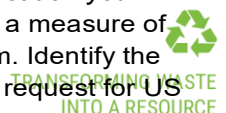
The Scholarship Committee evaluates the Robert P. Stearns/SCS Engineers Scholarship applications as follows:

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 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.

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.

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

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.

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.*

Disqualification

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

- i. Applicant fails to meet the May 4 deadline for submitting the application
- ii. Applicant will not be enrolled in classes in the coming semester
- iii. Application does not provide all **REQUIRED** supporting documentation and letters
- iv. Application contains an essay or substantial parts of an essay written by another person

