



## 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](http://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



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