



# **2026 New York State SWANA Chapter**

**CATEGORY III**

## **Graduate School Scholarship**



Dear Graduate Student:

Hello and thank you for your interest in the Category III Scholarship, offered through the New York State Solid Waste Association of North America (NYS SWANA).

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 Scholarship, 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, 2026.** Chapters will review all applications. That application must be submitted on SWANA's application form.

Contact information for Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairs can be found at [SWANANYS.org/Scholarships](http://SWANANYS.org/Scholarships). You will also find a link to many of the Chapter websites and information about their local scholarship programs.

For more information, check with your Chapter Scholarship Chair.

We look forward to receiving your application. Best of luck as you continue your education.

Sincerely,

Martin Bellew  
*New York State SWANA Chapter Chair*

# Application Information

## I. AWARDS:

New York SWANA

## II. ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible to apply for the 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.

### 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.
- August-Scholarship winners are announced.

## CRITERIA:

The Scholarship Committee evaluates the Scholarship applications as follows:

### A. Academics = 30%

NYS 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**. 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). NYS SWANA acknowledges that not all schools use this measure and will accept other measures **documented by the transcript**.

# Application Information

## 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 advisor 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
- 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

# Application Information

## 1. Applicant Information

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First Name	Last Name		
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Mailing Address

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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%

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Degree	Major
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School	Year
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Degree	Major
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School	Year
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Degree	Major
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School	Year
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Graduate School Attending With Scholarship

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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

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Signature of Applicant

Date

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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.

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Course Title	Credit Hours	Grade
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Description

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Course Title	Credit Hours	Grade
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Description

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Course Title	Credit Hours	Grade
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Description

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Course Title	Credit Hours
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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.

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Internship/Assistantship

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Supervisor's Name

Title

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Phone

Email

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Description

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Internship/ Assistantship

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Supervisor's Name

Title

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Phone

Email

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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.

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Activity

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Duration & Frequency

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How did you participate

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Activity

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Duration & Frequency

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How did you participate

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Activity

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Duration & Frequency

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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

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**Return your completed application to your Chapter Scholarship Chair by May 1, 2026.**