



2026 New York State SWANA Chapter

CATEGORY II

**College/University Juniors & Seniors Studying
Fields in Solid Waste or Resource Management**





Dear College or University Junior or Senior:

Hello and thank you for your interest in NYS SWANA's **Scholarship Awards Program**.

NYS SWANA is a professional association of more than 10,000 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, and we encourage you to consider how your selected area of study might lead you into our professional ranks. Will you be an engineer, scientist, agency or business manager, sales professional, safety specialist, expert in communications, marketing, or policy? Do you want to work as a front-line collector, equipment operator, or maintenance specialist? They all help fulfill the critical function of managing solid waste as a resource and SWANA has a place for you.

To be eligible to apply for NYS SWANA's Category II Scholarship, you must be:

- Enrolled full-time in college or university for the period of time the scholarship will be used
- Entering your junior or senior year of undergraduate studies
- Pursuing a degree in an environmental science or studies area, engineering, business, etc.
- 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 Sponsor's [Chapter Scholarship Committee Chair](#) no later than May 1, 2026.

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 Chapter Chair

Application Information

I. AWARDS:

Depending on the number and quality of applications, New York 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.

11. ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible to apply for New York 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. 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 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.
- August-Scholarship winners are announced.

III. CRITERIA:

The Scholarship Committee evaluates the Category II Scholarship applications as follows:

A. Academics = 30%

New York 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 NYS 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). NYS 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 Information

B. 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 advisor 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. NYS SWANA considers each essay for its potential as a blog post on social media, regardless of selection for a Scholarship.

C. 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.

D. 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.*

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 1st deadline for submitting the application to the Chapter
- 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.

Application Information

1. Applicant Information

First Name	Last Name		
------------	-----------	--	--

Mailing Address	City	State/Province	Zip/Postal Code
-----------------	------	----------------	-----------------

Phone	Email Address		
-------	---------------	--	--

SWANA Member# (Self or qualifying family member)	Chapter Affiliation		
--	---------------------	--	--

2. College/University Information

Name of School			
----------------	--	--	--

Mailing Address	City	State/Province	Zip/Postal Code
-----------------	------	----------------	-----------------

Faulty Advisor Name	Phone	Email	
---------------------	-------	-------	--

Major			
-------	--	--	--

How does your major relate to a career in the solid waste industry?

3. Academics = 30%

Required:

- Attach a copy of your college/university transcripts through the conclusion of the most recent period (quarter, trimester, semester). To aid the Committee's review, indicate your cumulative mark or grade point average here and identify the scale used (e.g., 4.0 on a 4.0 scale), if applicable.

Applicant's GPA or cumulative score	Maximum in the scoring/scale used
-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Optional:

- Attach documentation of any other **academic performance, awards, or recognition** and/or letters of recommendation related to academic performance you believe the Scholarship Committee should consider.

Application Information

4. Relationship of Studies to Solid Waste Management = 50%

Required: All three items must be included with your application.

- Complete and sign or verify the forms that ask for additional information about coursework and internships 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 how you want your career to contribute to improving the management of waste as a resource or to addressing an environmental issue related to solid waste that is currently in the news.

5. Other Activities = 20%

Required:

- Complete and sign or verify the form that asks for information about your Other Activities. Attach documentation and/ or letters of support that will help the Scholarship Committee appropriately score your application. If you do not participate in Other Activities, sign the bottom of the blank page.

Optional:

- Attach a current copy of your resume.

6. Financial Need

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.

7. Signatures

Signature of Applicant Date

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 resources management and/or a career in the industry. Copy the page if you need more space.

Course Title	Credit Hours
--------------	--------------

Description

Course Title	Credit Hours
--------------	--------------

Description

Course Title	Credit Hours
--------------	--------------

Description

Course Title	Credit Hours
--------------	--------------

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 management. Please limit your description to no more than 250 words. Copy the page as needed to address additional internships and assistantships.

Internship/Assistantship

Supervisor's Name Title

Phone Email

Description

Internship/Assistantship

Supervisor's Name Title

Phone Email

Description

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.

Activity

Duration & Frequency

How did you participate

Activity

Duration & Frequency

How did you participate

Activity

Duration & Frequency

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 transcript
- Letter from your faculty advisor or key professor
- One-page essay on the topic identified in Question 4
- All forms

Applicant Specific

- Documentation of academic achievement, awards, and honors

Optional/If Available

- Resume

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