



# 2026 New York State SWANA Chapter

CATEGORY I

High School Senior going  
to First Year of College





Dear High School Senior:

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

SWANA is a professional association of more than 10,000 members working in solid waste and resource management. SWANA's scholarship for high school seniors supports qualifying family members (as defined below) for whom a SWANA member will act as a sponsor. This scholarship is open to incoming college freshman in any area of study, but we encourage you to consider joining our industry, which welcomes professionals in all areas.

To be eligible for one of SWANA's scholarships for high school seniors (Category I), you must:

- Be a graduating high school senior or have an equivalent level of education
- Be the natural, adopted, or stepchild or grandchild of a SWANA member (in good standing as of May 1 of the application year) who will act as your Sponsor
- Be accepted for enrollment in a two or four-year college or university in any program of study

**Applications must be received by your Sponsor's Chapter Scholarship Committee Chair no later than the end of the day, May 1, 2026.** Contact information for Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairs can be found at [swananys.org/Scholarships](http://swananys.org/Scholarships).

For more information, check with your [Chapter Scholarship Chair](#).

We look forward to receiving your application. Best of luck in the next stage of your education.

Sincerely,

Martin Bellew  
*New York State Chapter Chair*

# Application Information

## I. AWARDS:

Depending on the number and quality of applications, New York reserves the right to give more or fewer awards in this category and to adjust the number of awards in its other categories for current college students and graduate students.

## II. ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible to apply for one of the Category I Scholarships, you must satisfy all three requirements:

- Be a graduating high school senior or hold an equivalent level of education
- Be the natural, adopted or stepchild or grandchild of a SWANA member in good standing at the time of the recommendation who will act as your Sponsor
- Be accepted for enrollment in a two or four-year college or university in any program of study. SWANA's membership is diverse, and we encourage you to consider how your selected area of study might lead you into our professional ranks.

SWANA student members, SWANA employees, and their family members are not eligible to apply for Category I Scholarships. Beyond those exceptions, SWANA pledges to uphold the policy that all persons shall have equal access to this program.

## III. DEADLINES:

- **May 1**- All completed application forms and back-up documentation must be received by the Scholarship Chairperson for the Chapter in which your Sponsor is a member.
- **June 1**-Scholarship winners are announced.

## IV. CRITERIA:

The Scholarship Committee evaluates the Category I Scholarship applications on the following basis:

### A. Academics = 40% of your total score

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. Here is a list of REQUIRED and OPTIONAL materials used in evaluating Academic performance.

- **REQUIRED:** Provide a transcript from the high school or equivalent most recently completed.

This transcript may be an official or PDF copy of your high school transcript, but it 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). 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**.

- **REQUIRED:** Provide a copy of your acceptance letter to the college or university you will attend.

Your acceptance letter must be attached to the application provided to the Chapter. The name of the college/university will be referenced on the award check issued by NYS SWANA.

# Application Information

- **OPTIONAL:** Academic achievement, awards, and honors

If applicable, attach documentation of other **academic** performance and/or letters of recommendation related to academic performance that will help the Scholarship Committee evaluate your application.

- **OPTIONAL:** Scores from standardized tests

These items are useful to the Scholarship Committee if included, but may not be relevant to all geographic areas.

- » ACT score. Include a copy of the test return you received or, if you wish to have your score released directly to SWANA, use **ACT Code Number 7998** for **NYS SWANA Scholarship**.
- » SAT score. Include a copy of the test return you received.

- **Extracurricular Activities = 25% of your total score**

Extracurricular activities are activities connected with the school but outside the standard curriculum. Students choose to participate in these as part of their school experience. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Athletics on school-sponsored teams
- Music, drama, debate, and similar performance-related participation
- School-sponsored clubs
- Tutoring other students

Describe your participation, including your level of involvement, role, and when it occurred (number of school years, seasons, etc.). Attach documentation and/or letters of recommendation to help the Scholarship Committee appropriately score this part of your application.

- **C. Community Activities and Citizenship = 25% of your total score**

Community activities are programs offered *or* sponsored by entities other than your school. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Groups and volunteer activities sponsored by faith-based organization (e.g., participation in youth study and activity groups)
- Local community organizations (meal delivery, organized park clean-up, election volunteer, etc.)
- Coaching or officiating youth sports (e.g., Little League, youth soccer programs, etc.)
- High school ROTC participation or military service
- Employment

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. Essay = 10% of your total score**

- **REQUIRED:** Applicants must write a short, original essay about the topic included in Question

8. The Committee will consider:

- » Relevance to the identified topic
- » Clarity and organization of the work
- » Grammar and punctuation
- » Accuracy and originality

NYS SWANA considers each essay for its potential as a blog post on social media.

# Application Information



## E. Financial Need-not weighted

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

## F. 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
- Applicant does not provide all REQUIRED documentation identified above
- Application contains an essay or substantial parts of an essay written by another person
- Application is not legible
- Application is not signed by the applicant and Sponsor where indicated

# Application Information

## 1. Applicant Information

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First Name	Last Name
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Mailing Address	City	State/Province	Zip/Postal Code
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Phone	Email Address
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## 2. Sponsoring SWANA Member

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First Name	Last Name
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Mailing Address	City	State/Province	Zip/Postal Code
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Relationship to Applicant	SWANA Chapter
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## 3. High School/Entity Issuing the Diploma and/or Transcript

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Name of School
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Mailing Address	City	State/Province	Zip/Postal Code
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Phone
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## 4. College/University Information

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Name of School
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Mailing Address	City	State/Province	Zip/Postal Code
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Planned Major
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How do you think you1- planned majm might fit into a career in resource management?

# Application Information

## 5. Academics = 40% of total score

**Required:**

D Attach your transcript from the high school or equivalent most recently completed. To aid the Committee's review, indicate your cumulative mark or GPA and identify the scale used (e.g., 4.0 on a 4.0 scale), if applicable.

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Applicant's GPA or cumulative score

Maximum in the scoring/scale used

**Required**

Attach a copy of your college/university acceptance letter.

**Optional/If Available**

D 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.

If available, identify scores from any standardized tests and attach a copy of the test return.

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ACT Score

SAT Score

## 6. Extracurricular Activities = 25% of total score

**Required:**

**Complete and sign or verify the attached page** describing your involvement in **extracurricular school activities**, if any.

Attach documentation and/or letters of support that will help the Scholarship Committee appropriately score your application. If you did not participate in extracurricular school activities, sign the bottom of the blank page.

## 7. Community Activities = 25% of total score

**Required:**

**Complete the attached page** describing your involvement in any **community (non-school) programs or activities**.

Attach documentation and/or letters of support that will help the Scholarship Committee appropriately score your application. If you did not participate in community activities, sign the bottom of the blank page.

## 8. Essay Question = 10% of total score

**Required:**

Attach a one-page essay about the role some aspect of solid waste management (e.g., education, recycling, food waste recovery, composting, landfilling, etc.) plays in addressing an environmental issue currently in the news. What are the responsibilities of individuals who generate the waste (including producers/manufacturers and consumers) versus the professionals tasked with managing the waste?

## 9. 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 documents containing confidential personal information.

## 10. Signatures

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Signature of Applicant

Date

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Signature of SWANA Sponsor

Date

# Extracurricular Activities

Please describe your participation (connected with the school but outside the standard curriculum), including the name of the activity, how long or how frequently (the seasons or years) you participated, and what you did. Attach documentation or letters of recommendation, if any, to help the Scholarship Committee understand your involvement. Copy the page if you need more space.

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Activity	Duration & frequency
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How did you participate?

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Activity	Duration & frequency
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How did you participate?

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Activity	Duration & frequency
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How did you participate?

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Activity	Duration & frequency
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How did you participate?

DI verify that the information above is true to the best of my knowledge.

# Community Activities & Citizenship

Programs or participation offered or sponsored by entities other than your school. This also includes military participation and employment. Please describe what you did and how long/how often you participated. Attach documentation or letters of recommendation, if any, to help the Scholarship Committee understand your involvement. Copy the page if you need more space.

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Activity

Duration & frequency

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What did you do? How did you participate?

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Activity

Duration & frequency

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What did you do? How did you participate?

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Activity

Duration & frequency

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What did you do? How did you participate?

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Activity

Duration & frequency

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What did you do? 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

- High school transcript
- Copy of your acceptance letter to college or university
- Complete, signed extracurricular activities form
- Complete, signed community activities and citizenship form
- One-page essay on the topic identified in Question 8

## Applicant Specific

- Documentation of academic achievement, awards, and honors

## Optional/If Available

- Scores from any standardized testing

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