



SWACO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CATEGORY I

Graduating students with a minimum of 20 credit units or graduating GED students.

APPLICATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Application and all supporting documents, should be received by SWACO no later than March 31st. Electronic applications will be accepted via the application submission webpage (www.swaco.org/ScholarshipProgram).

Physical applications will be accepted via mail at the following address:

Attn: Scholarship Committee
SWACO
4239 London Groveport Road
Grove City, OH 43123

If you have any question, please contact: scholarship@swaco.org



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CATEGORY I APPLICATION

Please complete this application in its entirety, including signature(s). Without complete information and signature(s) this application will not be accepted.

Applicant Information.

Full name:

Mailing address:

E-mail address:

Telephone number:

School Information.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Name of faculty advisor:

Faculty advisor's email address:

Please have a complete transcript, SAT and/or ACT test scores, and a copy of your college or university acceptance mailed to SWACO - 4239 London Groveport Road Grove City, OH 43123 or emailed to scholarship@swaco.org.

Additional Information.

Current grade point average :

SAT and/or ACT score:

What college or university have you been accepted to?

What is your major?

Please note the following majors are eligible for this scholarship: environmental science, environmental studies, engineering or other majors applicable to the solid waste management field.

Please provide a one-paragraph personal statement.

See page 8.

Please attach a one-page essay answering the prompt.

See page 9 for prompt.

Please submit a short statement of your financial needs, listing any other scholarships or educational funding awarded to date for the coming year in context with estimated tuition and related expenses.

If applicable, please attach a copy of your Application for Financial Student Aid Student Assessment Report.

Applicant signature:

Date:

Guardian signature:

Date:

(Guardian signature needed if applicant is a minor.)



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CATEGORY I APPLICATION

Documentation of Academic Achievement Awards and Honors

Please include:

1. Name of award
2. Date of award
3. Name and email address of award official or advisor
4. Details about the award

Award Name	Date	Award Official Information	Details
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Please sign below.

I,

Applicant's Signature

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



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CATEGORY I APPLICATION

Documentation of Citizenship Qualifications

Documentation of citizenship qualifications include but are not limited to: student organizations, scouting, ROTC, civic or religious and charitable groups.

Please include:

1. Name of activity
2. Dates of involvement
3. Name and email address of coordinator
4. Details of your role and involvement in activity.

Activity Name	Dates	Coordinator Information	Details
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CATEGORY I APPLICATION

Documentation of Extracurricular Activities Qualifications

Documentation of extracurricular activities qualifications include but are not limited to: athletics, music, drama, debate, yearbook, student paper and employment.

Please include:

1. Name of activity
2. Dates of involvement
3. Name and email address of coordinator
4. Details of your role and involvement in activity.

Activity Name	Dates	Coordinator Information	Details
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Please sign below.

I, _____ verify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge.
Applicant's Signature

Please sign below.

I, _____ verify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge.
Applicant's Signature

CATEGORY I APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

I. DEADLINES

March 31, 2026 All completed application forms and backup documentation must be received by SWACO. Please send a physical copy or email a digital copy.

May 1, 2026 Announcement of scholarship recipient.

II. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

1. Eligibility

SWACO will annually award scholarships for tuition to applicants majoring in environmental science, environmental studies, engineering, or other majors applicable to the field of solid waste management.

Category I – Solid Waste Studies

- A. Students must reside within SWACO’s District and attend an accredited an accredited community college, four-year college or university of their choice; or students who reside outside SWACO’s District must have been accepted to and plan to attend an accredited college, four-year college or university within SWACO’s District.
- B. Students must be graduating with a minimum of 20 credit units or graduating GED students.
- C. Must pursue a degree in science, environmental studies, engineering, or a related solid waste management field.

The following criteria will be considered: academics, extracurricular activities, community activities, and essay.

SWACO pledges to uphold the policy that all persons shall have equal access to this program, regardless of race, color, age, sex, marital or veteran status, creed, religion or disability.

2. Awards

Scholarship (s) will be granted on an annual basis, subject to fund availability, to one or more eligible recipients, with awards not exceeding \$2,500 per individual per academic year. The total scholarship award for any individual in either category shall not exceed \$10,000 over four years. Scholarship recipients are required to provide an annual, notarized Verification of Enrollment and Academic Progress Form and an official end-of-year transcript from their institution. Scholarship funds will be issued by SWACO directly to the recipient's college or university. Award recipients will be required to sign the SWACO Scholarship Agreement.

Scholarships are intended for educational expenses, including tuition, fees, books, equipment, and tools, **but exclude housing costs**. Students have discretion on how funds are applied within these guidelines.

If a student fails to complete their studies, they are not required to reimburse SWACO for any scholarship funds received, nor does SWACO require scholarship recipients to work for the organization as a condition of receiving the scholarship; however, if the student fails to complete their studies, the student will no longer be awarded the remainder of the scholarship.

III. CRITERIA FOR AWARD SELECTION

Graduating students with a minimum of 20 credit units or graduating GED students.

A. Academics 40%

- 1. GPA
- 2. Academic achievement awards and or honors

B. Community Activities 20%

- 1. Student organization participation
- 2. Volunteer activities
- 3. High school ROTC, military, etc.

C. Extracurricular 20%

- 1. Athletics
- 2. Music, drama, debate, etc.
- 3. Employment

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D. Quality of the Written Essay 20%

- 1. Accuracy and originality
- 2. Clarity and organization of the work
- 3. Grammar

Bonus Points: ACT and/or SAT Scores

V. COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

Each applicant will be required to submit the completed application form and all back-up documentation to SWACO by **March 31, 2026**.

All applicants must complete the entire Category I form. Illegible applications or applications without proper signatures will not be accepted.

If more space is required to document awards, citizenship qualifications or extracurricular activities, these forms may be copied.

The following back-up documentation should be sent to SWACO by the institution issuing the award, grade, score, etc.:

- 1. SAT or ACT Achievement test scores
- 2. Current grade point average
- 3. School transcripts
- 4. Acceptance to an accredited institution

Any of the above information provided by the applicant will be considered invalid except in extreme cases where written permission is granted in advance by SWACO.

Applicants have the responsibility for verifying that their back-up documentation has been received by SWACO. An email address is provided so you may verify that your materials have been received. Be aware that if you miss the deadline (**March 31, 2026**) for submittal of your application and back up documentation, you will be disqualified.

VI. SUMMARY

With this document, SWACO has attempted to outline the application requirements for the Scholarship Program. We realize, however, that there will always be questions that cannot be answered on paper. If any questions or problems should arise, please email us at scholarship@swaco.org.

SWACO feels that the education of both students and the general public is an important step in eliminating some of our biggest solid waste management problems. Through the scholarship program, we are beginning to address the issue of educating you, the student, in the hopes of producing knowledgeable and responsible solid waste management professionals for the future. Good luck.

Note: It is hereby acknowledged that the SWACO Scholarship Program is a financial assistance program. The receipt of a scholarship does not constitute a guarantee of subsequent employment by the SWACO.

Personal Statement

This section is your opportunity to share who you are beyond grades, test scores, and achievements. In a short paragraph, help the review committee understand your personality, values, experiences, or passions that shape who you are today. There's no right or wrong answer – we simply want to get to know you.

Essay Prompt and Scoring Details;

Please attach a one-page essay in response to the prompt provided below. The essay would be scored on the following:

1. Accuracy, originality and relevancy
2. Clarity and organization of the work
3. Grammar

Please ensure the essay is written in MLA format and essay will be screened plagiarism.

Prompt:

This essay should describe how solid waste management and sustainability efforts impact your daily life as a student. Consider how these efforts are presented in your school environment, extracurricular activities like sports or clubs, church or community involvement and at home. Include specific examples and reflect on how your awareness or participation in sustainability has influenced your actions, choices and future goals.

Think about the prompt from the talking point of how solid waste management and sustainability shape your daily life-impacting small and big moments and decisions all the way from the cafeteria to the basketball court.

(Please separately attach a one-page essay answering the provided prompt.)