

SDSWMA Scholarship Application

The SDSWMA Scholarship Program, an entity of the South Dakota Solid Waste Management Association (SDSWMA), provides one or more scholarships annually to students with directed studies relating to the protection and enhancement of our natural resources and environment, the solid waste industry and similar fields. Preference is given to South Dakota residents intending to study at South Dakota colleges, universities, vocational training or apprenticeships.

The SDSWMA Scholarship was founded in 1995, by SDSWMA members Timothy Sander, Jerome Wright and Terrance Keller, in remembrance of Michael (Paco) Sowers of Belle Fourche and James Pickering of Rapid City. Both died in accidents associated with the solid waste industry in 1994 and 1995.

Who is eligible for SDSWMA Scholarship?

An applicant should desire a career in a trade supportive to the protection and enhancement of our natural resources and environment, the solid waste industry and/or related fields. Applicants must intend to enroll for the fall semester.

- Preference will be given to South Dakota residents intending to or enrolled at a South Dakota institution of higher learning, vocational school, or other post-secondary trade school.
- High school seniors are eligible to apply.
- Part-time studies will be considered if applicant can show good cause for other than full-time studies and that the course of study is directed toward a degree, certificate or similar identification of graduation.
- Students who have received an SDSWMA scholarship in the past are eligible to apply each year although preference may be given to new applicants.
- Children and spouses of Scholarship Committee members are not eligible.

What is considered a course of study that will provide protection and enhancement of our natural resources and the environment or solid waste Industry?

SDSWMA membership consists of a broad range of industries relating to and supporting the proper disposal, reuse, hauling, or recycling of solid waste. Related fields include but are not limited to business administration, accounting, biology, chemistry, trucking, geology, hydrology, engineering, auto mechanics, computer science, heating / ventilation / refrigeration, environmental sciences, engineering technicians, government administration, agribusiness, education, biohazard, energy technology, and more.

How can individuals apply for a scholarship?

Each Fall, this scholarship announcement is furnished to South Dakota high school counselors and financial aid offices and instructors at post-secondary schools. This announcement is also available from the SDSWMA website (www.sdswwa.org).

To apply, submit an application letter. Application letters must be postmarked no later than January 15 of each year, for the following school year. Further information can be obtained by contacting SDSWMA by phone (605-216-3256) or sending an email to SDSWMA at sdsolidwaste@yahoo.com.

What information must be supplied in the application letter?

- A cover letter including the following:
 - Contact Information
 - Interests
 - Back ground
 - Work history and/or extra-curricular activity
 - Financial need
 - Goals for the future and career goals
- Applicants must furnish a copy of their most recent grade transcript - However, this scholarship is **not** awarded based on grades or overall GPA. We are more interested in your dedication and goals for the future.
- Three letters of reference.
- High School seniors must applying for a scholarship must include an acceptance certificate from the post-secondary institution they will be attending.
- Submit application letters to:

Attention: Scholarship Program

SDSWMA

PO Box 89802

Sioux Falls, SD 57109

How are scholarships awarded?

The SDSWMA Board appoints a committee of five SDSWMA members who review all applications. Applications are rated on a point system basis and those applications with the highest points are awarded scholarships.

How many scholarships are awarded?

The number of scholarships and the dollar amount awarded vary from year to year. In 2020, a total of \$5,000 was awarded between 3 students!