Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Who can apply?

The South Dakota Solid Waste Management Association provides scholarships annually. Shortages of skilled labor in our industry have caused us to redirect our scholarship focus to meet solid waste industry needs. Preference will be given to children and spouses of SDSWMA members, South Dakota residents studying at South Dakota post-secondary trade schools, high school seniors and students currently enrolled full or part time in a South Dakota post-secondary trade school. Students who have received an SDSWMA scholarship in the past are eligible to apply each year. Children and spouses of Scholarship Committee members are not eligible.

How many scholarships are awarded annually and what are the dollar amounts of these scholarships?

The SDSWMA normally awards 2 - 4 scholarships annually; however, more may be awarded depending on the number of applications received and available funds. The scholarships will range from $500 to $4,000.

How do I apply?

An applicant must submit a letter of application addressing the information requested on the scholarship application notice.

When is the application deadline?

Applications must be emailed or postmarked by January 15. Submit applications via email to contact@sdswma.org or by mail to:

SDSWMA Scholarship Program
1616 Melody Lane
Aberdeen, SD 57401

What types of coursework or degrees are considered for scholarships?

Vocational trade degrees for Heavy Equipment Operations, Diesel Technology, Millwrights, Environmental Technicians, Welding, GPS/Computer Technicians, etc.

How is the SDSWMA Scholarship funded?

The fund was started with seed money from the Association. The SDSWMA Scholarship Fund has continued to grow with donations from active members working in and/or providing services and equipment to the solid waste industry in South Dakota.

Can I make a tax-deductible contribution to the Scholarship Fund in memory of a colleague or family member?

SDSWMA is a 501c6 Non-profit Corporation. Consult your tax advisor to determine if your contribution is tax deductible. To make a contribution send check and explanation to: SDSWMA Scholarship Fund, 1616 Melody Lane, Aberdeen, SD 57401. Your contributions go directly to students.

Why should I be interested in contributing to the SDSWMA Scholarship Fund?

It is important to impress upon young people the value of a career in the solid waste industries for the protection and enhancement of our natural resources and the environment. One way to do that is to make scholarships available. The fact that the solid waste industry and SDSWMA are willing to provide scholarships certainly makes an impression on students and the academic community. The solid waste industry in South Dakota is serious about fostering education related to our industry.