

Michigan Chapter
Soil and Water Conservation Society
MICHIGAN SCHOLARSHIPS IN CONSERVATION PROGRAM
Revision 2, 12/16/09

Program Objective: The *Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program* is designed to be a strong and continuing activity of the Michigan Chapter to advance the science and art of good land use. The program offers Michigan Chapter members a convenient and significant way of providing long term support to the philosophy and goals of the Michigan Chapter and the Soil and Water Conservation Society through facilitating the education of future soil and water conservation professionals. (Contributions to the scholarship program may be tax deductible under the Chapter's IRS 501.c.3 designation as a Tax Exempt Scientific and Educational Organization.)

Scholarship Objective: Scholarships are to encourage qualified students to enter the field of natural resource conservation and to prepare them for such careers through an organized program of study in an institution of higher education offering training in appropriate areas. Awards will be based on interest in conservation as evidenced by scholastic ability and participation in conservation activities.

Eligibility: Applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Be an undergraduate enrolled in a curriculum associated with Soil & Water Conservation in an accredited Michigan college or university.
2. Be a full-time sophomore, junior or senior in the fall term of the academic year in which the scholarship is awarded.
3. Have submitted a complete scholarship application by the due date provided in the announcement.

Award Selection: The scholarship will be awarded to the candidate selected by the Scholarship Committee, based on a qualification ranking system approved by the Executive Council.

Scholarship Amount: The frequency, number and amount of Scholarship awards shall be determined by the Executive Council, based on recommendations from the Scholarship Committee. The total scholarship amount offered on any given year shall not exceed the interest generated by the Scholarship Fund, unless the Executive Council determines to draw the difference from Michigan Chapter General Fund or other sources of funds.

Administration and Operation: The principal administrator of the scholarship program is the Executive Council of the Michigan Chapter SWCS.

The Executive Council shall:

- Manage the investment account of the scholarship fund pursuant to recommendations of the Scholarship Committee to obtain the highest possible interest from safe investments such as money market and U.S. treasury certificates.
- Manage in consultation with the Scholarship Committee special scholarship awards resulting from designated gifts, grants and bequests by Chapter members and other interested parties. When appropriate, a certificate of recognition will be given to donors.

The Scholarship Committee shall:

- Handle proper distribution of *Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program* announcements and application forms.
- Review applications and select scholarship recipients.
- Arrange for recipients to officially receive the scholarship.
- Prepare an annual report that includes:
 - Status of fund
 - Recipients of awards
 - A general summary of activities, and recommendations

The Michigan Chapter Treasurer shall:

- Handle all transactions involving scholarship fund including investments, distributions, deposits, and withdrawals pursuant to the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee and approval of the Executive Council.

The Scholarship Committee shall:

- Consider awarding more than one Scholarship or increasing the scholarship amount when the annual interest earned from the Scholarship Fund exceeds \$500, or other sources of funds become available.
- Consider opening awards to graduate students upon recommendation from the Scholarship Committee and approval by the Executive Council.
- Limit the annual total scholarship award to an amount not to exceed interest earned from the Scholarship Fund principal from the preceding calendar year, except where a special purpose gift, grant, or bequest specifies a different distribution, or the Executive Council authorizes the difference to be made up from the Chapter General Fund, or other funds.
- Establish a plan to promote, administer and award the Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program that best fits the academic year and the Michigan Chapter calendar.

The scholarship account shall:

- Be distinct and separate from the Michigan Chapter general operating account.
- Be funded by:
 - The original implementation grant of \$2,000 transferred from the Michigan Chapter general operating account. (A large portion of the “excess” in the general operating account was derived from 1980 International SCSA meeting savings.)
 - Residual scholarship funds in the Chapter treasury.
 - An annual \$2.00 fraction of the Michigan Chapter membership fee beginning with the 1982 membership year (approved at the November 7, 1980 annual meeting).
 - Voluntary gifts, grants and bequests to the Michigan Scholarships in Conservation program.
 - Proceeds from the 2009 Annual International Conference Silent Auction.
 - Any other sources of funds that may become available and authorized by the Executive Council.

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Approved by Executive Committee 9-21-81

Approved by Membership 11-6-81

Revision 1 - Edited to change SCSA to SWCS 12-16-08

Revision 2 - Approved by Membership vote by Ballot 12-16-09