

Michigan Chapter  
Soil and Water Conservation Society  
MICHIGAN SCHOLARSHIPS IN CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
Bylaws Revision 3

**Program Objective:** The *Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program* is designed to be a strong and continuing activity of the Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (hereinafter referred to as 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 pursue 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 enrolled in a curriculum associated with Soil & Water Conservation (e.g. agriculture, natural resources, sustainability or conservation practices and technology) in an accredited Michigan college or university.
2. Be a full-time Sophomore, Junior, Senior or Graduate student 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 and approved by the Executive Council, based on a qualification ranking system authorized 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 in any given year shall not exceed the interest and dividends generated by the Scholarship Fund, unless the Executive Council determines to draw the difference from the 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.

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 and dividends from safe investments such as bank certificates of deposit, money market accounts 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 Scholarship Fund
  - Recipients of awards
  - A general summary of activities, and recommendations

The Michigan Chapter Treasurer shall:

- Handle all transactions involving the 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 and dividends earned from the Scholarship Fund exceeds \$500, or other sources of funds become available.
- Limit the annual total scholarship award to an amount not to exceed interest and dividends earned from the Scholarship Fund principal, 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 Michigan 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 Fund account shall:

- Be distinct and separate from the Michigan Chapter General Operating Fund account.
- Be funded by:
  - The \$15,000 principal committed to bank and mutual funds in July, 2017.
  - An annual \$2.00 per Michigan Chapter member transfer from the Michigan Chapter General Fund based on the annual January membership number 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.
  - Any other sources of funds that may become available and authorized by the Executive Council.

Approved by Executive Committee 9-21-1981

Approved by Membership 11-6-1981

Revision 1 – Edited to change SCSA to SWCS 12-16-2008

Revision 2 – Approved by Membership vote by Ballot 12-16-2009

Revision 3 – Approved by Membership vote by Ballot 12/16/2022