



***Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District  
Conservation Education Scholarship Application 2022***

Please print or type answers

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_ or F\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Initial)
2. Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_
3. Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)
4. Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_
5. High School \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip)
6. Current School Enrolled In (if not the same as above) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address) (City) (State) (Zip)
7. Scholastic Average \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_
8. Father's Name (In Full) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Father's Occupation \_\_\_\_\_
10. Mother's Name (In Full) \_\_\_\_\_
11. Mother's Occupation \_\_\_\_\_
12. What institution of higher learning are you planning to attend in the fall of 2022?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Institution)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address) (City) (State) (Zip)
13. Have you been accepted to this institution? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What are your career goals?
15. What are your hobbies or special interests?

(Continue on reverse side)

16. Explain any school-sponsored and/or community activities you have participated in:

17. Describe any full-time or part-time employment, including any volunteer work for which you did not earn wages:

18. Letters of Recommendation - Two (2) letters of recommendation are to be sent directly to:

Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District  
Attn: Lyn Nitz-Mercaeant  
1201 S. Gougar Road  
New Lenox, Illinois 60451  
(815) 462-3106 Ext. 3

One letter must be received from a school representative and one letter must be received from a personal acquaintance. **These letters must be in the district file by the February 1, 2022 deadline.** Please list below, the people from whom you have requested recommendations:

1.

2.

19. Please enclose a copy of your high school transcripts and any college transcripts.

20. On a **separate sheet of paper**, describe in approximately 250 words why you are seeking this scholarship and how your field of study will benefit conservation.

21. Mail completed application, transcripts, and 250 word essay to:

Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District  
Attn: Lyn Nitz-Mercaeant  
1201 S. Gougar Road  
New Lenox, Illinois 60451  
(815) 462-3106 Ext. 3

If declared a recipient of this scholarship, I will permit the Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District to use my name, pertinent information and a photograph that can be copied for publicity purposes.

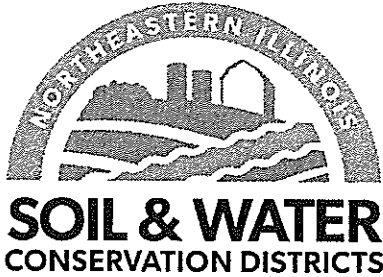
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(Signature of Applicant & Legal Guardian if under 18 years of age)

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(Date)

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE

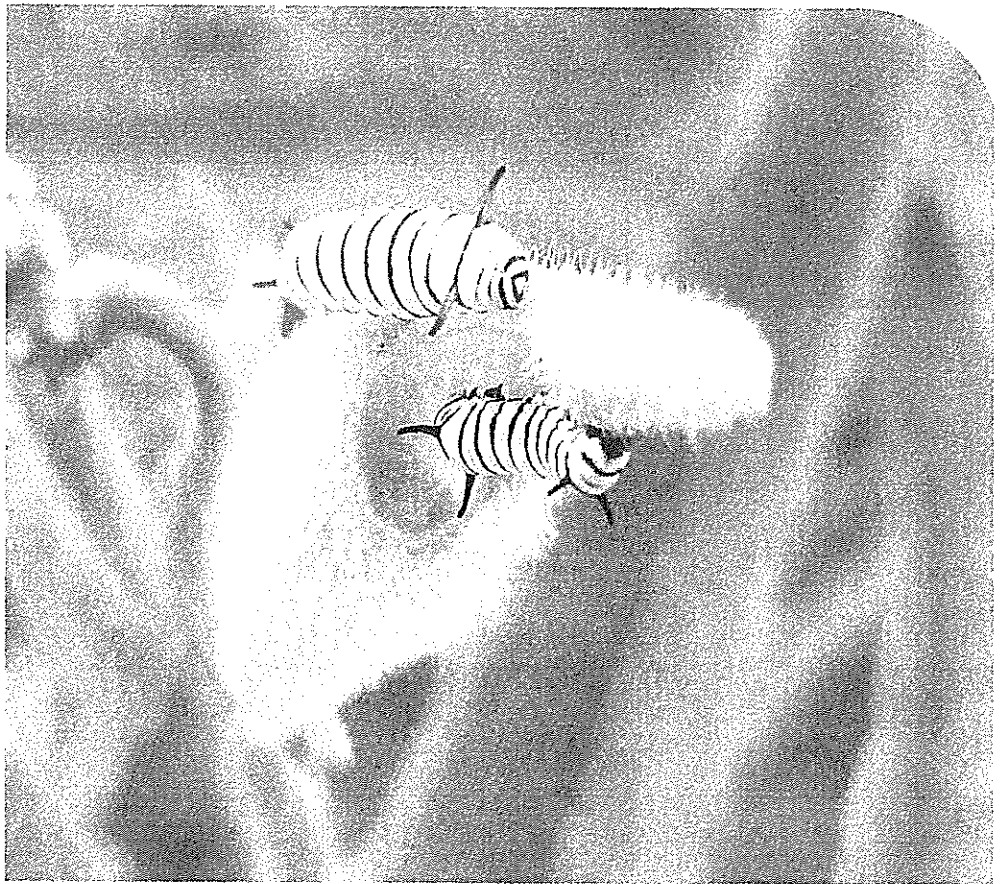


## THE PROGRAM

The Soil and Water Stewardship Scholarship seeks to provide financial support to students enrolled fulltime at an accredited two- or four-year college, community college, or university, which will lead to a career in a natural resource field.

## PROGRAM HISTORY

Funding for this scholarship was made available from the Leopold Education Project, an educational program based on the works of noted conservationist and author Aldo Leopold. Leopold's philosophy and land ethic created a foundation for modern conservation.



## AWARDS

Scholarship will be awarded in amounts up to \$1,000. Scholarship money may be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies and/or equipment required for courses. Scholarship money may not be used for room and board.

## ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be a resident in one of the following Illinois Counties,  
Boone DeKalb Kane McHenry Winnebago  
Cook DuPage Lake Will
- Be a high school senior or high school graduate (diplomas or GED)
- Be enrolled or will be enrolled no later than the fall session following application in a fulltime course of study such as fish and wildlife biology, conservation education, biology, ecology, forestry, hydrology, soils, pollution control, etc.
- Have at least a 3.0 grade point average on a (4.0 scale)

## HOW TO APPLY

For more information call the scholarship administrator at 815-965-2392 Ext 3. All materials must be received by the scholarship administrator by **February 15<sup>th</sup>** of each year. Mail to: Winnebago County SWCD, 4833 Owen Center Rd. Rockford IL 61101-6007 or email [NEILStewardship@gmail.com](mailto:NEILStewardship@gmail.com).

## **APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

Interested students **must complete the attached application** and submit it to the Soil and Water Stewardship Scholarship program administrator. In addition to the completed application, you must send the following:

- Transcripts on official letterhead from the high school or college
- Three letters of recommendation from a counselor, instructor, employer, or other individual qualified to assess the applicant's scholarship merit, community service and commitment to natural resources
- An essay, maximum of 2 pages typed and double spaced, outlining career goals and aspirations including:
  1. Why you are interested in pursuing a career in the natural resources field
  2. What you hope to accomplish when you complete your education
  3. A description of the conservation issue that you feel is the most critical concern facing our local soil and or water resources. Why do you feel that this is a serious problem? What management practices would you recommend to address this issue?

## **SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS**

Scholarship recipients are selected based on a demonstrated commitment to natural resources conservation through activities, community service and related work experience. Points will be awarded as follows:

- Academics- 10 points
- Essay- 25 points
- Extracurricular activities and Community Service- 10 points
- References- 5 points

Selection of recipients is made by a panel of judges comprised of at least three individuals associated with Land Use Council 16. The decision of the judges is final. All applicants will receive notification as to whether they have been awarded the scholarship or not. This announcement will come in April.

## **PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP**

The Soil and Water Stewardship Scholarship program awards will be paid in one payment in late June. Checks will be made payable to the post-secondary institution that the applicant indicated on their application form and mailed directly to that institution.

Scholarships are not automatically renewable, but past recipients may re-apply. Any applicant selected in one year may re-apply in any later year for which he or she is eligible.

## **ABOUT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) of Land Use Council (LUC) 16 sponsor the Soil and Water Stewardship Scholarship. Every county in Illinois is served by a local SWCD. These local units of government provide leadership and direction in an effort to conserve and protect natural resources. LUC 16 is comprised of seven SWCD's in the Northeastern part of the state.

# SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

**Application Instructions:** Land Use Council 16 will consider all information contained in or connected with this application personal and confidential and will only be used in conjunction with the soil and water stewardship scholarship. All candidates must complete an application in order to be considered. **Fill out and attach this form to an email or mail along with essay and three letters of recommendation and transcripts (high school and/or college).**

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Last Name	First	M.I.	Date
Street Address		Apartment/Unit	
City	County	State	
Zip	Phone		
E-mail Address			

## HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

High School	Phone	
Street Address	City	
State	County	Zip Code

## POST-SECONDARY INFORMATION

Full name of college or university you plan to attend. If undetermined, please list in order of preference, the schools to which you have applied.

Name	City	State
Name	City	State

## ACTIVITIES, AWARDS AND HONORS

List significant natural resource activities in which you have participated (school, community, volunteer, etc.). Include awards, honors, and offices held. Use additional sheets as necessary.

Activity/ Organization	How Long	Awards/Honors/Achievement	Offices/Positions Held
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## CERTIFICATION

In submitting this application, I certify that the information provided was prepared by myself and is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. If requested, I agree to give proof of information I have given on this form. Falsification of information may result in termination of any scholarship granted. This application, and its attachments, becomes the property of the Soil and Water Stewardship Scholarship Program. I understand that certain information about me may be used in the reporting and promotion of this program. Such information may include my name, city, high school, information submitted under the heading "activities, awards and honors" and a summary of interests as indicated in my profile. Furthermore, I am assured that my phone number, street address, transcripts, grade point average, current employment, and letters of recommendation will *not* be used in the promotion of this program. I understand that I will not be paid for promotional use and that no further claim of any nature can be made.

Signature	Date
Parent/Guardian Signature (if Under 18)	Date