

2019 SWCS Scholarship
Show-Me Chapter, Soil and Water Conservation Society

Objective: The SWCS Scholarship provides financial assistance to students wishing to pursue studies with a natural resource conservation orientation at properly accredited colleges or universities.

Amount: One \$2000 scholarship will be awarded, with the possibility of a second, smaller scholarship. Scholarship recipients also receive a complimentary one-year membership in SWCS and the local chapter.

Eligibility: This scholarship is for students who attend/graduated from an approved program of study in Missouri (as stated in Missouri statute, RSMO 167.031 - includes public, private, and home school). The student need not be a SWCS member. Applicants must be in their senior year of high school, or in a full-time undergraduate academic study. They must major in a conservation or natural resource-related field such as soil science, land use planning, forestry, wildlife management, fisheries, agricultural engineering, hydrology, rural sociology, agronomy, water management, agricultural economics, biology, agricultural education, or related environmental protection or resource management curricula. Applicants must attend, or plan to attend, a college or university that is properly accredited by national or regional accrediting bodies, or their equivalence. Financial need will not be a factor in selection.

Essay Resource Information:

There are many sources of information, including websites, on the essay topic, none of which are endorsed by the Show-Me SWCS. **Please properly credit the sources that you choose.** Plagiarizing any source is illegal and will result in the essay being eliminated from competition.

Applications: Applications for 2019-2020 scholarships must be **emailed or postmarked by December 2, 2019** (the Monday following Thanksgiving). The scholarship application form is available on the Show-Me Chapter SWCS web site home page (www.moswcs.org) or by contacting Kim Vinson, 7005 SE Ketchem Rd, Cameron, MO 64429-8858, 816-632-0735, soilsgal78@gmail.com. From the web site, click to view the 2019-2020 application form online, or to download an MS Word document containing the application, right-click on the link and save the document, then view it in Word.

Each application must include:

- 1) A 3-5 page essay submitted in an MS Word document file as described on the application form with “SWCS Scholarship Application” in the email subject line, or if mailed, include the essay on a CD. Please double-space with 1-inch margins, using 12 point font size and Times New Roman font. **Email preferred.**
- 2) Two letters of recommendation (school advisor, teacher, employer, community leader, etc.) – may be emailed directly to soilsgal78@gmail.com.
- 3) List of positions of leadership and conservation activities, including dates and related organizations.
- 4) Most recently available high school and/or college transcript (copy)

(over)

Essay Background Information:

The theme for the 2019 Show-Me SWCS Scholarship is *“Exploration, Exploitation and Conservation: Comparing History and Current Management”*.

Through your essay, we want you to explore the ways that natural resources, are used, ways that they have been damaged, and ways that they are being conserved.

“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.”
-- Rachel Carson, author of *“Silent Spring”*

Essay Topic:

Please select a natural resource. Explain the value of this resource. Tell about the history behind its discovery, or early use. Compare ways that it was historically harvested and current improvements to that process. Give examples of ways that the natural resource, or those resources around it, were exploited or damaged during the harvest. Talk about organizations or legislation that have improved the related collection process, protection, or land reclamation. Spend much of your essay addressing ways that conservation practices are improving the harvest and use of these natural resources. We encourage you to examine natural resource of your own choosing, or one listed below.

- Diamonds
- American Bison
- Natural gas
- Organic matter
- Deer
- Oil
- Water
- Sand
- Sturgeon for caviar
- Coal
- Palm oil
- Top soil
- Trees
- Limestone
- Seafloor metals
- Softshell turtles
- Ivory
- Rubber

Scholarship applications must include a **3 to 5-page essay** (please include sources).

Applications should be sent to Kim Vinson, 7005 SE Ketchem Rd, Cameron, MO 64429-8858, soilsgal78@gmail.com. Applications must be emailed (preferred) or postmarked by December 2, 2019 (the Monday following Thanksgiving).

Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference at Tan-Tar-A Resort, Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, Feb. 4-6, 2020. Exact time and date will be provided to the scholarship winners and their families. Cash awards will be made directly to the recipients’ college or university for the Fall 2020 term.