

2021 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 \$1000 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 2021-2022 scholarships must be **emailed or postmarked by November 29, 2021** (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, 11277 NE Witt Rd, Cameron, MO 64429, 816-632-0735, soilsgal78@gmail.com. From the web site, click to view the 2021-2022 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) Application form.
- 2) A 3-5 page essay submitted in an MS Word/Google Docs document file as described on the application form with “SWCS Scholarship Application” in the email subject line. Please double-space with 1-inch margins, using 12 point font size and Times New Roman font. **Email preferred.**

Essay Background Information:

The theme for the 2022 Show-Me SWCS Scholarship is “Contagious Conservation”.

In today’s world, the word “contagious” may be getting a bad rap. Plenty of undesirable things are contagious, like a cold or the flu, but, in a similar way to a disease spreading, an emotion or attitude can spread and affect others. It’s difficult to stay in a bad mood when you are around someone who is happy. Their cheerfulness is contagious!

Excitement about a topic can, also, be contagious. If you are excited to teach someone about something that you enjoy, or find really interesting, it is likely that they will, also, develop a desire to learn about that topic, watch that video, or try that hobby. Contagion can be a very good thing... when it has the right focus.

Essay Topic:

Through your essay, we want you to explore ways to convince others of your excitement for natural resources and the natural world. In this essay, we want you to look at the Missouri Learning Standards for Science, 6-12th grade, and present a lesson plan that gets us excited to learn more about the standard that you select.

Missouri Science Learning Standards are available at <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/curr-mls-standards-sci-6-12-sboe-2016>. This Standards document covers topics such as matter, forces and motion, energy, waves, organisms, ecosystems, ancestry, diversity, natural selection, the solar system, plate tectonics, water, climate, natural resources, human impacts, engineering, and much more. Your Science or Agriculture teacher will likely be a good resource to help you to understand the Standards, and for helping you pick one about which you are excited to teach others.

Pick one of the 6-12 Science Grade-Level Expectations (Standards), include the standard identification number (i.e. 6-8.PS1.A.1) and topic, and then write your essay about how you would teach someone about that subject. And get us excited about it! Many of these topics are broad, so feel free to narrow down your lesson to a smaller portion of the larger Standard. Include details about research that you, or the students, might do, experiments, hands-on activities, field trips, or case studies. You may include one (1) picture, in your essay, to help the judges visualize key points of your lesson or activity.

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

Applications documents should be sent to Kim Vinson at soilsgal78@gmail.com, or 11277 NE Witt Rd, Cameron, MO 64429. Applications must be emailed (preferred) or postmarked by November 29, 2021 (the Monday following Thanksgiving).

Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference, February 1-3, 2022, at Margaritaville Lake Resort, Lake of the Ozarks. Exact time and date will be provided to the scholarship winner(s) and their families. Cash awards will be made directly to the recipients’ college or university for the Fall 2022 term.