

S-06 Soil and Water Conservation Scholarship

Scholarship Overview

There has come a realization that great soil and water conservationists do not evolve from our education systems, but are nurtured throughout their education and career building period by conservation stalwarts who have traveled on before them. Credit must be given to the mentors and colleagues that have shaped the field of soil and water conservation before us. The reality is the number of professionals, mentors, college curriculums, and students are diminishing in the field of soil and water conservation. This S-06 soil and water conservation scholarship is meant to bring back into focus the vital necessity and passion for the discipline by encouraging current students to consider a career in soil and water conservation.

Scholarship Administration

The Agronomy Science Foundation of the Tri-Societies will govern the fiscal aspect of the scholarship. The scholarship will be announced as part of the Tri-Society scholarship programs each year. Suitable candidates will be judged by a committee maintained by division S-06. The committee may select one awardee each year, or decline to award if no suitable candidates have applied. Support for the scholarship will be provided by funds from ASF each year a desirable candidate is selected. Eventual establishment of an endowment to support the scholarship is being planned.

Scholarship Candidate Eligibility

The candidate must be a student enrolled in a North American (USA, Canada, and Mexico) University. Preference will be given to students enrolled in a land grant university, or other universities having equivalent agricultural curriculum. The student can be a junior or senior in a B.S. program or a M.S. candidate. In all cases, the student must exhibit class room activities, special studies, or work experience in the field of soil and water conservation and be matriculating toward a degree and career in soil and water conservation. The student's major professor must heartily support the candidate by assisting in the preparation of the scholarship prospectus and is invited to participate with the awardee at the annual Tri-Societies meeting.

Scholarship Prospectus

To apply for consideration for the S-06 Soil and Water Conservation Scholarship a candidate must submit a one-page, 450 words maximum, vision of the vital efforts required in soil and water conservation to maintain the sustainable production of our agricultural goods and services and to protect the quality of our natural resources. In the application, relate how the candidate's current student work and education objectives will fit into this vital task and how a future career objective after graduation will make a difference in the task of conserving soil and water resources. The application needs to be brief, specific to the candidate's own studies and career endeavors, and exhibit passion for the task of conservation. The application will be submitted in March, 120 days before the award is announced in July each year.

Scholarship Candidate Award Selection Criteria

The selection of the S-06 soil and water conservation scholarship candidate for award will be based on these criteria:

- Current scholastic accomplishments (classes taken, projects completed)
- Student's career goals in soil and water conservation
- Student's work experiences in the field of soil and water conservation
- Major professor's support and acknowledgement of student's activities

Scholarship Selection Committee

A committee comprised of Tri-Society members can select a deserving awardee recipient from the list of candidates presented each year. Division S-06 will sustain the committee (suggested to be five Tri-Society members plus the past-chair, all active in the S-06 division) by appointment of the current chair before the selection process takes place preceding the July selection. In the event no deserving candidate meeting the eligibility requirements has presented an application by the March deadline during any year, the committee shall decline an award for that year. The solicitation for candidates will continue in the following year.

The committee should be comprised of the following six members:

Chad Penn	Oklahoma State University
Josh McGrath	University of Maryland
Greg Hoyt	North Carolina State University
Bill Kuenstler	USDA NRCS Fort Worth, TX
Jerry Lemunyon	USDA NRCS Fort Worth, TX (ret)
Mark Liebig	USDA ARS Mandan, ND

Scholarship Award

Each year of the selection of a deserving candidate a stipend of \$3000 will be award to the selected candidate. The award will be given in August preceding the start of the fall semester. The scholarship award will be given as a one-time lump sum payment given directly to awardee. In the event the awardee is not currently enrolled in classes at a university, the payment will be withheld until the enrollment has been completed and the student is attending classes. In addition, the awardee will be eligible to apply for a student trainee internship with USDA NRCS for a duration to be determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service after the scholarship award has been granted.

In addition, \$500 will be awarded to the student awardee's major professor to encourage the continued mentoring of the student in the field of soil and water conservation, also to entice the student candidate to apply for the scholarship, and finally, to accompany the awardee attending the Tri-Society annual meeting. The advisor mentor award will be presented at the Tri-Society annual meeting the same year following the award of the scholarship in July.