



## School Social Work Association of America

# SSWAA Student Volunteer Scholarship Policy & Application

## Rationale

SSWAA understands that students may face financial barriers to attending professional conferences. Yet, SSWAA believes that there is much value to be gained in the attendance at professional conferences including exposure to best practice professional training, access to networking opportunities, and insights into the field of practice that can assist with career planning. In responsiveness to this need, SSWAA provides student scholarships for attendance at the SSWAA National Conference.

## Scholarship Application and Agreement

SSWAA will provide up to 4 Student Scholarships per year to attend the SSWAA National Conference. These scholarships are open to **full-time students (bachelors or masters)** in Social Work coursework with an interest in School Social Work practice. Students will fill out an online application and if selected, will be expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement regarding the funding provided and volunteer expectations associated with the Student Scholarship.

## Expectations and Guidelines

Student Scholarships will be awarded based on a variety of criteria including expressed financial need, documentation of full-time studies, documentation of interest in school social work practice, letter(s) of support from university staff, and student application essay. *SSWAA Student Membership is not a requirement but is recommended.*

Student Scholarships will include a complimentary conference registration, all meals included with the conference registration, and 3 nights in the conference hotel (shared occupancy with another student scholarship recipient). All travel costs and other meals will be the responsibility of the individual.

Recipients of a SSWAA Student Scholarship will be expected to attend the Pre & Full SSWAA Conference, volunteer daily for up to 5 hours per day (Tuesday-Friday) and support the SSWAA staff as needed with conference logistics. Some of these duties may include preparation of conference materials, assisting at registration, taking tickets at meal events, setting up/taking down AV equipment, distributing or collecting "sign-in" sheets, social media posts, and handing out materials at general sessions.

## Scholarship Process and Timeline

SSWAA will open the Student Scholarship Application window with the roll out of conference registration and students will have 4 weeks to apply. SSWAA staff will review the applications and select recipients. Selected Scholars will be expected to confirm participation and register for the National Conference within three weeks as late cancellations would prevent others from needed funding and participation in the program.

- Applications accepted beginning September 15
- Application window closes, 5pm ET on October 15
- SSWAA Staff review applications
- Applicants notified by November 6
- Selected Scholars will be expected to confirm attendance and register for conference by December 1<sup>st</sup>

To Apply: <https://forms.office.com/r/iOm0Nafyj4>