

2023 Conservation Scholarships

CDI is partnering with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) to foster the higher education endeavors of Iowa students interested in conservation and agriculture by offering scholarships. Iowa High School Class of 2023 students pursuing programs of study in any field of conservation or agriculture qualifies for the Conservation Scholarship. While this is a wide field and many studies qualify, preference will be given to students pursuing programs of study in conservation. The scholarship must be used for the student's first year of college education.

2023 Application & Instructions

Please note that the application form has been changed. Application forms from previous years will not qualify. Follow the instructions on the application closely. Applications filled out incorrectly will not qualify. Pay close attention to deadlines. Applications submitted after set deadlines will not be considered. The application is available at www.cdiowa.org.

Application Process & Deadlines

- **October 2022:** Participating SWCDs get the word out about the 2023 Conservation Scholarship.
- **Friday, February 24, 2023:** Applicants must submit their scholarship applications to the SWCD Office in the county which they reside in. Visit [USDA Service Center Locator](#) and select your county on the map to locate your county SWCD Office.
- **Friday, March 17, 2023:** The local SWCD chooses a county application to forward on to their CDI Regional Director.
- **Friday, March 31, 2023:** The CDI Regional Director chooses a regional application to forward on for consideration at the state level.
- **Friday, April 14, 2023:** A judging team of CDI Officers, Regional Directors & Alternates then make the final selections. There are nine CDI regions.
- **Friday, May 5, 2023:** CDI will then alert the local SWCD offices with winning applicants. Local SWCD offices will in turn notify the student, school & local media.
- **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED IF SUBMITTED AFTER THESE DEADLINES.**

Awards

After final selections, the top **three scholarships** will be awarded at the state level in the amounts of **\$3000, \$2000, and \$1000**. Winners from the **remaining six regions** will each receive **\$500**. First, second, and third place awards will be paid directly to the applicant's school of choice in two equal installments, one upon enrollment at the beginning of the year and the second at midterm. The six other scholarships will be paid directly to the applicant's school of choice in one installment.

Selection Criteria

Scholarship applications are judged based on the following criteria:

- **20 points for Involvement, Leadership and Character**
- **20 points for Career**
- **30 points for Scholastic Achievement**
- **30 points for Conservation Message**

Sponsors

The Conservation Scholarship is made possible by donations from Iowa's Soil and Water Conservation Districts!