

Scholarship Rules

- Name: Sustainable* Agriculture & Forestry Scholarship
- Background: “Who will feed and house future generations?” The answer to this question is much larger than this scholarship program, but one thing is for certain, it will take professionals educated and trained in sustainable agriculture (food production) and forestry (wood production). The founders are deeply concerned about what happens to our waters, soils, forests, communities, food qualities, and people.
- Purpose: The scholarship fund seeks to find the next generation of agricultural and forestry professionals who will be learning how to manage our environment on a sustainable basis (defined below), provide food and shelter for people and in the process protect our precious natural resources for our children and those yet to come. The scholarship program is meant to be a core program supported by educational and informational activities in SE Minnesota such as newsletters, conference(s), additional fund raising activities etc.
- Mission: The mission of this educational scholarship fund is to provide financial aid to individuals committed to sustainability in the fields of agriculture and forestry, who also have demonstrated leadership and communication skills. The Fund will serve individuals living in SE Minnesota, is endowed and will operate in perpetuity.
- Vision: The Vision of this Scholarship fund is to make everything we do as pertains to water, soils, the environment, agriculture, forestry, local producers and communities be sustainable for us now and for future generations in SE MN.
- Scholarship size: The Scholarship award ~\$5,000 each year to one or shared between two candidates. A scholarship winner may continue to apply in following years.
- Non-awarded \$: Any Fund money not awarded in a given year will be added to the endowment fund.
- Target recipients: The successful candidate will:
- have a strong interest in sustainable* (as defined below) agricultural and/or forestry practices,
 - be committed to protecting and preserving our natural resources,
 - have strong communication skills
 - possess leadership characteristics
 - be a junior or higher college student or be non-traditional students who are pursuing avenues other than a University degree, and
 - demonstrate academic and/or farming skills and aptitudes.
- Sustainability embraces many disciplines, methodologies, and institutional practices. Therefore scholarship recipients are those who seek to be exposed to skill and knowledge building about changing environments and human health; energy, climate, and built environments; the power of culture and society; and ethics, economics, and public policy. Scholarship recipients must be residents of the 10 Southeast Counties of the State of Minnesota (Rice, Goodhue, Wabasha, Steele, Dodge, Olmstead, Winona, Freeborn, Mower, Fillmore, and Houston counties) and who will attend educational institutions/programs in the five state area of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota.
- Applications: Eligible candidates must submit applications per the enclosed instructions titled *Scholarship Application Requirements*. Some requirements may change from year to year.
- Expectations: Scholarship recipients will be expected to...
1. Participate in at least one forum as arranged by the Rochester Area Foundation and/or the Scholarship Founding Contributors. Participation will include a sharing of what is learned.

2. Allow the publishing of name, photo and educational activities in newsletters, websites and news releases.

Selection: A committee of 3 to 5 individuals will evaluate the candidates and make a recommendation to the Founding Contributors and to the Rochester Area Foundation.

*** = Sustainability:** The term sustainable agriculture and forestry means an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long term:

- satisfy human food, fiber and forest product needs;
- enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural and forestry economies depend;
- make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm and forestry resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls;
- sustain the economic viability of farm, forests and related operations; and
- enhance the quality of life for our society as a whole.