

Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds Annual Scholarship Proposal



Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds - Annual Scholarship Proposal

1.0 About the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW)

The Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW) is a not-for-profit organization whose mandate is to protect and conserve Saskatchewan's natural water resources. SAW's vision is sustainable watersheds to support life and health by working with communities, partners, stakeholders, producers, and people of all ages on a wide variety of environmental projects and programming throughout Saskatchewan. These include helping ensure quality surface and groundwater, mitigating flooding and drought, and maintaining healthy wildlife and aquatic habitats for future generations.

2.0 Objectives

In 2025-2027, in partnership with the City of Saskatoon and the Meewasin Valley Authority, SAW's vision is to create an annual scholarship opportunity available to post secondary students in an environmental science, environmental biology, geography, and/or water security program. This annual scholarship and educational program initiative aligns directly with the City of Saskatoon's strategic goals: Environmental Leadership and Sustainable Growth, SAW's mission of being a key provider of Saskatchewan's watershed stewardship, and Meewasin's mission and guiding principles.

Key objectives of this annual scholarship and educational program include collaboration with partners, mentoring students to implement grass roots projects, and thus increasing education and awareness about environmental watershed stewardship in the City of Saskatoon and the South Saskatchewan River Watershed.

Student eligibility would be based on research projects that are submitted and meet the following criteria: a project that proposes a solution to an environmental problem within the City of Saskatoon, how to better their watershed, and implementing a solution to that environmental problem. Examples could include, but are not limited to, green infrastructure initiatives such as floating treatment wetlands, roof top gardens, waste management, riparian restoration, implementing urban best management practices, etc.

The annual scholarship will open in September annually. Students will submit a written project proposal and implementation plan and are due by December 1. Projects will be vetted, and the highest scoring top 5 projects will be invited to attend an in-person competition. Projects would then participate in a final competition and the top 3 finalists will be awarded the scholarship for implementation of their project. Implementation will be completed by August 31 of the following year. An outline of the program development and delivery timeline is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Program Development and Delivery Timeline

Timeline	Description
Year 1	SAW to work with community partners and the educational institutions to develop the program, logistics, and administration. SAW to provide information and presentations to students about the program and scholarship opportunity.
Year 2	Program launches September 2026. Proposals to be submitted by December 1, 2026. Vetting December to January. Competition in February 2027. Program implementation to be completed between March 1 to August 31, 2027.

3.0 Budget for Annual Scholarship

Our estimation is that it will take \$15,000.00 to get the scholarship and program developed and started, and we anticipate the total cost at \$40,000.00 annually to run the program (not including SAW's in-kind of \$10,000 to promote the scholarship) which includes project management, travel and sustenance, project implementation and monetary scholarship awards to students. The monetary scholarship to students would be capped at a maximum of \$5,000.00 per student.

The financial request we would like to propose to the City of Saskatoon is in the amount of \$20,000.00 per year. This funding would cover the scholarship development, logistics and administration in Year 1, and the scholarship would be offered for the first time in Year 2-3. SAW would match the City of Saskatoon contribution 1:1 with a \$20,000 cash match. In Table 2, the budget is outlined for the development of the program and scholarship.

Table 2: Program Development Proposed Budget

Category	Amount
2025-2026	
SAW, Meewasin, City of Saskatoon and educational institutions developing scholarship requirements, logistics and administration	\$15,000.00
2026-2027	
Scholarship Awards (3)	\$15000.00
Costs to implement projects	\$15000.00
Human Resources and Logistics to operate and organize the scholarship annually.	\$10000.00
Promotion of the program through digital newsletters, presentations, social media, and print materials. Partner logos will be included on all promotional material. *In-kind contribution from SAW	

4.0 Impact of Annual Scholarship

SAW in collaboration with its partner's goals is to leave a positive watershed stewardship footprint by providing our future leaders the tools and resources to better understand the importance of water quality and quantity, sustainable initiatives, conservation and habitat enhancement, and healthy watersheds that support life and health.