

What Is The Goal Of The Scholarship?

The goal of the **Ben Avery Scholarship** is to assist college sophomores, juniors and seniors in their pursuit of a degree in a natural resource-related field and assist them to gain practical knowledge regarding land stewardship.

To achieve this, the Arizona Chapter of the SWCS offers the **Ben Avery Scholarship**. The SWCS will also provide scholarship recipients with assistance in obtaining hands-on experience through internships, volunteer programs and employment opportunities. In addition, the Soil and Water Conservation Society will assist university students in establishing collegiate chapters of the SWCS.

The sponsors of the scholarship hope the recipients of the **Ben Avery Scholarship** will be employed and work to conserve the State of Arizona's natural resources.

Ben Avery was an avid promoter of conservation work until his death in 1996. He worked to encourage conservation among the public through his writings in the *Arizona Republic*. In addition, he worked to develop and implement conservation-minded legislation in the halls of the Capitol Building. Among his many achievements is the preserve at Aravaipa Canyon. He also participated in negotiations for the Central Arizona Project. Not only was Mr. Avery passionate about conservation work, but he knew the importance of higher education to ensure wise management of resources.

Soil and Water Conservation Society:

"To foster the science and the art of natural resource conservation by carrying out activities and programs in professional development, conservation science, education, and public affairs".

Peabody Energy:

"To be a leading worldwide producer and supplier of sustainable energy solutions that enable economic prosperity and a better quality of life. We will leave the land in a condition equal to or better than we found it."

[Facebook.com/azswcs](https://www.facebook.com/azswcs)

[azswcs.tumblr.com](https://www.tumblr.com/azswcs)

Ben Avery Scholarship



Photo courtesy of the AZ Republic newspaper (file)

**Sponsored By:
The Arizona Chapter of the**



and



Awarded Fall 2015

Who Are The Sponsors?

The **Ben Avery Scholarship** is sponsored by the Arizona Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), the Ben Avery Family, and Peabody Energy. Contributions to this scholarship fund have been made by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, the Ben Avery Family, SWCS members, and private donors.

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is an internationally recognized organization that serves as an advocate for the conservation profession and for science-based conservation policy. Chapters all over the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean carry out activities at the local, state, and provincial levels and on university campuses. The members of the Arizona Chapter have placed education as its priority. The **Ben Avery Scholarship** is an important component of this priority. The disbursement of scholarships will further its mission by promoting careers in natural resource related fields.

Peabody Energy is the world's largest private-sector coal company and a global leader in sustainable mining and clean coal solutions. Peabody's operations in the U.S. Southwest have earned numerous honors for industry-leading efforts to restore mined lands in a way that also preserves cultural heritage. Respect for the natural world and the communities in which we operate are core to Peabody Energy's approach to environmental stewardship, responsibility, and achievement.

Who Can Apply?

Students meeting the following criteria may apply for the **Ben Avery Scholarship**:

- Must be enrolled in a 2 or 4 year Arizona College or University, the year the scholarship is awarded.
- Classified as sophomore who has successfully completed 24 credit hours, junior or senior in the year the scholarship is awarded.
- Major in a natural resource related field (i.e. soil science, range management, wildlife management, hydrology, forestry, etc.).
- Have at least a cumulative GPA of 2.5 documented on the transcripts.

What Is Needed To Apply?

Students interested in applying should submit the following to the Arizona Chapter of SWCS. Applications with all required information are due to the Arizona Chapter of SWCS **Postmarked** no later than **May 15, 2015**. Applications will be considered complete upon receipt of all items listed below:

- Cover letter**
- Transcripts** (may be unofficial).
- Proof of current enrollment** (official schedule of spring 2015 classes).
- Resume**, describing work experience, honors, awards, professional memberships, activities, and natural resource organizations or clubs.
- Two letters of reference**, one from College or University for academic performance, and one from outside College or University (not family) for character reference (please provide phone numbers).

Answers to the following three questions, one question per page, each question not to exceed one page:

1. What is the most important natural resource concern in your region and why?
2. How do you currently work with natural resources in your daily life, school, and other activities?
3. How will your natural resource degree apply to your career choice?

How Are Scholarships Distributed?

One \$1,500 scholarship will be distributed for this academic year. Applications are to be postmarked by **May 15, 2015** and the awarded money will be distributed to your college or university registrar's office for the fall semester of 2015. A committee will review the applications. All applicants will be notified of the committee's decision in early June. Scholarship checks will be disbursed to the College/University in which the student is enrolled in August. The SWCS requests that scholarship recipients maintain contact with the Arizona Chapter until their initial employment position.

Arizona Chapter SWCS
c/o Claire Wendt
1401 N. Inverrary Way
Flagstaff, AZ 86004
claire.wendt@gmail.com