

SAFE Scholarship Program Overview

As a student member of STMA, you enjoy all of the benefits of being a professional member. However, you are entitled to one benefit that our other members are not; you are eligible for the SAFE Scholarship Program. SAFE (Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields for Everyone) was established in 2000, and its mission is “To enrich communities through championing safe, sustainable sports and recreation fields for all athletes.”

Scholarships starting at \$1,250 may be awarded to students who are outstanding in the turf management industry. In addition to a financial scholarship, each winner’s conference registration is paid for, and each will receive three nights lodging at the conference.

As part of the program, SAFE awards three named scholarships: the Dr. James Watson Graduate Scholarship, the Dr. James Watson Undergraduate Scholarship, and the Dr. Fred Grau Scholarship. The Watson Scholarships are named in honor of long-time green industry researcher and consultant Dr. James Watson, are funded by the Toro Giving Program, and are presented to the top graduate and undergraduate scholarship recipients. The top recipient from a two-year program receives the Dr. Fred Grau scholarship, which is named in honor of the first turfgrass extension specialist in the United States. There is not a separate application for these named scholarships; they are awarded to the top graduate and undergraduate applicants.

Students who are awarded SAFE scholarships will have shown a dedication to the industry, evidenced through their academic and employment records as well as have displayed an unparalleled work ethic and a desire to further SAFE’s mission. The winning students will be a model in the classroom and the community and will have furthered the turf management industry through leadership and service.

SAFE realizes that the future leadership of the STMA, and the industry as whole, lies within the minds and hearts of the current STMA student members and encourages you to apply for these scholarships. Included in this packet you will find a SAFE Scholarship Application and a Checklist for SAFE Scholarship Application. These are all of the materials you need to apply for the SAFE Scholarships.

Remember, these scholarships are reserved for STMA student members and are granted on a basis of merit, not need. These scholarships can be a launching pad for your career, putting you at the forefront of the industry and introducing you to some of the most influential people in the field.

Next year, the 26th Annual STMA Conference and Exhibition will be in Denver, CO, January 13-16, 2015. This is where the industry movers convene to talk turf, thereby giving you direct access to the decision makers you need to know. Also at the conference is the STMA Student Challenge, pitting teams from across the country against each other in a test of turf and sports field knowledge. Learn more about the Student Challenge by contacting STMA headquarters at (800) 323-3875.

Each year, the SAFE Scholarship Program is supported through the Toro Giving Program, SAFE Fundraising Events, proceeds from the SAFE Live and Silent Auctions, and the donations of individuals and corporations.

SAFE Scholarship Checklist and Suggestions

READ THIS PAGE BEFORE PROCEEDING

The SAFE Scholarship Program was established to assist those within the industry who are outstanding within the sports turf industry, both in sports turf management and research. Therefore, SAFE would like to ensure that each and every scholarship application that is submitted gets adequate consideration and is as informative as possible for the evaluators. The following is a checklist for your scholarship submission, including some suggestions.

Students who are eligible for the SAFE Scholarships:

- Will be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours in a two-year, four-year, or graduate program in a major/field related to sports turf management in the upcoming academic year
- Applicants must have at least one semester of study left
- Previous undergraduate recipients may **NOT** reapply for SAFE Scholarships while still an undergraduate
- Graduate recipients may resubmit a unique application each year
- Applicants must be planning a career in the sports turf management industry, either in the field or in research
- Applicants **must** be an STMA member

Criteria for selection:

- SAFE awards scholarships on the basis of merit, not the basis of need, but does not discriminate based on race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status when awarding scholarships
- Applicants will be evaluated on academic skill, potential within the industry, employment history, extracurricular activities, and the recommendations of faculty advisors and employers
- All applications must be received no later than October 15

Included in your application should be:

- Your completed typed and printed application (Page 4)
- A professional resume (see page 5)
- An essay on your career aspirations, educational goals and influencing factors (see page 5)
- A completed Employer Reference Form (Page 6) (MUST be submitted with application and other materials in sealed envelope(s))
- A completed Faculty Advisor Form (Page 7) (MUST be submitted with application and other materials in sealed envelope(s))
- Your transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (may be unofficial transcripts)

Some suggestions for improving your application:

- Check the spelling in both your application and your essay. Your grammar and spelling will be taken into account.
- Have someone proofread your application and essays. A second set of eyes tends to help find grammatical errors and can help you to improve the quality of your application. A faculty advisor or your school's writing help center can be very helpful.
- Make sure that the employer(s) and advisor(s) you ask to fill out the Employer Reference Form and Faculty Advisor Form have ample time to answer all of the questions completely and accurately.
- Be sure to ask your employer(s) and advisor(s) well in advance of the due date, as most will be very busy throughout the school year.
- Remember good recommendations from employers and advisors can do a lot to make up for deficiencies elsewhere in your application, but cannot support your application alone.
- In your essay, remember to impart a sense of enthusiasm and describe why your unique talents will allow you to get the most out of the scholarship. Be creative in your style and confident in your abilities.

READ THIS PAGE BEFORE SENDING IN YOUR APPLICATION

- 1. All materials must be submitted in one packet. If there are any missing pieces to your application, it will not be accepted for consideration.**
 - a. Packet must be received by STMA no later than October 15.
2. All letters of recommendation must be in sealed envelopes, signed across the seal, and included in your packet.
3. Late materials sent separately from Employers, Faculty, or Universities will not be accepted.
 - a. Any materials received by STMA separately from Employers, Faculty, or Universities will be destroyed.
4. Faxed applications will not be accepted.
 - a. Faxed applications received by STMA will be destroyed.
5. You must include a professional resume in the application.

NOTE: Any materials received AFTER October 15 will NOT be accepted for scholarship consideration.

**FAXED APPLICATION/MATERIALS
WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

SAFE

The Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields

Scholarship Application Form

All information is required unless otherwise noted

Name: _____

Present Address: _____

City, State, Zip code: _____

Telephone: _____ Work Home Cell

Permanent Address: _____

City, State, Zip code: _____

E-Mail _____ Alternate E-Mail (optional): _____

Institution: _____

Faculty Advisor: _____

Program Length: ___ Two Year ___ Four Year ___ Graduate

Major Field of Study: _____

Class: ___ Freshman ___ Sophomore ___ Junior
 ___ Senior ___ Graduate ___ Post Graduate

Degrees completed: _____

Units completed (all college work): _____ Cumulative GPA: _____

Units completed (current institution): _____ Expected Date of Graduation: _____

Year of high school graduation: _____

Do you have arrangements for summer employment at a Sports Turf Facility? _____

If so, what is the facility name and location: _____

If you do not have summer employment arranged and are interested in exploring potential opportunities, please contact STMA at 800-323-3875 or STMAinfo@STMA.org

Please return form and all letters of recommendation, transcripts, and essay in one packet to:

SAFE Foundation
805 New Hampshire, Suite E
Lawrence, KS 66044

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will NOT be accepted for scholarship consideration.***

**FAXED APPLICATION/MATERIALS
WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

SAFE Scholarship Application

Work Experience: Professional Resume

Please include a *professional* resume outlining your education, responsibilities, and extracurricular activities. Be sure to list any awards, honors, or scholarships that you have received previously, and any professional associations and/or university organizations to which you belong, including offices to which you have been elected or appointed.

Career Objectives and Educational Goals:

600 words or less, double-spaced on an attached page

Please provide an essay (600 words or less) answering the following questions:

1. What influences or factors in your life have led you down the path of Turf Management?
2. What are you currently doing to prepare yourself to enter the profession upon the completion of your education? (i.e. coursework, internships, networking)
3. What are your future aspirations and goals within the industry?

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Employer Reference Form

For more than one reference, please copy this form, and fill out one per student.

Student: _____ Date of Employment: _____

Please provide a letter of recommendation commenting on the student's potential for success in the sports turf profession, his/her attitude, character, job interest, integrity, etc. Letter should be included as an attachment.

Also, please complete this form as a current or past employer of the above named student. Evaluate the student and assign a rating of 1-5, with 5 being the highest.

- | | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. Character: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. Leadership: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. Job Interest: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. Punctuality: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. Attitude: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. Aptitude: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. Career Potential in Sports Turf Management: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Was this student in a supervisory roll while employed at your facility? Yes No

***** Please return this form and your letter to your student in a sealed envelope with your signature on the seal at your earliest convenience. *****

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Company/Facility Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: Any applications received AFTER October 15 will NOT be accepted for scholarship consideration.

**FAXED APPLICATIONS/MATERIALS
WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Faculty Advisor Form

I recommend _____ (student) for a SAFE scholarship.

Please provide a letter of recommendation commenting on the student's potential for success in the sports turf profession, his/her attitude, character, job interest, integrity, etc. Letter may be included as an attachment.

***** Please return this form and your letter to your student in a sealed envelope with your signature on the seal at your earliest convenience. *****

Name: _____

Position: _____

Institution: _____

Work Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: Any applications received AFTER October 15 will NOT be accepted for scholarship consideration.

**FAXED APPLICATIONS/MATERIALS
WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**