

Society of Women Engineers

FY26 Call for Nominations

SWENext Awards

Individual

SWENext STEM in Action

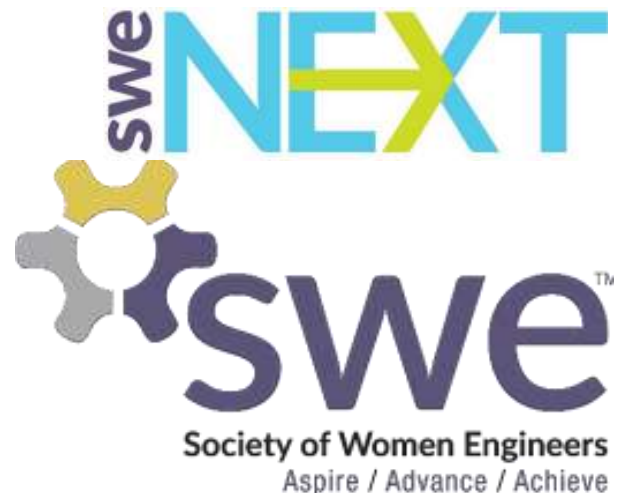
SWENext Community Award

SWENext Global Innovator Award

Group (SWENext Clubs)

SWENext Clubs Best Practices Award

SWENext Clubs Inspiration Award



General Information

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) strives to recognize the successes of SWENext students and SWENext Clubs that do exceptional work in developing a community for students to explore engineering and other STEM fields. The SWENext mission is to:

- Empower students under the age of 18 who identify as women to prepare for careers in engineering and technology.
- Provide programming to help students who identify as women under the age of 18 to develop leadership skills and self-confidence to succeed in a career in engineering and technology.
- Expand the image of the engineering and technology professions as a positive force in improving the quality of life.
- Demonstrate the value of diversity and inclusion.
- Provide programming to empower students who identify as women under the age of 18 to become advocates for peers and younger girls.

Inside this packet you will find information on the awards offered by the Society of Women Engineers for SWENext students and SWENext Clubs who are working to further the SWENext mission. An 'Application Checklist' is included that details the requirements needed to fully complete an application packet. Please contact awards@swe.org if you have any questions.

Note: you may apply for more than one award.

How to Complete the Application:

- Fill out the appropriate 'Application' online.
- **DEADLINE to submit: <--March 1st at 11:59 PM, Central Daylight Time (UTC-5)-->**
- No exceptions will be made for late packages.

Important Information:

- All applications are to be submitted electronically through the SmarterSelect application tool.
- **Incomplete** applications will not be considered.
- Applications that **do not meet the award requirements** will be disqualified.

Notifications:

- Recipients will be notified via email by early August of the current calendar year.
- Recipients will receive communication via parent/guardian contact provided in the application due to data privacy guidelines for minors.

SWENext STEM in Action Award

Objective:

- This award honors outstanding young women who are engaging with their community through STEM volunteering, SWE and SWENext participation, and/or well-designed events promoting STEM and supporting the SWE mission.
- Up to 25 recipients will be recognized.

Eligibility:

- Students must be entering the first three years of secondary school (US equivalent of Grades 9, 10 or 11) in the second half of the calendar year; for example, September of the upcoming school year.
- Students must identify as a woman.

Application Checklist:

The following information constitutes a complete nomination:

- A completed application submitted online: <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/106931-Society-Of-Women-Engineers>
- A completed application form:
 - SWENext student information
 - Name
 - Email
 - Grade in the second half of the calendar year; for example, September of the upcoming school year.
 - Name of Secondary School in the second half of the calendar year
 - Please upload a headshot photo of yourself with your application. Photos must be a JPEG file and labeled with your full name and award (Ex. JaneDoe_FYXXCommunityAward).
 - Please upload a Biography (Maximum 150 words) of yourself with your application
 - Share relevant information such as your technical interests and accomplishments, involvement with SWENext or other STEM/non-profit organizations, leadership roles and experience, and/or relevant awards or acknowledgements. Biographies should be written in the third person and demonstrate your qualifications for the award for which you are nominated. It is recommended that any references to dates be provided in absolute terms (e.g., "in 2024" rather than "last year"). If selected, your biography will be published in the SWE Magazine in October. The submitted biography will be edited by SWE editorial staff for clarity/content and editorial style.
 - Parent/Legal Guardian information:
 - Name
 - Email
 - Country code - Cell phone number
 - Mailing address
 - One essay (300 words max)
 - How are you preparing yourself for a career in science, technology, engineering or computer science or math ?
 - Your essay should reference examples of what STEM activities you have participated in, how many STEM activities have you led, what research you have done, etc. You should also address if you are a member of a SWENext Club, if you are or have ever been a SWENext Club Officer or a leader of an engineering club/organization.

Tips for Success:

Your essay should include examples of how you are preparing for a career in engineering or computer science, examples of your STEM-related community work, and examples of your STEM leadership.

Note: Judges are represented from all over the world and may not be familiar with country specific STEM programs.

Please expand all the acronyms.

SWENext Community Award

Objective:

- This award recognizes outstanding young women who are impacting their communities by solving real-world problems. It also emphasizes the interconnectedness of the SWE community and gives awardees a chance to interact with SWE members, companies, colleges, and universities.
- A maximum of 25 student posters may be recognized annually. One student poster will be declared the first-place recipient.

Eligibility:

- Students must be entering the first three years of secondary school (US equivalent of Grades 9, 10, or 11) in the second half of the calendar year; for example, September of the upcoming school year.
- Student applicants must identify as a woman.
- Previous recipients of the SWENext Community Award are not eligible to apply for this award.

Application Checklist:

The following information constitutes a complete nomination:

- A completed application submitted online
- A completed application form: <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/106787-Society-Of-Women-Engineers>
 - SWENext student information
 - Name
 - Email
 - SWENext membership
 - Grade in the second half of the calendar year; for example, September of the upcoming school year.
 - Name of Secondary School in the second half of the calendar year
 - Parent/Legal Guardian information:
 - Name
 - Email
 - Country code - Cell phone number
 - Mailing address
 - Please upload a headshot photo of yourself with your application. Photos must be a JPEG file and labeled with your full name and award (Ex. JaneDoe_FYXXCommunityAward).
 - Please upload a Biography (Maximum 150 words) of yourself with your application
 - Share relevant information such as your technical interests and accomplishments, involvement with SWENext or other STEM/non-profit organizations, leadership roles and experience, and/or relevant awards or acknowledgements. Biographies should be written in the third person and demonstrate your qualifications for the award for which you are nominated. It is recommended that any references to dates be provided in absolute terms (e.g., "in 2024" rather than "last year"). If selected, your biography will be published in the SWE Magazine in October. The submitted biography will be edited by SWE editorial staff for clarity/content and editorial style.
- Award submission
 - **Create a poster to address the following Awards Prompt: Implementing Sustainable Development in Your Community**
 - **Rationale:**
 - The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all U.N. Member States in 2015, adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to help improve education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change. Engineers are often consulted to determine how to address numerous climate/environmental issues dealing with construction, architecture, energy, recyclability, conservation of resources, and sustainability. The complete list can be found at <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.
 - **Prompt:**
 - Imagine you were placed on a team of engineers with a project to implement these global goals in your local community. This year, choose ONE of the Sustainable Development Goals below:

- Zero Hunger: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal2>
 - Sustainable Cities and Communities: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11>
 - What solutions (such as policies, regulations, initiatives, innovations) could be put in place in your local community to implement this global goal?
- In your digital poster presentation:
 - Your Name
 - SWENext Logo
 - Provide the prompt question
 - Provide background information on your chosen Sustainable Development Goal
 - Provide unique environmental challenges of your local community, including statistics and sources
 - Provide 2-3 proposed solutions
 - Discuss any possible obstacles to solutions – such as, legislative, social, economic, cultural obstacles
 - Offer 2-3 next steps to move your solutions forward

Poster Requirements:

Your poster should include:

- Your Name
- SWENext Logo
- The Prompt Statement
- Background on the Problem
 - Include:
 - Research
 - Personal observations and experience, including unique challenges of your local city or community
- Potential Solutions
- Possible Obstacles
- Suggested Steps to move your solutions forward

Note:

Sample poster format is available in Appendix II

SWENext Global Innovator Award

Objective:

- This award recognizes the SWENexters shaping the future of SWE by developing an engineering identity in themselves and others. Award recipients exemplify intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm, and leadership in the STEM community. These students demonstrate a commitment to bettering the lives of women in STEM, volunteer in outreach initiatives, and are pursuing a career in engineering. This is the ultimate award a SWENext can receive.
- A maximum of ten (10) awards may be presented annually, with at least one per SWE Global Region (see Appendix I) submitting qualified nominees.
- Up to ten (10) additional recipients will receive an "Honorable Mention."

Eligibility:

- SWENexters must be entering their last year of secondary school, Grade 12 or higher depending on the global region, in the second half of the calendar year; for example, September of the upcoming school year.
- Applicants must be signed up as a SWENext for at least one year prior to applying.
- Applicants must identify as a woman.

Application Checklist:

The following information constitutes a complete nomination:

- A completed application submitted online: <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/106790-Society-Of-Women-Engineers>
- A completed application form:
 - SWENext student information
 - Name
 - Email
 - SWENext membership
 - Name of Secondary School in the second half of the calendar year
 - Parent/Legal Guardian information:
 - Name
 - Email
 - Country code - Cell phone number
 - Mailing address
 - Leadership information:
 - How long have you been a SWENext Member?
 - Are you a member of a SWENext Club?
 - Are you or have you ever been a SWENext Club Officer or a leader of an engineering club/organization? If yes, please list your roles. If none, please write N/A.
 - Which field of engineering are you interested in? Select up to two options.
 - What, if any, previous SWENext awards have you received (Select all that apply)?
 - SWENext Global Innovator award
 - SWENext Community award
 - SWENext Clubs Inspiration award (formerly the Clubs Challenge Award)
 - SWENext Clubs Best Practice award
 - WE Local SWENext STEM in Action
 - Please upload a headshot photo of yourself with your application. Photos must be a JPEG file and labeled with your full name and award (Ex. JaneDoe_FYXXGlobalInnovatorAward).
 - Please upload a Biography (Maximum 150 words) of yourself with your application
 - Share relevant information such as your technical interests and accomplishments, involvement with SWENext or other STEM/non-profit organizations, leadership roles and experience, and/or relevant awards or acknowledgements. Biographies should be written in the third person and demonstrate your qualifications for the award for which you are nominated. It is recommended that any references to dates be provided in absolute terms (e.g., "in 2024" rather than "last year"). If selected, your biography will be published in the SWE Magazine in October. The submitted biography will be edited by SWE editorial staff for clarity/content and editorial style.
- Award submission

- Essay 1 (Maximum 200 words):
 - Describe your involvement with SWENext. Have you participated in a SWENext Club, at a SWENext event, a talk, a design challenge, or an online webinar? What steps have you taken to become more involved in the SWE community?

Note: Judges are represented from all over the world and may not be familiar with country specific STEM programs. Minimize use of acronyms; if you include acronyms, define them the first time.
- Essay 2 (Maximum 200 words):
 - How have you used engineering principles in your life? Some examples of engineering principles would include: describing how you have developed a technical skill, using the engineering design process, or tackling a project using problem-solving skills.
- Essay 3 (Maximum 200 words):
 - How has your involvement in SWENext and your use of engineering principles in your life related to the work you have done in your community? We want to know how your engineering ambitions translate to the service you do to improve the lives of those around you.
- Essay 4 (Maximum 200 words):
 - How are you a leader at your school or in your community? How do your leadership roles connect to your passion for engineering and STEM? We are looking for more than just the next best engineer. We want someone who demonstrates the ability to lead as well.
- Video:
 - We want to see the work you do in action, using <https://www.powtoon.com/> **Applicants need to emphasize SWE/SWENext participation in their videos.**
 - Create a video that is 3 minutes long or less. Note: a video longer than 3 minutes will **DISQUALIFY** your application.(3-minute video will include only the student work, any additional time added by the software automatically, which doesn't relate to student work e.g. blank screen etc., will be ignored.)
 - **Helpful video resources:**
 - Many public libraries have computer access. Check your local public library for details.
 - Quality is not the ultimate deciding factor but please use the resources available to you to submit your best work.
 - Please contact awards@swe.org if you need assistance with resources for creating your video.
 - **Your video submission should highlight:**
 - Information about you and your engineering field of interest
 - Your passion and excitement for engineering
 - Examples of how you are developing a STEM identity in yourself and other young women
 - Your involvement in SWENext, your community, and your leadership roles
 - Your accomplishments and future plans
 - Please provide a shareable link to the video via Powtoon.

SWENext Clubs Best Practices Award

Objective:

- This award honors outstanding SWENext Clubs around the world that are providing opportunities for students to be involved in the SWE community. This award recognizes SWENext Clubs that have worked to help their members explore their engineering interests and to obtain information on “best practices” that SWENext Clubs are implementing to share with and advance the SWENext Clubs program.
- One recipient will be selected for the SWENext Clubs Best Practices Award in the category of Engineering Engagement, with at least one per SWE Global Region (see Appendix I).

Eligibility:

- Your SWENext Club must be a registered SWENext Club in secondary school (US equivalent of Grades 9, 10, 11 or 12).
- Your SWENext Club Counselor must have an active SWE Membership.

Application Checklist:

The following information constitutes a complete nomination:

- A completed application submitted online: <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/106788-Society-Of-Women-Engineers>
- A completed application form:
 - SWENext Club Information
 - Club name
 - City and State/Province/Region
 - Country
 - Founding year
 - Total number of Club Members currently registered with SWENext
 - Grade levels the club members will be in the second half of the calendar year. (Students are required to be in secondary school (US equivalent of Grades 9, 10, 11 or 12) in the upcoming academic year; for example, September of the upcoming school year.)
 - Counselor Information
 - Name
 - SWE membership ID number
 - Email address
 - Phone number
 - Mailing Address
 - Student Point of Contact information
 - Name
 - Affiliation with Club/Club Officer Position
 - Email
 - Grade the second half of this calendar year
- Award submission (Essay)
 - Please tell us a little bit about your SWENext Club (location, when it was founded, grade range, school/community organization affiliation, number of members, club mission or goals, etc.). [Max 200 words]
 - What engineering engagement event(s) has your club hosted over the last academic year, how were they delivered (i.e., in person, virtual, hybrid), how many students participated in your events, and how many volunteers helped run your event(s)? Some examples of engineering engagement events are hands-on STEM projects, panel discussions, company or college tours, science lectures by guest speakers, etc. [max 200 words]
 - Please detail any additional resources your club has created or challenges your club has hosted to promote engineering exploration within your club. Please explain how the resources or challenges have helped your members/community learn about, explore their interest in, or gain experience with STEM. [max 200 words]
 - [BONUS] Did you engage with SWE members, a SWE section or affiliate to help plan or run any of the events? If so, how did you engage with them and how many SWE members participated? [max 200 words]

Tips for Success:

Your short essay questions will be judged on how thoroughly each part of each question was answered, so please make sure to use specific examples (i.e., statistics from surveys, specific member successes due to your events, testimonials from club members, etc.) to directly explain how your events have helped members explore their engineering interests. Your essays will also be judged on how your club's passion for helping your members explore the field of engineering shines through your answers, and the overall quality of your efforts (e.g., creating a variety of events to help your club members explore engineering, specific examples to illustrate successes, like from post-event surveys or member anecdotes, etc.) You would receive additional points if you collaborated with Collegiate or Professional SWE members to host your outreach events. Note: Judges are represented from all over the world and may not be familiar with country specific STEM programs. Please expand all the acronyms.

SWENext Clubs Inspiration Award

Objective:

- This award recognizes outstanding SWENext Clubs around the world that have made an impact in their local STEM community. Additionally, these clubs have enabled the students participating in this challenge to practice their own curiosity through STEM-related events and/or activities.
- There will be one SWENext Club recipient.
- One recipient will be selected for the SWENext Clubs Inspiration Award in the category of Engineering Engagement, with at least one per SWE Global Region (see Appendix I).

Eligibility:

- Your SWENext Club must be a registered SWENext Club in secondary school (US equivalent of Grades 9, 10, 11 or 12).
- Your SWENext Club Counselor must have an active SWE Membership.

Application Checklist:

The following information constitutes a complete nomination:

- A completed application submitted online: <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/106789-Society-Of-Women-Engineers>
- A completed application form:
 - SWENext Club Information
 - Name
 - City and State/Province/Region
 - Country
 - Club members need to be in secondary school (US equivalent of Grades 9, 10, 11 or 12) in the second half of the calendar year; for example, September of the upcoming school year. Please enter the total number of club members participating in the challenge (primary through secondary school).
 - Please enter each club member's first and last name who is participating in the challenge.
 - Please enter the grade level in the second half of the calendar year of each club member participating in the challenge.
 - **Has your SWENext Club previously received a Club Award? Yes/No**
 - Counselor Information
 - Name
 - SWE Membership ID number
 - Email address
 - Phone number
 - Mailing Address
 - Student Point of Contact information
 - Name
 - Affiliation with Club/Club Officer Position
 - Email
 - Grade in the second half of the calendar year
- Award submission
 - Powtoon Video:
 - SWE is challenging SWENext Clubs to consider who or what has inspired them in their STEM journey and how they are paying it forward by inspiring the future generation of engineers in their community.
 - **Create a 5-7 minute video using <https://www.powtoon.com/> that:**
 - **Explains how your SWENext Club was inspired:** This should provide an overview of your SWENext Club (location, number of members, grade levels, etc.), how it was founded, and detail your club's source of inspiration.
 - **Explains how your club is paying it forward in the community:** This part of the video should detail what specific STEM events or programs your club has hosted (such as outreach, mentorship, etc.) for your school or community and specific examples regarding how your community has benefitted from these events or programs.

- **In addition to your video, help inspire other clubs:** Create a resource/aid (graphic, separate (1- 3 minute) video tutorial, or step by step guide, etc.) that details how you created and organized your most successful STEM event or program in an effort to inspire other clubs!
- [BONUS]: Bonus points will be awarded for clubs that worked with Professional or Collegiate SWE members to inspire others. Explain how your club connected virtually or physically and share how this experience helped prepare you to form more connections in the future.
- **Helpful video resources:**
 - Many public libraries have computer access. Check your local public library for details.
 - Quality is not the ultimate deciding factor but please use the resources available to you to submit your best work.
 - Please contact awards@swe.org if you need assistance with resources for creating your video.
 - Please provide a sharable link to video via Powtoon.

Award Judging Guidelines:

Your video must be within 5-7 minutes. Note: a video shorter than 5 minutes or longer than 7 minutes will DISQUALIFY your application.(5-7-minute video will include only the SWENext Club work, any additional time added by the software automatically, which doesn't relate to student work e.g. blank screen etc., will be ignored.) Your video submission will be judged on how thorough your club details each aspect of the above prompts (for the video and resource/aid), the quality of your efforts to inspire others within your community, the effectiveness of your aid to assist other clubs in executing similar events, the overall passion and enthusiasm conveyed in your video, and the video quality itself. You will receive bonus points if you collaborate with Collegiate or Professional SWE members to address any of the aspects of the prompt.

Note: Judges are represented from all over the world and may not be familiar with country specific STEM programs. Please expand all the acronyms

Appendix I – SWE Global Regions

SWE's 5 Global Regions are:

1. Asia Pacific
2. Greater Europe, the Middle East and North Africa
3. Latin America and the Caribbean
4. Northern Americas
5. Sub-Saharan Africa



The Global Region of the Nominee will be determined by the Country provided in the Nominee's address in the Nominee Information Survey. Judges will not have access to Global Region when judging, only the coordinator(s) after scoring is complete.

Information on how SWE has defined the Global Regions can be found on SWE's website at <https://swe.org/membership/global-programs/>. If you have questions on which region, you are in, contact SWE Staff at awards@swe.org.

Appendix II – Sample Poster Format

2010-2020: THE WARMEST DECADE
Records show a rapid rise in the Earth's temperature in the last 150 years. (Climate.gov)

Sustainable Development Goal: Climate Action

Average Global Annual Temperature

Year	Temperature (°F)
1880	56.7°F
1950	57.2°F
2000	58.1°F
2020	58.8°F

What causes this increase in temperature?

Burning fossil fuels: CO₂, H₂O, CO₂, CH₄, CO₂, N₂O

Farming: CH₄, CO₂

Deforestation: CO₂

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Prompt: What solutions could be implemented in Howard County to implement this global goal of Climate Action?

How does this affect the Howard County Middle Patuxent Stream in Maryland?

Even more specific: how does this affect Glenelg High School, right now?

Higher numbers = worse overall score. Negative numbers = better overall score

Proposed Solutions

Potential Obstacles

Next Steps

Obstacles Already Occurring at Glenelg High School