

SAFE scholarship applications now being accepted

In 1999, the STMA Board created The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE) to provide research, educational programs, and scholarships geared to sports field specific endeavors. Each year, top students from sports turf and other turfgrass programs across the country vie for these prestigious awards. The Scholarship Application is available at www.STMA.org.

The level of scholarship funding has steadily increased since the scholarship programs inception, and for 2008 we awarded \$12,500 to eight recipients in two-year, four-year, and graduate level categories. This brings the total scholarships awarded to more than \$125,000. No recipient receives less than \$1,000 and the committee likes to help as many students as possible with the money they are authorized to distribute.

Scholarships may be used for tuition, books, computers, software, or other academic expenses approved by the SAFE Foundation.

A panel of judges independently scores each entry based on students' academic preparation, experience in the sports turf management industry, professional goals, extracurricular activities, and input from academic advisors and employers. Each applicant also must write an essay describing his or her background and career aspirations within the industry.

The deadline to submit all SAFE Scholarship materials is October 15, 2009. Winners will be announced in November and will subsequently be recognized during the Annual Awards Banquet January 15, 2010 at the 21st Annual STMA Conference and Exhibition in Lake Buena Vista, FL. ■

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