Tour Scholarship Program Application
2027 Calendar Year

Purpose

The purpose of the York County Solid Waste Authority (YCSWA) Tour Scholarship Program is to provide an opportunity for students in grades 1-12 enrolled in public, private, cyber or home school in York County to experience one of two YCSWA tours by providing the transportation funding needed for the field trip.

Tour Options

Participants in the YCSWA Tour Scholarship Program have two tour choices. **The York County Resource Recovery Center (YCRRC)** tours consist of an orientation session in the Education Center followed by a walking tour of the YCRRC waste-to-energy facility which processes garbage using it as fuel to produce electrical power. **The Hopewell Area Recreation Complex (HARC)** tours are conducted on the grounds of the (now closed) York County Sanitary Landfill which has been transformed into a community park and wildlife habitat. For more details on either tour, please visit www.ycswa.com.

Requirements

In exchange for the sponsored field trip to the YCRRC or HARC, applicants must agree to complete a project related to environmental management of municipal solid waste. Written reports, artwork, photos, video or some form of tangible results of the project must be submitted to the YCSWA within one month of the tour. Schools/groups that do not turn in a project by the end of the school year in which the tour was taken will not be granted a tour scholarship for the following year. After a year of ineligibility, subsequent tour scholarship requests will be considered at the discretion of the Authority if space permits after requests from eligible applicants have been fulfilled. Failure to submit a tour scholarship project in a subsequent year, will result in permanent ineligibility.

Provisions

The Tour Scholarship Program provides for 100 percent of the cost to obtain school bus/van (non-charter) services specifically for a tour of the YCRRC or HARC**.** If the tour group visits multiple locations the same day as the scheduled YCSWA tour, the Tour Scholarship Program will only pay the costs (mileage and/or time) for the portion of the trip that was used for the YCSWA tour. The scholarship recipient is responsible for making all arrangements with the transportation company and assumes all liability for transportation of the students. No portion of the transportation cost may be passed on to the student**.** The recipient must submit an invoice (estimates will not be accepted) to YCSWA, Attention: Jennifer Cristofoletti, prior to payment. The invoice may be emailed to **j.cristofoletti@ycswa.com** or mailed to 2700 Blackbridge Rd, York, PA 17406. YCSWA will issue payment within 45 days after the tour has been completed or within 45 days of the receipt of the invoice, whichever occurs later. YCSWA will either pay the transportation company directly, or reimburse your school, depending on the submitted invoice. Groups that are denied a tour scholarship based on failure to submit a project, may still arrange a tour of the York County Resource Recovery Center at their own travel expense.

A maximum of 60 participants can be accommodated per field trip, however, multiple trips may be scheduled by the same school as needed. **All applications must be submitted to YCSWA by no later than January 1st , 2027** and will be considered on a first received, first scheduled basis. Tour Scholarship recipients will be notified no later than January 31st ,2027 Scholarship sponsored tours must be completed within the calendar year and tours of HARC must be completed between March 30 and November 20.

Suggested Tour Scholarship Projects

You may choose an appropriate project for your grade level from this list, or you may create your own unique project. Projects outside of the supplied list are encouraged, but subject to preapproval by YCSWA.

Elementary School

* Organize a one-day clean up project at school or a local park. Pick up litter and dispose of trash recyclable materials properly.
* Collect recyclables in the classroom and donate funds earned to a good cause.
* Write a story about what you learned during your visit to the Hopewell Area Recreation Complex.
* Draw a poster of your favorite part of the tour.
* As a class, think about the many things that we throw away every day. Make as long a list as possible. Out of that list, write down what could be done to reduce the amount of things on that list. Could some things be composted, reused, recycled or avoided all together, etc.?
* Make up a skit about why we recycle. Perform it for another class.
* Conduct a litter analysis. Have students bring samples to class. Dump all samples into one pile and sort according to category (metal, paper, etc.). Create a bar graph and discuss the results.
* Start a compost pile. YCSWA can help get you started!

Middle School

* Conduct a weeklong home waste study where students sort and weigh their own family's trash. Have students calculate percentages of types of trash and make future predictions about waste generation, etc.
* Create a bulletin board or display in the school lobby that depicts how waste is managed in York County. It should include recycling, waste-to-energy and sanitary landfilling.
* Find items that are "overpackaged" and determine what would constitute a more environmentally responsible consumer choice. Make a comparative list of these items and post in a prominent area of the school.
* Brainstorm ways for people to stop littering and plan an anti-litter advertising campaign.
* Find out what the waste we produce today will tell future archeologists about our society. Keep a journal of everything students throw out in a 24-hour period. Write an essay about what the list tells them about themselves and society.
* Challenge students to find out how much waste disposal really costs. Interview a hauler about hauling costs, a recycling company about recycling costs, a disposal facility about disposal costs, etc. Make a chart to show the costs.

High School

* Design a waste reduction or recycling strategy for a local business or for school.
* Team activity: It is the year 2030. The waste being generated in York County exceeds the capacity available at the YCRRC. Your team is responsible for designing a proposal to create additional disposal capacity for the county's waste. Describe your proposals. (If this activity is selected, the Authority will provide an outline of general points that should be considered in the proposal.)
* Devise a plan for starting a recycling program in a rural community. What are the challenges, costs, benefits, drawbacks, etc.
* Create a waste disposal survey and conduct it at a local mall. Tally results and discuss the outcomes.
* Create a new product out of something you would have thrown away. How would you market and sell it?

York County Solid Waste Authority
Tour Scholarship Program Application

Complete and submit this application no later than **January 1st**, 2027 to:
York County Solid Waste Authority at info@ycswa.com or mailed to ATTN: Community Services Division at 2700 Blackbridge Road, York, PA 17406. We will notify you of your application status by January 31st ,2027. Please call 717-845-1066 with any questions.

School Name: _____ School District: _____

Address: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Email Address: _____ School Phone Number: _____

Teacher Cell Number (in case needed during field trip): _____

Grade level of students:_____ Number of classes: _____ Total Number of Participants: ____
***We cannot accommodate more than a total of 60 people including chaperones at one time.**

Please circle your desired tour location: YCRRC HARC

Dates you are interested in touring the YCRRC or HARC (March 30 through November 20):

1st choice: _____ 2nd choice: _____ 3rd choice: _____

Estimated total cost to obtain van(s)/bus(es) needed for your trip: _____

Preferred time of day: AM PM

Description of the project your class(es) agree to complete if awarded a tour scholarship:

_____

_____

_____

Teacher Signature _____ Date _____