

Name: Lauren Eng

Team/Club: Asphalt Green Unified Aquatics Swimming Team

Certification that applicant meets the eligibility requirements and understands/agrees to follow the service requirements as a Metropolitan Junior Athlete Representative:

I, Lauren Eng, agree to follow the service requirements as a Metro Rep.

A paragraph explaining your background and why you would like to be the Metropolitan Junior Athlete Representative:

Swimming has been a great influence in my life for as long as I can remember. I have been swimming competitively on the AGUA swim team since I was eight years old. I attended several Age Group Zone meets in the past and learned just how rewarding swimming can be. In addition to my club team, I swim on the varsity swim team at my high school. I want to share my love for swimming with others and get children interested in the sport. Over the past year and a half, I have been volunteering year-round at the lower east side YMCA, where I teach underprivileged children water safety and how to swim. Swimming has taught me many important lessons and life skills over the years. Through waking up at 4:30 a.m. for practice and coming home at 8:00 p.m. after evening practice, I have learned what it means to be dedicated and motivated. Because I am a student-athlete, I know the importance of time-management and organization. I know that in order to excel at something like swimming, I need to be responsible and work hard to achieve my goals. In addition, I am active in Asphalt Green's Youth Leadership committee where I participate in a wide array of volunteer and community projects and attend meetings throughout the year. As a tour guide for prospective families at my school, I am comfortable meeting new people, both peers and adults. I believe that my experience working with children and adults will help me be an effective liaison between my fellow and prospective swimmers and their parents, coaches, and Metro swimming. I would love to be the Metropolitan Junior Athlete Representative because I would be able to use my experience, dedication, leadership, organizational and communication skills to be an ambassador for the sport.

Please identify what you can contribute to the position and something you would like to create or improve on in Metropolitan Swimming while serving your term.

Over the years, I have benefitted and learned a lot from swimming. However, I have become aware, through my year-round volunteer work at the lower east side YMCA, that there are many families who do not have access to a swimming pool and do not know how to become involved in competitive swimming. If chosen to be a Metropolitan Junior Athlete Representative, I would work to promote competitive swimming to communities. Part of my role would be to reach out

to different communities to disseminate information about pool access, swim classes, and participating in Metro swim teams. In addition, I would like to propose the idea of having a goggle and cap drive. Through my work at the YMCA, I saw firsthand how many children do not have the basic necessities such as a swim cap or goggles. By creating a goggles and cap drive, we could provide swimmers with the equipment they need to swim. I would reach out to companies such as Speedo, TYR, Arena, and other local businesses to donate caps and goggles. I would also organize a committee to promote the benefits of swimming via community outreach and social media. Swimming is such an important skill to learn for children and I am so grateful to my parents for signing me up for classes when I was younger. Swimming is a not only great exercise, but also teaches children time management, perseverance, discipline, and how to overcome adversity. I would take my position as the Metropolitan Junior Athlete Representative seriously and act as a voice for all Metro athletes.