

Name: Mark Owens

Team/Club: Sachem Swim Club

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

Hi, my name is Mark Owens from Sachem Swim Club. I am a registered USA swimmer and currently in my sophomore year in high school. I would be honored to be the voice of my fellow metro athletes at board meetings and anywhere else the swimmers voice might be heard, and would happily attend the USA Swimming Convention. I have gone to almost every Age Group Zone Meet since summer of 2014 and would love to attend the meet with the up and coming swimmers of metro in future years to come.

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

I started swimming five years ago in 2012 at ten years old. When I started it was simply an activity I enjoyed and it was something to do, I never imagined the great people I would meet or the opportunities I'd be granted as result of the sport. Competitively, I began in 2013 at the recommendation of my coach to just "try" a meet, I completely fell in love with the sport and ever since that day swimming has been my life. At 12 years old I made Age Group Zones for the first time. I loved the idea of younger swimmer getting a chance to travel independently with their fellow metro swimmers both their age and the older, more experienced swimmers, as one team. I believe this gave kids a great opportunity to not only swim at another meet but to bond with the other swimmers of their lsc, people they may be rivals, and friends, with for years to come. I went to Zones every time it came around since I made it until just last year. I made Sr. Mets at 13, and that same year I qualified for sectionals. Recently, I made NCSA's, and while I haven't attended it yet, I am ecstatic to be able. When I was a young swimmer I looked up to the older swimmers I saw at meets and I would like to not only be the person that kids like me look up to, but be the person who speaks in their name at the board.

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.

I truly believe Metro is a great lsc full of great people and I believe the future can only bring greater things for us as a lsc. As a Metro Representative, I'd make sure that if anyone had something to add to the lsc I would listen and make it my mission to have their voice heard. Metro is a place were swimmers young and old can flourish and become the best swimmers, and

people they can become and I trust as representative I can contribute to the blooming of metro as a remarkable lsc.