

2021 NVSL Scholarship Recipients

Community Service Scholarship – Kate Walter



Kate has been a member of the Langley Club team for 12 years. She qualified for All-Stars 6 times and is a Junior Coach for the team. Kate is a graduate of the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart where she was a member of the Varsity Swim Team and served as team captain of the Varsity Cross Country team. Kate was a member of the high school Social Action Student Advisory board and was the Managing Editor of the school newspaper. She co-founded a student group called the Women for Women, facilitating discussions on issues affecting women around the world. Kate also interned for Swimming World Magazine as both a journalism and social media intern. Her work on the Student Advisory Board, high school groups, Appalachia Service Project, and as an elementary school tutor highlights Kate's steadfast dedication to working towards the common good. Kate will be attending Northwestern University in the fall, studying journalism at the Medill School of Journalism.

“No matter where I go in the future or what I do, I know that a commitment to service will serve as a useful guide in life. My high school experience and my years as an NVSL swimmer have taught me the importance of community involvement”

Presidents' Scholarship - Jenna Potoker

Jenna is a 14 year member of the of the Fairfax Club Estates swim team. She competed in NVSL Individual and Relay All Stars and serves as a Junior coach to the “Mini Flippers.” Jenna attended Robinson Secondary School, where she was on the varsity swim, tennis (team captain), and field hockey teams. She is a member of the National Honor Society, is a Partner's Club Special Education Aid, and was awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Jenna is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, DECA and the Student Society Club. She participated in mission trips to Wisconsin and Tennessee. She placed at the Science Fair (Plant Biology) at the High School and Regional level. She is an active volunteer in her church, supported the Wreath Across America program at Arlington Cemetery multiple years, and was the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Student of the Year. Jenna will be attending San Diego State University Nursing School in the fall.



“The league [NVSL] has shown me that not all records can be broken and not all dreams can be achieved, but having fun while doing so is most important, as well as learning to overcome challenges of all sizes.”

Spirit Scholarship - Andrei Zaitsev



Andrei has been a member of the Mount Vernon Park swim team for the past 13 years. He has been a teen coach for the past 2 years and is a lead core coach this year. He earned numerous team awards, to include the Coaches award twice as well as the Sportsmanship award. He runs the team's dryland and strengthening Boot Camp. Andrei attended West Potomac HS, where he was a member of the varsity swim and crew teams. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Concert Band, and Marching Band, and involved in STEM coursework. As part of the Russian School *Metaphora*, he obtain proficiency in the Russian language. Andrei achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and served on the local Sea Scout troop. He is the recipient of numerous organizational awards from NASA (Earth System Science Award), USAF, and Geological Society of Washington, as well as vying for awards in the VA State Science and Engineering Fair. Andrei will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall, majoring in Computer Engineering.

“We show team spirit, wearing our green and white with pride and screaming out cheers that bring together the swimmers in friendly competition. I loved hearing ‘little hands and little feet’ as an 8 and under, and now I get to lead the team in that cheer every time our 8 and under swimmers hit the water”

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Sportsmanship Scholarship - Juliana Skopp-Cardillo

Juliana is a 14-year veteran of the Mount Vernon Park swim team. She has coached for the Gators for the past 5 years, coached winter swim for 4 years, reached Individual and Relay All Stars numerous times, and won MVP and Coach award honors. Juliana attended West Potomac High School, where she was on the varsity swim team (served as Team Captain her senior year), played JV Basketball, rowed varsity crew, and managed the varsity volleyball team. She was a member of the One Love community service club coordinating food, clothing, and toy drives. She was also a member of the Best Buddies club, GirlUp club and participated in the National Honor Society and NSHSS. Juliana runs her own clothing brand using recycled products and held multi-year fashion internship at the VA Museum of Fine Arts. Juliana will be attending Montclair State University in the fall, accepted into the honors program majoring in Fashion Studies.



“Finally, 2020 taught me how to persevere even at times when it was frustrating, and hardships presented themselves. I did miss a ‘normal’ NVSL season, yet I will remember it for the friendships that became more valuable and the amazing new traditions and memories that were made”

Excellence in Technique Scholarship - Lauren Gagermeier



Lauren has been an NVSL swimmer for 13 years and an NVSL diver for 9 years as member of the Camelot Community Club Knights. She has won Coaches Awards in both swim and dive as well as pool MVP. She is a senior coach for the Knights, ran swim team “camp” in 2020, and coached the winter swim program. Lauren attended Falls Church HS, participating in five sports each year (Cross Country, Indoor Track, Basketball, Soccer, and Track & Field). She served as team captain for 3 of the teams. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, and was the 2021 Class Vice President. She was a member of the Student Advisory Committee (SAC), the Student Government Association (SGA), and the Global Future Club, an environmental activism organization. Lauren will be attending the University of Virginia in the fall to study Engineering.

“I try to continue to push myself every day and it has led to some great experiences. That Lollipop Meet led to many meets throughout my time within the NVSL. Now, 12 years later, I am coaching that same Squires program that I started at, and I get to be the one to push kids to grow and learn even when it’s scary.”

About the NVSL Scholarships:

- **Community Service Scholarship** created in honor of George MacDuff and daughter Melinda. George served as the Leagues Records Chairperson for many years
- **Spirit Scholarship** created in honor of Olivia Aull to recognize spirited swimmers and divers from within the NVSL family.
- **Sportsmanship Scholarship** created in honor of Joan Olson, long time Director of the NVSL and Chairperson of the Swimming Seeding Committee who was a passionate advocate for sportsmanship.
- **Excellence in Technique Scholarship** created in honor of Lou Sharp, founder of the Competition Swim Clinic, who guided generation of NVSL swimmers in stroke technique and love for swimming.
- **President’s Scholarship** created in honor of the volunteers who served as the NVSL League Presidents.