

Sarah E. Auer Memorial Scholarship for MCSL Swimmers

The Sarah E. Auer Memorial Scholarship was established in 2003 to recognize graduating High School seniors each year who are MCSL swimmers and who have exhibited noteworthy qualities in other areas of endeavor. The first MCSL scholarships were awarded in 2004 and through the 2017 season a total of 59 MCSL swimmers have been recognized.

Sarah Auer was a competitive swimmer and a strong student. Sarah swam for the Poolesville Piranhas, and for several club teams, Poolesville High School (where she was the MVP for all four years), and in college. She also played soccer (club and High School), field hockey (High School), and, while younger, also enjoyed dance and piano. Starting in eighth grade, Sarah worked as a club and summer swimming coach, eventually becoming the Head Coach of the MCSL Poolesville Piranhas at age 18 and a winter swimming coach for the Rockville-Montgomery Swim Club (RMSC) working with age group swimmers as well as with the National Training Group.

Sarah exemplified the virtues of hard work and dedication in all that she did. While a successful individual swimmer, she also appreciated the importance of working positively as a team member to contribute to the team's success. Sarah especially loved and was very good at coaching swimming. Despite her young age she easily handled the head coaching job and was loved by the over 200 swimmers who competed for the Poolesville Piranhas. Sarah's great promise was tragically ended when she was killed in an auto accident in December 2002 at the age of 21. Sarah had been on her way to her RMSC coaching job when she was killed.

In a fitting tribute to Sarah's memory and to her contributions to the community, Montgomery County decided in 2017 to rename the Poolesville Piranhas' pool where Sarah swam and coached as the "Sarah E. Auer Western County Outdoor Pool."

Eligibility: Nominees must be graduating High School seniors who competed for an MCSL swim team and have consistently been involved in competitive swimming since elementary school and continuing during their High School years. Nominees must embody qualities of hard work, teamwork, excellence, and dedication, as well as sustained long-term dedication to swimming. Successful nominees will be strong, hardworking students who have also been involved in additional areas of endeavor, such as other competitive sports (High School, club, and/or Rec), other athletic coaching, community involvement, and/or artistic pursuits such as dance or music. MCSL team representatives are also encouraged to consider financial need as a deciding factor in their team's nomination.

Specific eligibility criteria for MCSL swimmers are as follows: swam for an MCSL team for freshman through senior years in High School; swam for a High School swim team; and worked as a coach (including as a volunteer coach) for an MCSL swim team for at least 2 seasons.

Nomination Process: Only one nomination package may be submitted by each MCSL Team and multiple nominations will not be considered. Nomination packages will consist of 4 parts (each part no more than 1 page in length). Letters of support must, among other things, discuss how the candidate exhibited the qualities included under "Eligibility":

- A nomination form signed by the nominee's MCSL Team Representative which demonstrates that the candidate meets the eligibility criteria for MCSL candidates,
- A letter of support signed by the coach of the nominee's MCSL swim team,
- A letter of support signed by a High School official, and
- A 1-page essay written by the swimmer on one or more of the following topics: What does swimming mean to you? What does swimming for an MCSL team mean to you? What values learned in swimming will you take into your future life? How will the experience of swimming help you in your academic pursuits? How has your experience helping the swim team by coaching or participating in team activities helped you to prepare for your future?

The nomination package must be typed and may also include a 2-page resume outlining the nominee's experience and accomplishments. Nomination packages which are not complete will not be further considered.

Nomination packages will be accepted from the Team Representative for an MCSL swim team. Scholarship decisions are final.

The deadline for submission of nominations is the second Thursday in June of each year, although earlier submission is encouraged. Completed nominations may be mailed (postmarked) or emailed (with "SEA Scholarship Nomination" included in the subject line). Please submit electronic files as a consolidated .pdf document (i.e., submit as a single consolidated document; do not submit as a .jpg document). Recommendation letters can be sent separately and directly to the Auer family or be included in the package. Nomination packages and recommendation letters should be sent to:

Doris and Charles Auer
Attn: SEA Scholarship Fund
17116 Campbell Farm Rd.
Poolesville, MD 20837

auer.charles@verizon.net (include **SEA Scholarship Nomination** in subject line).

or may be given to the Poolesville Swim Team Representative at the June MCSL Team Representatives' meeting.

Selection Process: Nomination packages will be reviewed by the Auer family who will recommend selectees to the Greater Washington Community Foundation (GWCF; formerly the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region (CFNCR)). The scholarship operates as a donor advised fund that is maintained and operated by GWCF, a "section 501(c)(3) organization." The Auer family may consult with coaches, MCSL officials, and/or team representatives when considering awards. Team reps for scholarship recipients will be informed during the weekend prior to the Long Course Meet.

Scholarship Awards: The Scholarship Fund plans to award one or more scholarships on an annual basis. Awards will consist of \$1,000.00 college scholarships, although higher amounts may be awarded, and will be made payable to the college or university.

Processing of Scholarships: Scholarship recipients are requested to forward their college billing information to the Auer family by email promptly after it is received so that the GWCF can ensure the funds are accurately credited to the recipient's account. In particular, recipients need to forward information reporting their **student ID number and name** according to the school's records; a screen shot of your billing information usually has this information. Typically, the check for each award will be released by GWCF shortly after the Auer family receives the requested billing information for the swimmer.

Awards Ceremony: Scholarship winners will be announced at the Coaches' Long Course Meet.

Sarah E. Auer Memorial Scholarship Nomination Form

Information on the Nominee

Name:

Address

Swim team experience, including MCSL and club:

Swimming experience during High School years:

Other activities:

MCSL coaching experience *(please indicate the years and the position(s) held)*:

Matriculating College or University:

Information on MCSL Team Representative

Representative's Name:

MCSL Swim Team:

Representative's signature/date:

Phone Number/email address: