

Name:	Club:	Honors	Activities	Role:	Why
Niya Villanueva	RAYS	Second Honors - 9th Grade Student of the Month Honor roll - 8th Grade	Students for Progress - Activist club Fashion Magazine club - Freshman year PLTW - Engineering Course provided to select students in High school Colorguard - 7th & 8th Grade Volunteer work - Timing on meets, Race 4 Chase, YMCA	<p>I am Niya Villanueva and I am excited to run for Junior Athletic Representative for Connecticut Swim. I started swimming in California when I was eight years old. My family had to move to Connecticut in 2021 and I continued to swim with the Southington Rays. I have committed myself to early morning and late night practices to improve upon my skills as a swimmer and teammate and adore the sport I have grown up with. I strongly believe that I can provide new insights and ideas on how Connecticut Swim can be improved. These are values that I would prioritize if I were to be selected to this position. Encourage commitment in swimming and promote awareness on future educational benefits of swimming High school and Club swim teams are amazing opportunities to earn scholarships. For all student athletes, each one has the potential to apply to colleges and universities and receive scholarships. However, many students struggle to maintain their swimming along with balancing grades, extracurricular activities, and hobbies outside of school. As a Junior Representative, I would want to make a socially comfortable environment for athletes to be able to maintain their extracurriculars mentally and emotionally. Some swimmers around my age tend to give up on swimming. Some of their reasons are fatigue, lack of self-improvement, or feeling excluded from the team. I would like to promote awareness that swimming is worth committing to because of its benefits, especially when we go to college. Improve relationships with Coaches and teammates Most if not all swimmers have role models. Role models from relatives to Olympic swimmers and gold medalists. In swim teams, some of the most common forms of role models are teammates and coaches. Coaches play a crucial role in helping the swimmers improve on technique, mental health, and how they can also help out the team. Teammates like Seniors are the team's most relatable and reliable role models to younger swimmers. I would like to encourage young swimmers like me to build relationships with their coaches by asking questions and feedback, especially on practices. As for our teammates, we should not feel alone or isolated from others because your teammates go through the same hardships and struggles as you. Giving young athletes a voice Advocating for student athletes can be difficult for team captains and coaches. Junior Athletes want to convey their opinion in situations within the team. Helping young athletes raise their voice against problems ruining their community is crucial into making improvements within their team and sport. I would help build their confidence and communicate to adults of their problems and/or concerns. Ultimately with these goals in mind, as a Junior Swimmer Representative, I would strive to accomplish these goals to improve our sport and community as a whole collaborating with other swimmers with new ideas and creativity.</p>	<p>I believe that I should be elected as a Junior Athlete Representative because I have experienced first hand successes and struggles of swimming. Even after challenges and obstacles have been thrown at me, I am still passionate about the sport. I am committed to be the voice of the young swimmers to communicate their concerns and ideas. I am able to connect to others and able to use my voice to communicate to the decision makers. I am a team player and willing to collaborate with other young swimmers. I know I can contribute my ideas so all can thrive in our swimming environment.</p>