



# Ali Stingrays Swimmer Scholar Program

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**Community Impact:** Dedicated to preserving the legacy of Muhammad Ali and sharing his message with the world.

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**Organization Statement:** To share the ideals of Muhammad Ali, to promote respect, hope, and understanding, and to inspire adults and children everywhere to be as great as they can be.

## Major Recent Successes:

- ❖ In its pilot year, the program is serving 10 students from Central High School and 15 students from the W.E.B. DuBois Academy.
- ❖ All programming is provided free of charge to students and families.

## Proposal – Ali Stingrays Swimmer-Scholar Program

The Muhammad Ali Center is a community gathering place, cultural attraction, and international education center with a programmatic history of working with underserved students and nurturing connections with the West Louisville Community.

In its first year, the Ali Stingrays Swimmer Scholar Program showed incredible promise in helping students achieve their own personal greatness academically and athletically. For the upcoming 2020-21 school year, we are looking to expand the program by doubling the number of participating students, adding an additional USA Swimming certified coach, and enhancing academic outcomes by hiring a JCS teacher as an “Academic Coach” to oversee the academic program.

The Swimmer Scholar Program directly addresses racial disparities in academic achievement, access to quality afterschool programming, and swimming abilities. Statistics from USA Swimming show that children of color are 3 to 6 times more likely to drown than children from majority white communities. Research also shows that by the time students of color reach 6th grade, they experience a 6,000-hour enrichment gap derived from inequities created by a lack of access to afterschool programs, summer programs, and field trips. The Ali Stingrays combines academics and athletics to set up underserved students for future successes.

Through a daily 3-hour afterschool program, the Ali Stingrays provides these students with the tools to achieve academic and athletic success. Students participate free of charge, and funding supports all swimming-related fees, equipment, coaching, academic resources, transportation, and insurance. Students participate in academic sessions where they have access to tutors, academic advisors, college-prep courses, ACT support, and the Ali Center’s Character Education curriculum. The students also receive swim lessons and professional coaching from a USA Swimming-certified coach as a part of the Ali Stingrays USA Swimming team.

### **Wish List**

Swimming equipment: Goggles & Swim caps | Practice swimsuits  
Training equipment | Healthy energy snacks



## ARTS & CULTURE

Initiatives that cultivate, develop, and enhance the cultural and artistic climate of Jefferson County, Kentucky.