

## 2012 TYAF Outstanding Taiwanese American Youth Award



My name is Boaz Ru and a senior at Wootton High School in Rockville. I was born in Takoma Park, MD and have lived in the Wootton area since I was 4. Both of my parents came from Taiwan and all my relatives live there. I visit Taiwan anytime I have the chance to.

My activities include playing baseball, playing basketball, doing volunteer work, being a part of my youth group, going to Chinese school, doing Dragon boat, and being a waiter. With all of these activities, I have learned how to manage my time better.

The place where I did most of my volunteer was at TECRO. I have been volunteering there since I was in ninth grade and earned over 100 SSL hours there. Volunteering at TECRO gave me a chance to interact with many people and improve my Chinese speaking skills.

Sports have always played a huge role in my life. Ever since I was a little kid, I would always go outside and play with friends if given the chance. My dad would always practice with me and teach me how to play new sports. The main sport I participated in was baseball. I have been on a travel team since I was 6 and never stopped playing. My greatest accomplishment was finishing second in the state when I was 8, 12, 13, and finishing first when I was 10. Now, I am one of the captains for the Wootton Varsity baseball team. Last year, I had my best year by posting a .353 batting average and a 0.00 E.R.A. I have usually been the only Asian kid on every team I have played on. Despite that, I would play as if I represented Taiwan because I stood out from the crowd.

In addition, I have been going to Hua Fu Chinese School since I was 5. Through the classes, I have learned a lot about Taiwanese culture and have improved my Chinese communication skills. I joined the Chinese school Dragon boat team last year and finished among the top in both the youth and mixed division.

I hope that once I go to college, that Taiwan would always be in my heart. I hope there are more opportunities to visit again.