

Taiwanese Youth Arts Foundation, Inc. 2020 Outstanding Taiwanese American Youth Award
Essay

My name is Lawrence Binns. I am seventeen years old and a senior. I go to the Washington DC Taiwanese School and I take the Chinese and Taiwanese classes. The school also has many events, such as "Taiwan Fun", dragon boat racing, and events for different holidays like the Winter and Summer Solstice and the Lunar New Year, for instance. The school has a connection to Culture Center of Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (CCTECHRO), which is the representatives of Taiwan for the US. I participated in the different holiday events, "Taiwan Fun", raced with the Youth and Adult Dragon Boat Racing Team for my school, and undergone training to be a youth ambassador for Taiwan from CCTECHRO.

When different holidays come around the school will celebrate it with performances and a feast. Performances are performed by the different classes and clubs. There would be dances from the Dance Club or songs and ditties from the Chinese or Taiwanese classes, for example. Food is normally brought in by several families and with the help of others, I serve it to people and we all eat in the cafeteria.

Taiwan Fun is an event where groups of volunteers set up activities about Taiwanese culture. I cohosted two activities, Bamboo Dance and Rubber Band Dance. The Bamboo Dance originates from Taiwanese aborigines and the Rubber Band Dance, sometimes referred to as Chinese Jump Rope, originates from ancient China. I learnt the importance of rice to Taiwanese culture during Taiwan Fun, rice is a staple for Taiwanese people, and it is made in many kinds of dishes like sticky rice ball soup. It is used in more than just food, rice is used in rice painting, an activity in Taiwan Fun one year.

I went to the Culture Center of Taipei Economic and CCTECHRO to get training to be a culture ambassador. I learnt dances, did Taiwanese and teambuilding activities/ exercises, and how to put on a Taiwanese puppet show.

I am also part of the Washington DC Taiwanese School Dragon Boat Race Team. I've been on the team for three years now. We've won three bronze, three silver, and four gold medals. Dragon Boat racing needs good synchronization and teamwork.

I live in Huntingtown Maryland, which is in south. The community is not very diverse but take every opportunity to promote the Taiwanese culture through art, games and food that I bring to school to share.

My name is Lawrence Binns, I go to the Washington DC Taiwanese School, please consider me for the 2020 Outstanding Taiwanese American Youth Award.