

TYAF Application

My dad is from Taiwan. That's the base of where the term "Taiwanese American" comes from, but it's so much more than that. By accepting that term as a label for myself, I have gotten access to one of the most amazing communities in all of America.

I've been a part of this group for as long as I can remember. Some of my earliest memories are of passing out programs to the amar and akofng during a yearly concert. After everyone was seated, my dad would take me backstage where he would work logistics while I sat behind the curtain and listened to the music and played chess on my flip phone. If I close my eyes and concentrate I can still hear the sounds of a cello drifting from beneath the curtains; still smell the boxed dinner that the volunteers were given; still feel the hard wooden stool underneath me.

I've attended Washington DC Taiwanese School ever since I was two years old. I've participated in the mothers day celebrations, lunar new years parties, mid autumn festivals and more. Then, as soon as I was able, I began to volunteer. I've managed the stage at some events, served food at many more, and overall assisted whenever necessary. In addition to our normal itinerary of festivals and celebrations, WDCTS also hosts an annual summer camp. I've participated in it since its inception, both as an attendee and an assistant. I feel like one of the parents when I say that the children grow up so fast. Watching the next generation slowly take shape is both interesting and terrifying. I can see the similarities and differences between the way I grew up and the way that they're being raised in the modern age. I enjoy teaching and helping the children. I hope they'll end up in an even better place than me.

In addition to volunteering, I am also the vice captain for the youth dragon boat team. We organize land practices as well as water practices, during these we train not only our muscles and bodies physically, but also our teamwork and coordination skills. One of my other responsibilities is to choose and seat the rowers; doing this has allowed me to learn how to make hard decisions. I need to decide where people are best placed to maximize their effectiveness. I've learned so much from the Taiwanese American community, not just directly, but also indirectly.

I currently attend Richard Montgomery High School, where I am a senior, and I wouldn't be here without the people urging me on from behind to do better, to study more. Ever since I was young, I've had a lot of emphasis placed on me to study a STEM subject, luckily I enjoy learning about STEM. I like watching videos

about science, engineering and math. Then do my own research into those topics, and it's allowed me to consistently be at the top of my class. I currently hold a 4.77 weighted GPA, lead 5 clubs, and take part in the IB programme at my school. This wouldn't be possible without the interest that I developed early by being surrounded by intelligent and accomplished people.

Outside of school I enjoy working on my personal projects, and learning more about a variety of topics. I self studied linear algebra to learn more about quantum computing and APL, an interesting math based programming language.

Overall, I wouldn't be the person I am today without the help of the Taiwanese American community. I hope that, no matter where I end up going for college, I can still experience some slice of the people I know. I'll definitely be sure to visit in the future, to continue the traditions and see the next generation grow and develop.