

My Services in The Taiwanese American Community-a reflective essay

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I helped in the Taiwanese community by volunteering at different events. These include, but aren't limited to, the Bubble Tea Festival, picnics, and events hosted by WDCTS. I've been volunteering for many years now, and I've made new friends every time. I usually help as needed; some common tasks I've done are serving food, helping set up/clean up, and informing visitors about the event. In order to step out of my comfort zone and interact with people more, I started inviting my friends to these events in hopes of being able to introduce them to Taiwanese culture.

The main takeaway for me is how deep the culture actually runs. Even though I'm Taiwanese, I was born in America so I'm not as familiar with the culture as my native-born relatives. I volunteer to get service hours, but at the same time, I'm learning the very things I teach others. Volunteering at these events is sometimes tiring. However, it is always fun because I have friends that also participate, so I have social interactions. And not only do we feel accomplished after finishing the task, we are rewarded by being able to participate in the events taking place.

I've had some negative experiences while volunteering, such as running out of supplies, not coordinating well with my team, or difficulty communicating. I also occasionally feel out of place at some events, particularly those with many kids. It feels strange to be one of the oldest junior volunteers, and even weirder if I'm the only teenager. However, since there's so many diligent people on the team, we work together to overcome these problems.

My volunteer hours vary greatly depending on the event and the task. It typically ranges from two hours to four hours, although in larger events it may take even longer. Most of the time, I am tasked with labor, although I have done customer service before as well. While it is exhausting, I find it fun because I do it with my friends. I'm also motivated by earning service hours, as well as the sense of achievement that follows.

I started volunteering in middle school, and since I'm graduating from high school this year, I can really take the time to look back at all my past volunteering experiences. I know I have improved a lot. My physical strength has improved, allowing me to do tougher labor. I have also become more social, allowing me to make friends and expand my field of work to include customer service. I've also met many people who've helped me along the way, improving my social skills and helping me solve problems when I get stuck. They aren't people I necessarily know, but I have had encounters where unfamiliar people in

the community were nice enough to help out with my tasks or give me the advice and encouragement that I needed. I remember that at the beginning, I was doubtful of whether I really wanted to volunteer or not. But now, I'm sure I want to keep volunteering for a good cause.