

My name is Matthew Tang. I am currently 15 years old and a sophomore at Winston Churchill High School. Ever since middle school, I have been diligently participating in activities revolving around Taiwanese culture and communities. This includes the Formosa Association of Student Cultural Ambassadors (FASCA), the Taiwanese American Association (TAA), and the Washington DC Taiwanese School (WDCTS).

At the Bubble Tea Festival (September 25th, 2021), Potomac Day (October 23, 2021), 5K Run (November 17th, 2021), and the Lantern Festival (February 11th, 2022), I was in charge of activities that introduced people from different cultures to our Taiwanese culture. For example, during the Bubble Tea Festival, I was in charge of the fish net station. This was to show people traditional games that are played during the Night Market in Taiwan. At the Lunar New Year's holiday this year, I participated in the Oakton Library event, where I taught kids and adults how to make paper lanterns. We hoped that by learning how to make the lanterns, they would learn about our written system and what we do around the Lunar New Year's time while having fun doing the art crafts. At the Sakura festival, I was selected to help at the Japanese tent. Besides helping the Japanese tent sell dolls and crafts, I also interacted with customers and helped explain Asian cultures to the visitors. After finishing that, I went to host a game for people who were walking by so they could learn about games in Taiwan while having a lot of entertainment. Another event I participated in was the virtual hangouts where I would teach Taiwanese kids who are in high school English and establish a bond with them. I led my group to make sure all the students were able to participate in the conversation on different topics such as how to pronounce certain words, or how to use certain words in a sentence.

Another association I am involved in is TAA where I participated in events to promote Taiwan and Taiwanese culture. For multiple years, I went to New York for a parade to promote Taiwan joining the United Nations. We walked around with our flags and banners promoting Taiwan to the people of New York about the UN for Taiwan.

I have been a student at WDCTS ever since I was one year old. Besides learning Chinese and Taiwanese during my time there at school, I have also had a lot of different opportunities to help the school. This included participating in dragon boat racing rehearsals. And during the Dragon Boat Festivals, our team won multiple gold and silver medals. When May arrives, it will be my third year participating and I enjoyed it a lot because not only do we get to work as a team, but we are also promoting Taiwanese culture at the Dragon Boat event. This year, it will be my 3rd year participating and this year as co-captain for the team. WDCTS also has a summer camp that I go to. Dr. Liang's summer camp is a camp that helps the teachers and adults set up the camp and take care of the campers. I have also helped the community in different ways such as babysitting kids at Taiwanese community events so their parents could enjoy the events without worrying. During the early pandemic, I delivered boxes of lunch to those in need and created a promotion video with my classmates in Taiwanese class to promote WDCTS. I participated in all of the 2021 virtual cultural events promoting Taiwan, where we learned different aspects of Taiwan including fashion, books, food, and more.

I am proud and grateful that I have had these opportunities to participate in events that promote Taiwan and Taiwanese culture as well as help my community. These volunteer works have not only earned me three Presidential awards, which are signed by the President of the

United States but also enriched my knowledge about Taiwan. With the leadership and project managing experiences that I have gained, I hope that I will be even more capable of coordinating and helping out at events that promote Taiwan and connect people in the world.