



Celebrating Community and Vision: Volunteering at Capital Youth Outreach Club(CYOC)'s Barbecue Gathering

On a chilly morning at Black Hill Regional Park, my family and I arrived at the shelter amidst a bustling scene where several Chinese school associations and clubs, including the Capital Youth Outreach Club (CYOC), were hosting a barbecue event. The gathering brought together numerous Chinese individuals residing in the DMV area, providing a joyous occasion for reunion and celebration. As a CYOC member, I volunteered for this event, lending a hand around the shelters to assist in food preparation and barbecuing. Prior to the CYOC gathering, I had the opportunity to taste a delightful array of homemade Chinese treats contributed by various families, from spring rolls to dumplings, alongside savory delights like kabobs and chicken wings. As I savored the flavors and engaged in conversations with other attendees, I

appreciate the sense of community fostered by such events. It was heartwarming to witness families coming together, each contributing a piece of their culture through food and conversation.

After lunch, we made our way to Shelter A, anticipating the start of the CYOC presidential changing ceremony. The event began with speeches from CYOC's adult president and advisors, stalwart supporters of the club's development. Following them, our former president turned presidential



Photo Provided by Dechun Feng

advisor, George Xie, took the stage, highlighting CYOC's achievements during his tenure. He then introduced the new co-presidents, Jennifer and Joseph, whose speeches were captivating as they outlined their visions and objectives for the upcoming term. Listening to their

impassioned words, I couldn't help but feel inspired. Their dedication to serving the community and driving positive change ignited a sense of purpose within me. It prompted reflection on my own role within the community and how I could contribute to its growth and prosperity. Subsequent to their addresses, introductions were made for the new board members, who presented ambitious initiatives including collaborative efforts with diverse organizations and local environmental stewardship projects aimed at beaches and forests. The gathering provided compelling insights into CYOC's forthcoming

endeavors under the new leadership. As I absorbed the presentations and mingled with fellow attendees, a renewed sense of optimism for the future washed over me. I am confident that these community-driven initiatives will effectively bring about meaningful change.

Following the meeting, we savored a final sampling of the culinary offerings before departing. As we drove away, a sense of anticipation and excitement for CYOC's future initiatives filled me with optimism. I left Black Hill Regional Park with a deeper appreciation for the importance of community engagement and a renewed commitment to playing an active role in shaping the future of CYOC and our community as a whole.

Ruichen Feng, May 14, 2024

31 Years of Tradition: The Black Hill Barbecue Uniting the Greater DMV Community

Since 1993, the Black Hill Barbecue held in Black Hill Regional Park, Maryland has been a staple of the Chinese Alumni Associates of Greater Washington (CAAGW) for 31 years. It's an important event where people in the Greater DMV area can come together to enjoy food, marvel at live performances, and bond with others. Every year, more than 70 alumni of the CAAGW come to this event, and this year is no different. This year on May 12, the park was as lively as could be with many events.

One example is the barbecues. The barbecue at Black Hill Regional Park has been a favorite of the event. It's even in the name! Smoke rises from the pavilions as alumni cook various foods. You can see people grilling beef, sausages, pork, lamb, and even asparagus! Alumni all brought food with themselves, signaling a feast of noodles, pizza, meat, sesame balls, and more!

After everyone was full, there were many performances, like the CAAGW Waist Drum Team and a male soprano solo. After that, there

was a tug of war contest. Everyone was hyped up and cheering for teams from their pavilion, and when the contest ended, everyone was in good spirits.

Throughout the event, Capital Youth Outreach Club (CYOC) volunteers eagerly helped out with many things. This year is very special for CYOC as well, as CYOC's Student President George Xie is "retiring" from his role and will now be the President's Advisor. With the going of a president, we have two new presidents who will be acting in

tandem. Jennifer Wan and Joseph Shi will be the new Co-Presidents. With new presidents comes a new board, and the CYOC board is expanding to many more people who have helped support the community in many ways.

This barbecue day is special for another reason. It was held on Mother's Day, so there was a special cake cutting. Influential people like Ping Lu, former CAAGW president and current Maryland Asian and Pacific Islander Commissioner, Di Zhu, the Minister Counselor and Consul

General of the Chinese Embassy in the US, and Chuanming Li, the current CAAGW president cut the cake along with many other influential members of the community.

Overall, this day was a meaningful experience to everyone who attended. People went to Black Hill Regional Park to celebrate a tradition, and left full, inspired, and fulfilled.

By: Peishi Yu



Photo Provided by Peishi Yu

Empowering Youth, Enriching Communities: The Collaborative Journey of CYOC and So What Else

By: Peishi Yu

The Capital Youth Outreach Club (CYOC) was established in the DMV area in 2018. It encourages youth of all ages to make a change in their communities through actively volunteering in many community events, reflecting the volunteers' social responsibility and influence. For many years, they have organized many activities while giving back to the community. In January of 2024, CYOC formed a partnership with So What Else.

So What Else is a nonprofit organization based in Maryland and Washington DC that was founded in 2009. It has made a huge impact on the area.

Together, CYOC and So What Else have cooperated in many activities, including the

Haul-iday Clothes Drive and volunteering at the So What Else Food Pantry.

CYOC and So What Else will expand their partnership in various activities. CYOC will also move on to become partners with more organizations and will



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