



CYOC: Soaring to New Heights at the National Independence Day Parade

By: Peishi Yu

This year is America's 248th birthday, and the July 4th parade is nothing but extraordinary. This annual event takes place on Constitution Avenue, one of Washington DC's most vibrant and bustling streets.

Spectators flock to see the #1 most viewed 4th of July parade at our nation's capital. As the capital of the United States, the Independence Day celebration in Washington DC is naturally

extremely grand! Red, white, and blue flags flutter across the cerulean sky. The crowd cheers, laughs, and supports the people in the parade, whilst wearing patriotic colors.

This parade has it all, from formal symphony performances to famed bands, speeches from high-ranking government



officials to volunteers from all sectors of the community. The Parade started at the National Archives, the place where the Declaration of Independence is held. The Parade truly shows the diversity and the freedom of the USA. The CYOC organization held the largest flag in the entire parade. Over 100 eager volunteers participated. Children and adults marched in a synchronized way. The crowd

vividly responded.

CYOC has been invited three times to participate in the National Independence Day Parade. This year, CYOC independently carried out two jobs. Not only did they hold the largest American flag, but also 25 flags in a neat array.

We welcome children to join CYOC to help make a difference in our community.

Photographer: CYOC

Flag Flapping: CYOC in the Independence Day Parade

Ruichen Feng, July 2024

On July 4th, Independence Day, I had the honor of joining the Capital Youth Outreach Club (CYOC, 华府青年) parade team, marching proudly with a giant American flag along Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C. The day was very hot, by 10:30 am, we had arrived in D.C. and found many CYOC members already assembled, ready to take part in the parade. With some time before the official start, I surveyed the diverse groups preparing to march - from bands and music cars to balloons and even Smokey the Bear mascots, symbolizing the US wildfire prevention campaign. The streets were lined with spectators eagerly anticipating the parade.

After receiving our volunteer

shirts, a staff member guided us to the enormous flag we would carry. It was so large, it reminded me of those parachutes that elementary schoolers flapped up and down during PE class. After a brief respite from the sun, we were informed the parade was starting and we needed to line up. Stepping onto Constitution Avenue, we proudly unfurled the flag,



drawing cheers from the onlookers as it stretched majestically before them. Throughout the march, we exchanged cheers with spectators, waving small American flags in

opportunity to contribute to such a meaningful event and to represent CYOC in front of thousands of spectators was incredibly rewarding.

hand. Finally reaching the end of the route, we reunited with other CYOC members who had carried smaller flags.

As I cooled off under a giant water fan, I reflected on the significance of participating in such a grand and symbolic event. The experience left a profound impression on me. The overall experience was very rewarding and fun. Although everyone was drained and tired at the end, it was worthwhile to know that we contributed to the

Standing there, I felt a deep sense of pride in our country and community. It underscored the importance of coming together to celebrate our shared values and history. Moreover, participating in the parade gave me a renewed appreciation for the efforts of organizations like CYOC in fostering community engagement and youth leadership. It reinforced my commitment to volunteerism and civic participation, knowing that even small actions can make a big difference in bringing people together. In short, marching in the 2024 Independence Day parade was not just a memorable experience, but also a reaffirmation of the values that bind us as a nation and as a community.

Photographer: CYOC

Independence Day Parade!

Written by Jennifer Zhang

A great way to celebrate Independence day is to go down to DC, and see the parade! It is fun to see what different communities around the US have prepared for this celebration. Although it is fun to be part of the audience, it is also very exciting to participate in the parade itself. That is what many CYOC (Capital Youth Outreach Club) volunteers did on July 4th, 2024.

CYOC volunteers arrived around 10 in the morning at DC. Then they were split by what activities they were going to perform. Some were tasked to hold individual flags, and others were tasked to hold a big flag together. Then the parade started and everyone marched all the way from

1844 14th St. NW and moved south to end at 919 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

During this parade I remember seeing seniors from a different community practicing their dance choreography before the parade. I was very moved by this since the

seniors were old, and it genuinely looked like they worked very hard. Not only that, the overall performance and costume that they had prepared was astonishing. It looked like they had spent quite some time on the parade. This event really shows the dedication people

put into traditions and celebrations, no matter how old they are.

The overall experience was very rewarding and fun. Although everyone was drained and tired at the end, it was worthwhile to know that we contributed to the

community. Another great part about the parade was, it was encouraging to see people clap and wave at us during the parade. All in all, I look forward to next year's parade and the fun that comes with it!

Photographer: CYOC

