



## 青春共筑文化桥梁： 华府青年(CYOC)亮相蒙郡第五届亚裔传统月庆典

(接上期)  
**In Spaces Between Cultures**

Camille Hu

May, a month where we celebrate AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) heritage, culture, and contributions. Before volunteering the AAPI event at Seneca Valley High School, I understood this celebration mostly in theory, as something recognized on calendars and in passing conversations. However, participating in the event allowed me to experience its meaning in a more personal and impactful way. What initially seemed like a simple opportunity to help quickly became a meaningful experience that allowed me to engage more directly with the community. Instead of viewing AAPI Heritage Month as just a symbolic recognition, I began to see it as an active and living expression of identity, history, and belonging. Being present in that space exposed me to the ways culture is not only remembered, but

also shared, performed, and continuously shaped by those who carry it forward.

As we arrived at the location, people were already beginning to set up tables, from Chinese cultures to Cambodian cultures. The place was filled with laughter, vibrant colors, and the rich presence of diversity. Additionally, people were also wearing clothing that represent their culture, like hanfu and qipao, which are traditional Chinese garments. There was also traditional clothing from the Miao minority group, which I thought was really pretty and cool.

At our CYOC table, there were games like using chopsticks to pick up M&Ms and Skittles, calligraphy, and panda stickers and temporary tattoos. Those represented Chinese culture and introduced others to its traditions in a fun and interactive way. After setting up our table, performances started, filling the space with music, movement, and energy. Each performance reflected a different aspect of AAPI culture, allowing the audience to experience traditions in a dynamic and engaging way. Watching these

performances, I realized how powerful cultural expression can be in bringing people together and creating a sense of connection.

During the performances, there were also people coming to our table to try calligraphy and tried to use chopsticks to get M&Ms. These small activities created moments of curiosity and laughter, making cultural learning both interactive and enjoyable. As people practiced writing characters or struggled to pick up candy with chopsticks, I could see how engagement replaced hesitation. It showed me that cultural understanding does not always come from formal learning, but often from simple, shared experiences that invite participation.

Overall, volunteering at the AAPI event was more than just helping at a table, it was an experience that deepened my understanding of culture, community, and representation. What I once saw as a simple celebration became something much more meaningful as I witnessed how people connected through shared activities, performances, and conversations. The event showed me

that cultural appreciation is not only about observing traditions, but also about actively engaging with them in ways that are accessible and welcoming.

This experience also helped me reflect on the importance of creating spaces where diverse cultures are not only displayed, but genuinely experienced and appreciated. Through small interactions like calligraphy and chopstick games, I saw how learning can happen naturally through participation and curiosity. More importantly, I realized that events like these help build bridges between communities, allowing people to better understand and respect one another. In the end, this experience changed my perspective on AAPI Heritage Month. It is not just a time of recognition, but also an opportunity for connection, learning, and celebration of identity in all its diversity.

### More Than a Just Festival: A Volunteer Experience

Diana Zhao

On a spring afternoon, I arrived at the AAPI Festival ceremony feeling a mix of excitement and nervousness. The area was already busy, with people walking around, different booths being set up, and volunteers getting ready for the event. Music and conversations filled the space, and it was clear that a lot of people were waiting for this day. Even before I started volunteering, I could see how many people were working together to make the event go well.

I volunteered at the CYOC booth, where we had different interactive activities that introduced different parts of Chinese culture. One of the activities was calligraphy, where visitors could try writing Chinese characters. I helped explain the activity and guided people if they were unsure what to do or how to start. It was interesting to see how many people were willing to try, even if it was their first time.

Another activity was a chopstick challenge, where participants used chopsticks to move M&Ms and Skittles into a tray. Once they finished, they could eat the M&Ms or Skittles that they got. This activity was popular because it was simple but still a bit challenging, especially for people who were not used to using chopsticks.

We also had panda stickers and temporary tattoos at the booth. A lot of younger kids were interested in these, and it helped make the booth feel more welcoming and interactive. People would often stop by just to take a look or try something quickly

before moving on to other booths.

There were also many other booths at the festival that were interactive in different ways. Each booth had its own activity, so visitors could walk around and participate instead of just watching. This made the festival more fun and engaging; it felt like you would never get bored. Since there was always something to do or try.

In addition to volunteering at the booth, I also participated in the opening performance by singing in the choir. We sang "You've Got a Friend in Me." Being part of the choir helped set a positive tone for the beginning of the festival. I was a little nervous at first, especially since we were performing in front of a large audience, but once we started singing, it felt more comfortable.

Overall, volunteering at the AAPI Festival was a meaningful experience. I got to see how much effort goes into running an event like this, and I was able to take part in both volunteering and performing. It showed me how many small roles come together to make a large event work.

### 《华府青年·文化使者：在 AAPI 庆典传播中国之美》

今年,我作为CYOC的一名小小志愿者参与了此次AAPI庆典活动,跟着大家一起宣传了中国传统文化。

此次,我们CYOC摊位展示了琳琅满目的中国传统文物模型,如文房四宝、国宝熊猫、木雕匣子和中国国粹京剧人物——穆桂英的模型。我们还设立了三个小游戏供大家更好的去体验中国文化;“用筷子夹巧克力豆”这让来自世界各地的人们学习体验了筷子的用法;“书写毛笔字”这个活动十分有意思,笔墨纸砚作为中国传统物品有着悠久的历史,历史上也有许多杰出的书法家,他们都有属于自己的独特的字体,这个活动让大家静下心来,感受汉字的魅力,意义深远;“熊猫贴纸和纹身贴”这个活动受到孩子们的喜爱,可爱的熊猫形象深入人心,极大程度的吸引了大家的眼球。

通过这次AAPI庆典活动,我不仅加深了自己对中国传统文化的理解,也在与不同文化背景的人交流中感受到了文化传播的价值和乐趣。看到大家因为我们的介绍而产生兴趣和共鸣,我由衷的感到开心和自豪。这份自豪感也化作了一份沉甸甸的责任——每一份亲手递出的毛笔,每一双被耐心指导夹起巧克力豆的筷子,每一张贴在孩子脸上的熊猫贴纸,都在无声传递着文化温度。我渐渐明白,传承不是单向输出,而是以真诚为桥,在彼此好奇的眼神里,照见文明互鉴的微小。

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5th Annual Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration  
5/3/2026



CYOC at 5th AAPI Heritage Month Celebration  
5/3/2026

willwando Honored to speak at the 2026 McCo AAPI Heritage Month Celebration today at Seneca Valley High School in Germantown  
AAPI Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the incredible contributions, culture, and community of our Asian American and Pacific Islander neighbors right here in Montgomery County. Our county is a better place because of their contributions.  
1 day ago · McCo AAPI Heritage Month 2026 Highlights