



Honoring Heritage, Inspiring Young Hearts

APPLICATION FORM

[Application Deadline: August 17, 2026]

Program Information

The 2026 Asian Heritage Youth Scholarship & Cultural Ambassador Program is designed to encourage high school students to learn about Asian history, culture, language, music, dance, poetry, and traditional values while developing leadership, confidence, and community service skills.

Each participating Asian community will sponsor one team of two contestants and provide cultural mentorship, including traditional attire, cultural education, performance preparation, and guidance throughout the program.

Eligibility: Students currently enrolled in high school or students who graduated in Summer 2026.

Team Information

Asian Country Selected: 1st choice: _____. 2nd choice: _____

Your Choice: **China, Philippines, Vietnam** (& others) – Sponsored by the City of Tampa MAAPAC

Contestant Information:

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____ **GPA:** _____

School Name: _____

Grade Level: _____ (Current High School student or graduated HS student last May of this year)

Home Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____ Parent/Guardian Email: _____

COMMUNITY SERVICES/ACTIVITIES [CHECK MARK AND LIST NAME(S)]

1. NO ACTIVITY _____ **FEW ACTIVITIES** _____ **MANY ACTIVITIES** _____

2. VOLUNTEER(ED) AT: PLACE(S)/COMMUNITY/ORGANIZATION(S) _____

Cultural Participation

Contestant will submit an essay.

ESSAY QUESTIONS/SUBJECTS AND REQUIREMENTS

- *Identity and Heritage - What does it mean to be an Asian American Pacific Islander to you? (if you are an Asian American) or*
- *Community Impact & Service - How have you contributed to making your community a better place?*

At least 1 page. Save your file as: [your last name].[initial first name]_2026 AHYS_Application

Submit to: keona.roberts@hcps.net

SUBJECT: 2026 Asian Heritage Youth Scholarship & Cultural Ambassador Application

Reviewers will select CONTESTANT/TEAM based on:

- **GPA [2 = 1 point, 2.5 = 2 pts, 3.00 = 3 pts, 3.5 = 4 pts, 4.00 = 5 pts, and 4.5 + = 6 pts]**
- **Essay score = [GRADE FROM 1 TO 10] ***
- **Community services: [GRADE FROM 0 – 5]**
NO ACTIVITY = 0 A FEW ACTIVITIES = 1-3 MANY ACTIVITIES = 5-6

Each team will be supported by its sponsoring Asian community from the City of Tampa MAAPIAC.

Contestants/Team may be asked to participate in the following activities, These are the criteria for judges to grade contestants:

- Traditional costume presentation
- Cultural song or dance or musical instrument performance or Poetry or historical recitation
- Interview: answer questions.

Certification & Signature

We certify that all information provided in this application is true and complete. We understand that submission of this application does not guarantee selection into the program.

Contestant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit completed application and essay by **August 17, 2026 [DEADLINE DATE]**

To: keona.roberts@hcps.net

RESULTS WILL BE SENT OUT TO CONTESTANT and SELECTED TEAM SPONSORS: AUGUST 24, 2026

*** Suggested Essay Evaluation Criteria (5–8 points)**

Essay Score (5–8 points)

- **7-8 points: Outstanding essay. Clear, original, meaningful, demonstrates strong personal connection, leadership, cultural awareness, and excellent writing quality.**
- **6 points: Good essay. Answers the question clearly with relevant examples and good organization.**
- **5 points: Acceptable essay. Addresses the topic but lacks depth, examples, or strong personal reflection.**
- **Below 5 points: Essay does not adequately answer the question, lacks clarity, or does not meet requirements.**

Total application selection criteria: 20 points

- 1. Academic Achievement/GPA (6 points)**
- 2. Essay Quality (8 points)**
- 3. Community Service & Leadership (6 points)**

The purposes of Asian Heritage Youth Scholarship program are **preserving culture, inspiring youth, and building bridges among communities.**

Selected winners will serve as **2026 Asian Heritage Youth Cultural Ambassadors.**

As ambassadors, they are expected to represent the program with integrity, actively participate in community events, promote Asian heritage and cultural understanding, and inspire youth through leadership and service.

Thank you for applying to the 2026 Asian Heritage Youth Scholarship & Cultural Ambassador Program. We sincerely appreciate your interest, dedication, and willingness to share your story and serve your community. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to your parents, family, teachers, and school for their encouragement and support in making your participation possible. We wish you the very best throughout the competition and hope you enjoy this memorable experience as you celebrate your heritage, develop your leadership, and build lasting friendships. We look forward to meeting you and celebrating your achievements!