



OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates
EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

Speak & Lead With Pride
Improving Youth Public Speaking and Leadership
Skills Since 2004

Now Accepting Applications for 2027!

Speak & Lead With Pride is a hands-on course that helps high school students develop public speaking and leadership skills. The program welcomes students who self-identify as Asian American or Pacific Islander (AAPI), including those with heritage from continental Asia and the Pacific Islands.

Over seven weeks, participants will build confidence in their public speaking and leadership abilities. The course concludes with a speech contest and recognition ceremony, featuring a total of \$1,100 in scholarship prizes.

When: **Seven Saturdays:** January 23–March 13, 2027 (no class February 13)
 Classes: 10 AM–12 PM, January 23 & 30; February 6, 20, & 27; March 6
 Speech Contest & Recognition Ceremony: March 13, 10 AM–2 PM

Where: Foster City Community Center (Starboard and Port Rooms)
 1000 E. Hillsdale Blvd., Foster City, CA 94404

Cost: FREE for all students! Generously supported by OCA San Mateo.

To learn more, go to: <https://www.ocasanmateo.org/speak-and-lead-with-pride/>

Application Deadline: Friday, January 8, 2027

Students will be accepted starting January 1.

Space is limited — apply early!

OCA is a national non-profit, non-partisan Pan-Asian advocacy group headquartered in Washington, DC that advocates for Asian Pacific American political, economic, and social justice issues as well as educates Asian Pacific Americans on the importance of civic engagement. OCA is one of the oldest national Asian Pacific American social justice organizations in the United States.

Speak & Lead With Pride **Application**

Applicants must be high school students who self-identify as Asian American or Pacific Islander (AAPI), including those with heritage from continental Asia and the Pacific Islands.

Applicants must commit to attending all six Saturday classes and the Speech Contest and Recognition Ceremony.

Application Checklist:

1. High school transcript (official or unofficial)
2. Letter of recommendation from a teacher or counselor
3. Essay responding to the prompt below (no more than one page)

Required Essay Prompt: How will public speaking and leadership skills help enhance your educational, career, or personal goals?

The essay must be written by the applicant without the use of AI.

Applications missing any of the three required items will not be reviewed.

Please submit all application materials through the following Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/bhG78PMvt25rBY3b6>

Questions? Email: smoca.speakandlead@gmail.com

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