



Mylee Sumoge

**Mylee Sumoge** graduated from Carson High School Academy of Education & Empowerment. She will be attending University of California, Santa Barbara majoring in pre-sociology.

My favorite subject to learn in high school was psychology and sociology. Learning how the brain works and perceives the world fascinates me. It's one of the few school subjects that I actually love to learn. I would even rent out library books to learn more about sociology. I'm planning for one or both of these subjects to be my major in college.

My main hobby would be writing. I love writing stories about anything really. One of humans' most powerful weapons is our imagination, to create art from nothing is incredible. I mostly use writing for pleasure but also to help cope with some difficult things in life. Learning psychology and sociology has helped me to write realistic characters and their internal conflicts.

I'm still trying to figure out my career but I do know that I want it to involve sociology or psychology. While I do love writing, I could never picture myself being a fulltime author.

I am very active in my church, but I view this more as a lifestyle than a hobby. Both my parents are Christians and I grew up going to church. I got baptized when I was 15 and have been very involved in church ever since. I help in leading our teen ministry by leading some devotionals and setting icebreakers for the teens. I sing in our choir from time to time when they need extra people because someone is missing. I plan on continuing being in church activities and currently transitioning into our campus ministry. Seeing the people in my church be sacrificial to others really inspired me to really get invested in community service.

My favorite community service organization to work with is Hope Worldwide since they have a variety of opportunities for anyone to participate in. They range from having volunteers travel to other countries in need to helping in your local soup kitchen. They help to sponsor all service activities both big and small. The organization is huge, covering most of the world's countries. So there's always opportunities to help. My favorite volunteer experience I had with Hope was being able to be a junior camp counselor at a pre-teen summer camp. A lot of my other clubs and activities also participate in community service. Girls leading our world (G.L.O.W) has the members plan and organize events, most of them being community service projects.

My dad was not really into Japanese tradition so I never got to learn anything really about my culture. Now that my father's gone, it would be nice to know a bit more about my culture. It is however hard for me to learn more about Japanese culture since I don't know anyone who could really show me. And although I'm half African American, a lot of other people sort of dismiss that fact since I don't "act black." I've always sort floated in the middle of both my races, never fully being involved in either and I wanna change that.

(Mylee's father, Larry Sumoge, passed away in January 2020.)

In September 2021 GLA newsletter:

“Standing Out As Hapa” was a Greater L.A. JACL Zoom program on August 8. On the panel were Andrew Gruhn, Erica Harris and Mylee Sumoge, three of GLA’s hapa young adult members.

Following is Mylee Sumoge’s summary of their panel discussion:



**Mylee Sumoge**

Hello, my name is **Mylee Sumoge**, I'm 19 years old and a 4th generation (Yonsei) on my father's side and my mother's side is African American. I was born and raised here in Los Angeles and I'm currently attending UC Santa Barbara. I'm going into my second year and majoring in sociology. During our Standing Out as Hapa program, I talked about my experiences dealing with the stereotypes of being both Japanese American and African American, the unique challenges hapa are put in when it comes to forming their identity and how important hapa are for being bridges to different communities. Hopefully, we can help lead to a better understanding of different people.