

# APAEA NEWSLETTER

Asian Pacific American Employees Association

May 2020



## Hello APAEA! We're still here!

Happy Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month!

It's been a while, we know. The last newsletter APAEA published was in fall of 2017, and so much has happened since. But we're back and hope to further collaborate with our fellow members.

For starters, we are immensely grateful for those who stepped up in April to check in on APAEA members during the COVID-19 pandemic. We felt this was an important thing to do during this time of crisis to make sure members felt connected and had an outlet. If you were NOT contacted, please let us know; it may be because we do not have you on our contact list!

## What's next?

We are an eager and excited group and have several projects in mind for the next few years. However, we were voted in to serve APAEA so we need input from you on what you would like to see us work on! So please join us at one of our member calls or working group calls to share your thoughts and ideas.

We look forward to getting to know you all!

Best,

APAEA Executive Committee (Arvind Bhuta, Kevin Gu, Lynn Khuat, Hilda Kwan, Madgdalene Luna, Sam Wu)

Hello, 你好, नमस्ते, 今日  
は, ਸਤਿ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਕਾਲ।, 안녕하세요  
니까, Chào anh, স্বঁসঁ,  
မင်္ဂလာပွဲ, Kumusta, Halo

APAEA!

*"Our ability to reach unity  
in diversity will be the  
beauty and the test of our  
civilization..."*

*- Mahatma Ghandi*



Sydney Yates Building, U.S. Forest Service Headquarters. Photo by Arvind Bhuta.

## In This Issue

- A message from your Chair
- Past events
- Covid-19 information
- May is AAPIH month!
- Get to know your colleagues!
- Upcoming events



Waterfall Cove, Photo by Kyle Brooks, Wayne National Forest, Ohio, R9.



## A Note From Our Chair

It is an honor to serve as your APAEA chair for the next two years, and I know that both I and our Executive Committee (EC) are looking forward to continuing and contributing to the great work of the ECs that have come before us. In doing so, we want to continue to build camaraderie across the APAEA community by helping to create more meaningful and engaging opportunities for connections within, across, and outside of our membership, while creating a more mindful APAEA organization where fellowship can happen locally, regionally, and nationally. Our great and talented EC is here to serve your needs, and we all look forward to being a part of that engagement over the next two years. Kevin (Yiqiang) Gu, Hilda Kwan, and Sam Wu are returning for their second terms as EC members; we welcome our two new EC members, Lynn Khuat and Magdalene Luna; and thank Irvin Fox-Fernandez and Anne Poopatanapong for their hard work over the last four years as EC members. We also thank Irvin for his service as EC chair prior to me.

In building camaraderie, we will be facilitating monthly working group calls where members from across APAEA can work on projects to support the Forest Service, APAEA, and possibly the public, and we'll host webinars twice a year (May and October). We are open to any suggestions from other members and welcome your input. So far, we held our first working group meeting in March to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on our members and started a support group to contact our APAEA members during this pandemic. As always, we are looking to build up our membership, get more involvement, and recruit more members to participate in working groups.

Building camaraderie doesn't work unless you get involved as a member. It can be a challenge to step out and engage because of our other more essential primary work duties in this agency. I faced similar challenges at first with managing my duties, but after some reflection, understanding the importance of this organization, and realizing that I can justify my service in this group to my supervisors through my official performance review, I took a little time here and there over the years to contribute to APAEA where I could. As a result, I have met great coworkers across the Forest Service and made some lasting friendships where we can rely upon one other when we need a shoulder to lean on both professionally and as friends. Growing up as a first-generation Asian American in Alabama to a mixed-Asian household where religious and cultural differences were present, my "Asianness" played a secondary role to assimilating into American culture. This organization, however, has helped me in finding my Asian-American voice amongst my colleagues and is one of the reasons why I have stayed with the Forest Service over almost five-and-a-half years. I hope APAEA can make a difference in whatever small way possible to make you all feel the same way.

Looking forward to meeting more of y'all soon!  
Arvind Bhuta

## APAEA Membership Update

Hello APAEA. We would like to take this time to update our membership directory; people move around and take new jobs in new areas. We are using a new platform, "Survey123," to collect your information. It will ask for your username and password (provided below). The survey asks you basic questions, like your name, region, job title, etc. If you know of retired Forest Service employees that would like to be a part of APAEA (we have many retired members), please feel free to share this survey with them too!

We hope to use the membership directory to develop a visual map of our members, in addition to a spreadsheet with a list of members. Stay tuned for the membership map!

**Survey123 platform for APAEA Membership:**

**Username:**  
apaeavisitor\_usfs

**Password:**  
MappingApaea2020

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/571e88eaf244f3a88dae8ca8ddc4615?portalUrl=https://>



2019 APAEA reunion in Gresham, Oregon on Oct 12, 2019.

## APAEA Celebrates 25+ Years of Community

By Yewah Lau, District Ranger, Olympic National Forest, Hood Canal Ranger District, R6

What I would give to enjoy great company and delicious food as I had just 6 months ago!! I'm grateful to have been able to attend a gathering of past and present APAEA members near Portland, OR last October to commemorate over a quarter of a century of the APAEA community. At the gathering, we celebrated the success of the idea to bring Asian and Pacific American (APA) Forest Service employees together. It was a great day of sharing food, talents, and stories.

The makings of APAEA originated from the idea and request to the Regional Forester of Region 5 back in 1989 to bring together APA employees in the region. Following the energy and interest generated from that event, a Proclamation of Partnership was issued on May 27, 1993, between the U.S. Forest Service and APAEA, officially sanctioning APAEA as an employee resource group. As recounted by John Kusano, one of APAEA's initial founders, both the agency's support and the energy of APAEA's organizers at that time resulted in a subsequent gathering of over 100 APA Forest Service employees in 1995 that launched APAEA as an organization for and by APA employees.

Many current APAEA members are likely beneficiaries of the advocacy by APAEA to recruit and retain APA employees. Perhaps a bit like aunts, uncles, and cousins, members of the APAEA community have certainly helped advocate, nudge, and support me in various ways over my career. Although I can be independent-minded, I've appreciated the encouragement and career advice, as well as the friendships and listening ears. I've also tried to do the same for others.

How wonderful it was last fall to spend time together to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. It reminded me that as physically distant as we may be from one another, we need to find ways to engage and connect. We each have so much to offer.

What are your dreams? What do you want to see happen? How do we help the agency and our communities? Let's talk. Let's share. And I hope to meet you at a future APAEA event, whether it be virtually or in person, to set the course for the next 25 years!



Smokey Bear in San Francisco Chinatown.

## San Francisco Chinese New Year Celebration

By: Hilda Kwan, District Hydrologist, Mendocino National Forest, R5

### History

In 1847, San Francisco was a sleepy little village known as Yerba Buena with a population of 459. With the discovery of gold and the ensuing California Gold Rush, by 1849, over 50,000 people had come to San Francisco to seek their fortune or just a better way of life. Among those were many Chinese, who had come to work in the gold mines and on the railroad. By the 1860's, the Chinese were eager to share their culture with those who were unfamiliar with it. They chose to showcase their culture by using a favorite American tradition – the parade. Nothing like it had ever been done in their native China. They invited a variety of other groups from the city to participate, and they marched down what today are Grant Avenue and Kearny Street carrying colorful flags, banners, lanterns, and drums and firecrackers to drive away evil spirits.

The event is now much larger, spanning a few days. The parade is still the center focus; the International Festivals and Events Association named it one of the top ten parades in the world. The Southwest Airlines Chinese New Year Parade in San Francisco is one of the few remaining night illuminated parades in North America and the biggest parade celebrating the Lunar New Year outside of Asia.

### Forest Service Participation

For the third year in a row, Forest Service employees have come together to help celebrate the Lunar New Year in San Francisco, including APAEA members. The 2-day community fair took place on February 8-9, coinciding with the parade.

We provide information to the Asian community (and general public) about Forest Service careers, recreation opportunities, fire-safe information, and Chinese history on public lands.



### Marysville's Bok Kai Festival

Staff from Mendocino National Forest Upper Lake Ranger District participated in Marysville's Bok Kai Festival on February 22.

This cultural event is the oldest continually held parade in California. It has been held annually since 1880 and is centered around Marysville's Bok Eye Temple. Bok Eye, the god of the North, is said to be the Chinese god of water, whose powers have successfully prevented Marysville from being flooded when all surrounding communities have sustained near-ruinous flooding as recently as 1997.

Our participation included having a fire engine in the parade as well as setting up an informational booth about Forest Service recreational opportunities, careers, fire safety, and Chinese history on public lands.



Bok Kai Parade 2020.

# Earth Day in Monterey Park

By: Chinling Chen, NEPA Planner, Angeles National Forest, R5

The Angeles National Forest headquarters is located in Arcadia, California in Los Angeles County, which has 88 cities under its jurisdiction. An estimated 10 million people reside in the county, out of which 1.5 million are classified as Asian and/or Asian Americans. The staff from the Angeles National Forest was invited to the Earth Day Environmental Education and Outreach Event hosted by the City of Monterey Park. Monterey Park is a city with about 60,000 residents, out of which ~66 percent are Asian and/or Asian Americans.

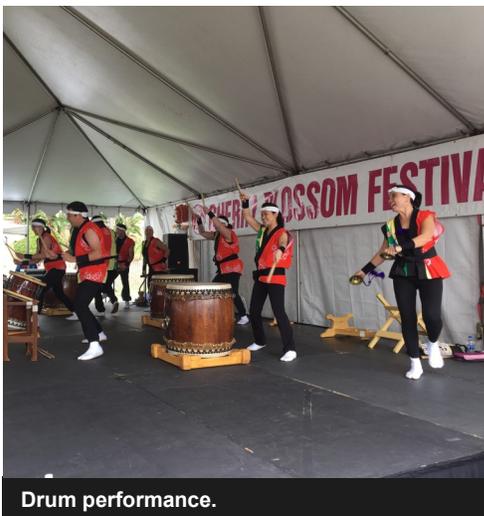


In-person experience with live snakes!

The annual Earth Day and Cherry Blossom Festival consists of educational booths from private and public agencies, environmental organizations, vendors, food trucks, a kids fun zone, and a stage with representative Asian performances. An early morning bike ride around the city is a fun outdoor activity for enthusiastic riders. An Eco-Summit brings in speakers and presentations on various environmental issues for the community.

Highlights of our 2019 booth were live snakes that one of our dedicated volunteers provided for the event. The snakes were trained to be friendly around people. We allowed kids to pet the snakes and feel the beautiful creatures; this rare opportunity to be close to live animals brought smiles to many of their faces. A full-sized bear skin specimen was on display at the booth. Kids were amazed by how big a real bear can be and how sharp the claws are. Frequently asked questions included: Is this a real bear? Do we have bears in the San Gabriel Mountains? Can people hunt bears in the mountains around here? Various animal skulls on display also drew their attention, and we connected urban dwellers with nature on this lovely afternoon. This event attracted many local residents as well as people from neighboring counties.

2020 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day celebrations globally. Earth Day was a unified response to an environment in crisis — oil spills, smog, rivers so polluted they literally caught fire. On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans — 10 percent of the U.S. population at the time — took to the streets, college campuses, and hundreds of cities to protest environmental ignorance and demand a new way forward for our planet. The first Earth Day is credited with launching the modern environmental movement, and is now recognized as the planet's largest civic event.



Drum performance.



Volunteer and Chinling Chen.



OCDP 2019 group picture with SOULA field school students and staff and PIT volunteers, Ah Heng site, Malheur National Forest.

## Rich History on the Malheur

By: Yiqiang Gu, Planning Engineer, Alaska and Pacific Northwest Regions

Chinese immigrants have long been a part of the building of today's American West. Their involvement in the California Gold Rush and the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad may be the first things to come to mind, but they also had significant involvement in Oregon.

Canyon City, Oregon became a major attraction to gold miners when word got out in June 1862 that Whiskey Gulch was the place to be. Soon after, Chinese miners from California and southwest Oregon near Jacksonville also joined in the search for gold in the area. According to historical data, by 1870, 42 percent of Grant County's population (940) and 69 percent of its miners were Chinese. Further records suggest that between 1870 to 1880, over 80 percent of all placer and hydraulic gold mining operations were Chinese-owned and operated. Although the Chinese miners had the same goal as Euro-American miners with a desire to go after the untapped resources of America's West, there were barriers that slowly caused their presence to disappear. The challenges were language barriers, cultural/food differences, as well as the increasing anti-Chinese sentiment that later hardened into legislation in the 1880s. A number of legacy misunderstandings eventually forced Chinese miners out of the area. As a result, and in combination with other political actions like the Chinese Exclusion Act, by 1890, only 6 percent of the county's population was Chinese.



Chelsea Rose from SOULA at the Chinese cooking hearth excavated at the Happy Camp site.

Over the years, archeological explorations on the Malheur National Forest (MNF) area clarified some of the misunderstandings. Archaeologists identified some critical areas in the Middle Fork area of John Day River, where they located nine cabin sites associated with Chinese mining. Archaeologists discovered artifacts like Chinese brown glazed stoneware, winter green porcelain, wok fragments, imported cooking oil and tea containers, and other Chinese related items at these sites. Excavations in 2019 confirmed the presence of a Chinese blacksmith shop, the first such site to be found in Oregon.

The work completed on the MNF was organized as part of the Oregon Chinese Diaspora Project (OCDP), a grassroots Federal/State/local partnership which emphasizes the shared stewardship of our important yet fragile cultural history. In 2016, the MNF, the Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology (SOULA), the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site, and the Grant County Historical Museum formed OCDP. It is co-directed by Don Hann at MNF and Chelsea Rose at SOULA. Other key partners now include the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest, the Medford and Prineville District BLM, the Oregon Historical Society, the Forest Service Passport In Time (PIT) volunteer program, the Portland Chinatown Museum, the Wing Luke Museum, and the Oregon Archaeological Society. The OCDP has established a Chinese American Advisory Committee, which includes retired Olympic National Forest Supervisor, Dale Hom, to help determine project goals and priorities. The OCDP was recently selected for the Oregon Heritage Excellence Award for their contribution to further our understanding of Chinese heritage in Oregon.

Passport In Time (PIT) is a nationwide Forest Service volunteer program where interested volunteers pair up with archaeologists and work together on heritage projects on public lands. Contributions by PIT volunteers have benefited most of the OCDP projects on the MNF. In 2019, the Blue Mountain Ranger District hosted a PIT project directed by district archaeologist, Katee Withee, where volunteers donated over 680 hours and youth crew members contributed 60 hours of work on the Chinese sites. For more information on PIT, visit their website: <http://passportintime.com/>.

The OCDP is committed to working with university students to help train the next generation of leaders in the archaeology of the Chinese diaspora in Oregon. Jocelyn Lee is working on her MA at the University of Boston. Her thesis topic is "Small Towns and Mining Camps: A Comparative Analysis of Chinese Diasporic Communities in Oregon." She was a crew leader at the SOULA field school that was held on MNF in 2019. She stayed an additional two weeks to translate some of the historic documents at the Kam Wah Chung Museum. Jocelyn has also done fieldwork at the Boston Chinatown and in China (where she met Chelsea when they were both working on a project through Stanford University).

Historians commonly portray 19th Century Chinese immigrants as unskilled laborers who were driven by famine and warfare to flee their homeland to work as virtual slaves. Evidence recovered at sites on the MNF and other locations in Oregon and historical research conducted by partners in the OCDP reveals a picture in which entrepreneurs from Southern China, who had a century of experience in organizing gold mining operations in southeast Asia, brought their knowledge and skills to Oregon. They built complex systems of dams and ditches for managing water for mining, organized themselves into companies in which all members shared in the risks and profits of the venture and created living sites supplied with luxuries imported from China. They contributed to the economic and social foundation of the state, and their stories deserve to be told as an important chapter in our shared history.

We are able to learn more about Chinese heritage in American West thanks to the efforts and dedication of people like Don Hann and OCDP partners like Chelsea Rose at SOULA. But they can't do this alone. If you are interested in participating in heritage volunteer programs, or if you'd just like to learn more about the history, please reach out to Don or APAEA.



Archaeologist and MNF employee Don Hann leading PIT volunteers on a visit to the Happy Camp site.



Top left: MNF seasonal archaeologist, Tatiana Watkins, holding a Chinese four season bowl fragment at OCDP 2018. Bottom left: Fragment of a Chinese brown glazed stoneware ginger jar being excavated at Ah Heng site. Middle: Volunteers excavating the Chinese hearth at the Happy Camp site. Right: Students and staff from 2019 SOULA field school at Ah Heng site.

Take a virtual tour of the Ah Heng placer mine on the Malheur National Forest: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd519936.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd519936.pdf).

Also, for more heritage information, please visit us at: <https://exploreapaheritage.com/>.

APAEA would like thank Don Hann, the Malheur NF staff, SOULA, and other partners for their continual support on the discovery and sharing of APA heritage in America.



Participants of the Wing Luke Museum-Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest cultural heritage event at the Iron Goat Trailhead in Wellington, WA.



U.S. Forest Service Archaeologist, Paul Alford, demonstrating techniques for distinguishing between rock and bone.

## Japanese Artifacts Unearthed During Community Exploration

By: Kelsey Chun, Youth and Community Engagement Program Manager, Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, R6

### Stories That Are Buried Beneath the Ground

A shard of ceramic ware, a rubber shoe, a vial of Japanese hair dye. These were some of the unremarkable objects that found in any other context might be considered garbage. But those of us who gathered in September 2019 handled them gingerly, believing them to be former possessions of Japanese laborers who maintained the Great Northern Railroad from 1915 to 1929.

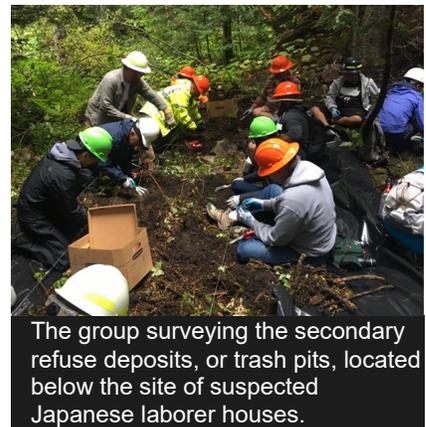
A group participating in a cultural heritage event co-led by Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience and the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest found the artifacts on Saturday, September 14, 2019. 30 members of the public attended the event, which centered around the experiences and contributions of Japanese immigrants on the railroad and recognized the importance of preserving cultural histories on public lands.

The event concluded with a sharing of meaningful findings. These ultimately included several pieces of Asian ware (ceramic ware featuring recognizable Asian patterns), pieces of a metal stove structure, remnants of clam shells and animal bones (indicators of the workers' diets), a rubber shoe, and a small cobalt-colored glass vial. Event participants found two glass bottles featuring maker's marks from the 1916 to 1929 period, confirming that these objects could be traced to the same time period that Japanese laborers were present.

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest hopes to continue collaboration with Wing Luke Museum through the development of interpretive signage at the Iron Goat Trail to memorialize the history of Japanese laborers who contributed to the Great Northern Railroad.

During the closing reflection, one participant shared his thoughts:

"We learned about the Japanese laborers' lives from a historical perspective, but discovering these mundane objects that were part of their everyday lives humanized their experiences and allowed us to connect. They were real people, and they were here."



The group surveying the secondary refuse deposits, or trash pits, located below the site of suspected Japanese laborer houses.



Left to right: Honor Guards Peter To (Fire Planner, R9) and Prawit Hess (Cleveland NF, R5).

# Forest Service Honor Guard

By: Peter To, Fire Planner, R9

## The Honor Guard

The mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Honor Guard is to honor and remember Forest Service employees who have sacrificed their lives for the safety and security of national forests, employees and the public. The Honor Guard is proud to honor these employees by providing full honors funeral and graveside services and by participating in ceremonies and official events when called upon by the Chief of the Forest Service. Members of this

esteemed group maintain an image that promotes its core values of honor, duty, integrity, and professionalism.

Over the past decade, the Honor Guard has become an essential part of the agency, paying tribute to employees who dedicate their time, skills, and efforts to make the Forest Service successful. In 2010, the Honor Guard was adopted as a national program and is working toward nationwide representation. The Honor Guard has participated in events, such as the Rose Parade and the transportation of the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree. Those events help the agency to promote Forest Service pride and to share that pride and image with the American public.

## Words from an Honor Guard Member

Looking back at my Forest Service career, I'm amazed at the journey this New York City kid has taken. An aptitude test in college brought forth an adventurous career with the U.S. Forest Service – in various roles such as a co-op student, NEPA writer, reforestation forester, forest fire management officer, and presently fire planner. For the last half of my career, I've been in fire management which has allowed me to travel all over this country to see different places and meet new friends.

The highlight of my career has been serving as a member of the U.S. Forest Service Honor Guard program. The Forest Service Honor Guard program participates in funerals and memorials to honor families of fallen wildland firefighters. Being part of this program allows me to "give back" to the wildland firefighting community which has been near and dear to my heart. Outside of work, my wife and I love spending time with our two Yorkies and exploring in my Jeep Rubicon.

## Remembering Robin Gyorgyfalvy

Robin Gyorgyfalvy was the Scenic Byways program leader and landscape architect with the Deschutes National Forest in Bend, Oregon. Originally from Hawai'i, she graduated from Mt. Holyoke College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in studio art/sculpture. She also attained a Master's degree and Bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Oregon. Robin became an ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects) Fellow in 2012. She was a huge supporter/proponent of APAEA and even signed up most of her district as members - wanting everyone to be included. She had set up a local chapter of APAEA and hosted several Storyteller Series. Robin was also featured in [Faces of the Forest Service](#) in 2013. Robin will be dearly missed by her APAEA colleagues.



<https://www.fs.usda.gov/features/meet-robin-lee-gyorgyfalvy>

## Resources:

[Social Stigma associated with COVID-19](#), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, United Nations Children's Fund, and the World Health Organization (WHO), 2020

[Combating bias and stigma related to COVID-19](#), American Psychological Association, 2020

[EEOC urges employers to mind bias against Asian Americans during pandemic](#), US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 2020

[Multilanguage information](#) about COVID-19 can be found here: <https://multco.us/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-information-multiple-languages>

### Urgency

by Sam Wu, Project Manager, National Technology and Development Program, WO

i am late for an important date

Said the rabbit just prior to the pandemic

Time is different in this wonderland

some arenas frenzied while others frozen

When even death and taxes feel uncertain

what does it mean to be late

In April, the Office of Civil Rights asked APAEA EC to help draft a message on social stigma. Below is the message published in [Inside the Forest Service](#), in case you missed it.

## Social Stigma and the COVID-19 Pandemic

The discussion related to the global pandemic we are experiencing often focuses on health and safety considerations surrounding the disease itself—common symptoms, ways to prevent or mitigate the spread of the virus, and public health statistics. In organizational contexts, we often communicate about responses to the virus related to specific workplace operations and contingency plans for carrying on the work of our agency's important mission. As well, aspects revolving around mental health and resiliency are highlighted amid the anxiety and uncertainty resulting from the myriad complexities and changes to everyday life associated with the pandemic. Indeed, the global COVID-19 pandemic has brought up many issues and concerns regarding the health and safety of our colleagues, friends and families.

One of these important issues which merits our attention is [social stigma](#). Social stigmatization arises from a heightened sense of fear and anxiety, which can manifest in ugly and disheartening ways, such as through hateful street encounters, verbal attacks and cyberbullying. These events have been particularly intense for Asian Americans—irrespective of ethnicity, location or age—who have reported startling increases across the country in harassment, incidents of bias and discrimination and hate crimes.

During times of crisis, it is important to remember that we are all in this together, and it is critical for everyone to help combat this virus and the stigmatization associated with it. There have been many instances where employees have stepped up in their work and private life to make positive contributions in the fight against the virus and this issue. One such example includes our own Asian Pacific American Employee Association. Association members have volunteered their time to check in on the health and wellness of other Asian American and Pacific Islander employees. We encourage the rest of the Forest Service family to continue to support each other during this time by checking in on colleagues and their communities as well.

At its core, the USDA Forest Service values diversity and interdependence. We all have a responsibility to be aware of and address microaggressions, xenophobia and racism in the workplace and society. We can stop the spread of social stigma by calling out hateful rhetoric when we hear or see it in person or online and report hate speech to the platforms that host it. We can support individuals who we witness suffer the brunt of hateful or derogatory comments by supporting them when these incidents occur and letting them know that we do not tolerate bigotry and discrimination of any type. We can listen empathetically to members of Asian American communities who, on top of suffering the mental health and economic impacts that every American will experience, have become the target of unfounded bigotry and misdirected hate.

Viruses do not have an ethnicity. Regardless of race, religion or creed, we are all susceptible to the global pandemic in front of us today. As we seek to make sense of our new normal, we can be equally susceptible to the fear that comes with crises. As our nation faces this unprecedented crisis, we must act as one community to support, help and protect each other.

# Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

## How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings should—

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

## CDC on Homemade Cloth Face Coverings

CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), **especially** in areas of significant community-based transmission.

CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

## Should cloth face coverings be washed or otherwise cleaned regularly? How regularly?

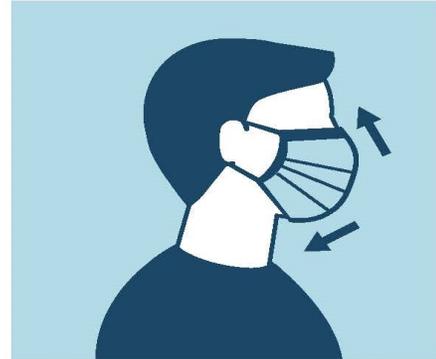
Yes. They should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use.

## How does one safely sterilize/clean a cloth face covering?

A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a cloth face covering.

## How does one safely remove a used cloth face covering?

Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their cloth face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.



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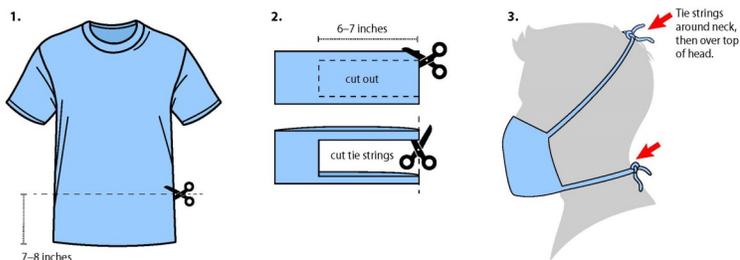
[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

## Quick Cut T-shirt Cloth Face Covering (no sew method)

### Materials

- T-shirt
- Scissors

### Tutorial

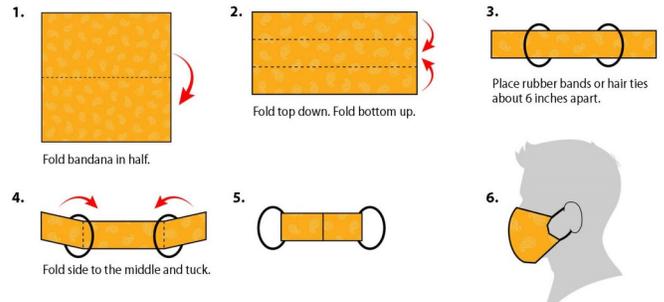


## Bandana Cloth Face Covering (no sew method)

### Materials

- Bandana (or square cotton cloth approximately 20"x20")
- Rubber bands (or hair ties)
- Scissors (if you are cutting your own cloth)

### Tutorial



## Find Out More

The “[Celebrate! Where Asia Meets America](#)” portal provides a wealth of digital resources related to Asia and the Asian American experience across the Smithsonian Institution. (<https://www.si.edu/feature/celebrate-asia> )

[asianpacificheritage.gov](http://asianpacificheritage.gov) is another great digital resource to learn more about AAPIHM.



Clockwise, from top left:

**Filipino lettuce field laborer.** Imperial Valley, California. February 1939. Photo by Dorothea Lange.

**The Japanese Tea Garden,** located inside Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California. 2012. Photo by Carol M. Highsmith.

**Mess line, noon, Manzanar Relocation Center.** California. 1943. Photo by Ansel Adams.

**Bomb Day at Bok Kai Festival.** Marysville, California. 1983. Photo by Ben Kwan.

**Hawaiian fisherman.** 1920. Artwork by Charles William.

## May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month!

Like most commemorative months, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month originated with Congress. In 1977, Representative Frank Horton of New York introduced [House Joint Resolution 540](#) to proclaim the first ten days in May as Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week. In the same year, Senator Daniel Inouye introduced a similar resolution, [Senate Joint Resolution 72](#). Neither of these resolutions passed, so in June 1978, Rep. Horton introduced [House Joint Resolution 1007](#).

This resolution proposed that the President should “proclaim a week, which is to include the seventh and tenth of the month, during the first ten days in May of 1979 as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.’” The House and then the Senate passed this joint resolution and President Jimmy Carter signed it on October 5, 1978 to become [Public Law 95-419](#) (PDF, 158kb). This law amended the original language of the bill and directed the President to issue a proclamation for the “7 day period beginning on May 4, 1979 as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.’” During the next decade, presidents passed annual proclamations for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week until 1990 when Congress passed [Public Law 101-283](#) which expanded the observance to a month for 1990. Then in 1992, Congress passed [Public Law 102-450](#) which annually designated May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. Most of the workers who laid the tracks in the west were Chinese immigrants.

# Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders of the Forest Service

Pictured are some of the Forest Service employees with Asian American and/or Pacific Islander heritage. Asian American Forest Service employees have contributed to the agency's motto, "Caring for the Land and Serving the People." Amid the COVID-19 crisis, there has been social stigma particularly intense for Asian Americans who have reported increases in harassment incidents of bias, discrimination, and hate crimes. During times of crisis, it is important to remember that we are all in this together, and it is critical for everyone to help combat this virus and the stigmatization associated with it. At its core, the USDA Forest Service values diversity and interdependence. We will continue to celebrate our diverse workforce and support each other during this time!



*Remembering* Robin Gyorgyfalvy  
Scenic Byways Program Leader  
and Landscape Architect  
Deschutes National Forest



Peter To  
Honor Guard Member  
Eastern Region



Lynn Khuat  
Soil Scientist  
Okanogan-Wenatchee  
National Forest



Suzanne Hendrickson  
Assistant Forest Engineer  
- Facilities  
Sierra National Forest



Upekala Wijayratne  
Ecologist  
Malheur, Umatilla, & Wallowa-  
Whitman National Forests



Phillip Chi  
Geospatial Information  
Specialist  
Deschutes National Forest



Anne Poopatanapong  
Regional T&E Wildlife  
Biologist  
Pacific Northwest Region



Becky Blanchard  
Pacific Northwest National  
Scenic Trail Administrator  
Pacific Northwest Region



Ian Yau  
Geospatial Systems Specialist  
Pacific Northwest Region  
Data Resources Management



Catherine Hong  
Facility Engineer  
Francis Marion and Sumter &  
Savannah-River National  
Forests



Betty Charnon  
Invasive Species  
Coordinator State and  
Private Forestry  
Alaska Region



Yiqiang (Kevin) Gu  
Planning Engineer  
Alaska and Pacific  
Northwest Regions



Teresa Brown  
Financial Analyst  
CFO ASC Budget and Finance



Yewah Lau  
District Ranger  
Olympic National Forest  
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Leila Devine  
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Pacific Southwest Region  
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Joseph Chow  
Fisheries Biologist  
Eldorado National Forest



Mae Lee Hafer  
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Magdalene Eden Luna  
Office Automation Assistant  
Northern Region 1



Jonar Rodrigo  
Program Assistant  
Outreach Recruitment and  
Workforce Diversity  
Pacific Southwest Region



Hilda Kwan  
District Hydrologist  
Mendocino National Forest

# Things To Look Forward To

**May 6, 2020. 2pm EST/11am PST**

**Viewing of Legacy-** 150 years ago, Chinese railroad workers blasted and chiseled their way through the rugged Sierra Nevada Mountains while completing the Transcontinental Railroad. Despite this monumental achievement, the Chinese railroad workers' contribution was excluded, ignored, and forgotten from history. Today, grassroots groups are working together to retell the story of these workers' lasting legacy. A Microsoft Teams meeting invitation has been sent out to the APAEA mailing list. *Please email [hilda.kwan@usda.gov](mailto:hilda.kwan@usda.gov) if you would like to join the viewing and did not receive an invitation.*

**May 12, 2020. 11am EST/8am PST**

**Training of Microsoft Teams-** APAEA will be holding a second training session on getting comfortable with using Microsoft Teams. This will be a hands-on chance for participants to brush up on some fundamental features, dive into some useful tools within channels, and learn from each other. Invitation to follow through the APAEA mailing list.

**May 27, 2020. 2pm EST/11am PST**

**COVID-19 Discussion-** How has your life been impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic? Additional details to follow and invitation to follow through the APAEA mailing list.

## About APAEA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Asian Pacific American Employees Association (APAEA) believes that diversity and inclusivity are a source of strength and assets to our agency. We demonstrate these values through our accomplishments. Our identities provide global and national perspectives on land, natural resources, civil rights, and work environment and performance. We honor the past and present achievements and contributions of Asian/Pacific Islanders who serve the agency in its mission "to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations" while "caring for the land and serving people."

We strive for common ground, and proactively address opportunities and resolution. We promote inclusive engagement and collaboration among Forest Service employees, agency leadership, and our Asian/Pacific Islander public. Our actions bridge social and cultural differences.

## Contact Us

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