The Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF) is the nation’s only pan-Asian children’s rights organization. Since 1986, CACF has been dedicated to making sure that all Asian Pacific American children and families in New York City have the proper access and opportunities to grow up happy and safe. We work to secure better policies, funding and services for the East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander communities. For the past 10 years, CACF have organized diverse Asian Pacific American youth from all 5 boroughs. We believe that Asian Pacific American youth have a meaningful role to be active agents in promoting equity and creating change. Through the experience of our youth leadership program, youth will develop a campaign and the skills necessary to raise awareness of issues in their community and get their voices heard.

**What is ASAP?** The Asian American Student Advocacy Project (ASAP) is a youth leadership program for Asian Pacific American public high school students who want to learn how to make positive changes in education through advocacy. **Advocacy** is what we do to express our ideas about what can be improved. By identifying problems and coming up with helpful solutions, we can advocate for improvements in our schools. Youth Leaders want to create positive change for the Asian Pacific American community and improve schools and the education system. Youth Leaders work together on a campaign and develop recommendations that address issues and problems that affect Asian Pacific American students.

**What does ASAP do?** ASAP Youth Leaders represent the voice of Asian Pacific American students and their needs. Currently, ASAP works on **Campaign Bridge**, a campaign to make sure that all Asian Pacific American students have the guidance and support they need to be able to graduate high school, and be prepared for college and their future. ASAP participants will develop their leadership skills as they will be learning the components of leading a youth-led campaign. They will utilize these skills as youth will meet with community partners, decision makers and media representatives in their work to create positive change for the needs of community.

**What do ASAP meetings look like?** ASAP meets for a **Summer orientation** (last 2 weeks of August) and meets throughout the school year on Tuesday’s from 4:30-6:30. The Tuesday meetings will be weekly or monthly depending on your ASAP membership status. These meetings will take place in downtown Manhattan. ASAP sessions include: Group discussions, guest speakers, campaign development, skills-building, and meetings with public officials and community leaders.

**What to Expect in ASAP 2014-2015?** Each year ASAP thinks big! WE NEED NEW ASAP youth leaders who will help us continue our current work on Campaign Bridge to better support APA high school students in public schools. ASAP can also develop and take on new issues and campaigns. But expect to engage with community members, develop actions, and implement recommendations for positive change!

**What are the benefits of joining ASAP?** Develop your leadership skills • Learn about advocacy • Work as a member of a team • Meet youth from different schools • Meet with key decision makers in NYC • Stay connected as a member of CACF • Increase knowledge on NYC’s education system • Increase knowledge on the Asian American community/identity • Networking opportunities • Earn a certificate of recognition • Letter of recommendation • A conditional stipend for core members upon completion of the year • Earn up to 100 hours of Community Service

**Can I apply?** ASAP seeks NYC public high school students of Asian descent or those interested in Asian Pacific American issues who are interested in building leadership and advocacy skills and creating positive change in the school system and in the community. **To be eligible, you must be:**
- Enrolled in a New York City public high school in Fall 2014.
  *Freshman & sophomores are highly encouraged to apply! Juniors & seniors are welcome too!*  
- Able to attend a Summer Institute training during the Summer of 2014 (last 2 weeks of August).
- **TIME COMMITMENT:** Able to attend ASAP sessions every week/month from September 2014 to June 2015 on Tuesday’s from 4:30-6:30pm. Must also commit 3 hours of work each week outside of our weekly meetings.
**How do I apply to ASAP?**

1. **Complete the ASAP 2013-2014 application.** Make sure to complete all three parts:
   a. **Student Application Form**
   b. **Personal Statement** - Your statement (including both essays) should be no longer than 2 pages.
   c. **Recommendation Form** - The recommendation form should be completed by an adult who knows you well (teacher, counselor, coach, employer, etc.) and is not related to you.

2. **YOU MUST Attend a First-Round Interview** with CACF staff who work with ASAP, and ASAP Youth Leaders. Why? We want to meet you! This is an opportunity for you to ask questions to youth leaders in ASAP, and for ASAP to learn a little more about you and why you are interested in joining. **Interviews will last 15-20 minutes, and will be held in Manhattan. (More details on Page 2 of Application)**

3. **Application Deadline!** Applications MUST BE RECEIVED by July 7th, 2014
   - Please send your **completed** application to Mitchel Wu.
   - You can submit applications via E-Mail to asap@cacf.org OR MAIL hardcopies to:
     - Mitchel Wu
     - Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
     - 50 Broad St., 18th Floor
     - New York, NY 10004
   - For an email version of the application or if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mitchel Wu at asap@cacf.org or 212-809-4675 x.107.

   **I Applied, What Happens Now?**

1. When your application is received, we will send you an e-mail confirmation. **Please make sure to follow-up with us to make sure we have your application if you do not receive a confirmation e-mail.**
2. Every interested candidate must attend a first-round interview on either July 18th or July 19th. (See pg. 2)
3. After the first-round interview, we will review applications and call-back applicants we would like to move to the next round!
4. The next round is another interview! This time you will only meet with CACF staff who work with ASAP.
5. CACF Staff will consult with ASAP Youth leaders and make a final decision.
6. If you are invited to join ASAP, you must attend the Summer Institute during August 2014.

   **IMPORTANT DATES:**
   - July 7th: Application Deadline
   - July 18th - 19th: FIRST ROUND INTERVIEW. All interested applicants must attend an Interview.
   - July 21st: All applicants will be informed if they have been selected to attend second round interviews.
   - June 22nd - 25th: SECOND ROUND INTERVIEWS.
   - July 28th: Applicants will be informed if they have been accepted or not.

   **ASAP Summer Institute** (in Manhattan): Please check to see if you will be free between the dates of 8/18 – 8/29, and make sure you will be able to attend!
2013-2014 Student Application Form

- ASAP is open to students enrolled in NYC public high schools interested in Asian Pacific American issues.
- Applicants must be able to attend the Summer Institute training in August 2014.
- Applicants must commit to attend weekly or monthly meetings during the school year on Tuesday afternoons.
- Application must be completed in full with an attached recommendation for consideration.


Name (First, Last):

Address:                        City:        State:     Zip:

Cell Phone Number:              Home Phone Number:

E-mail Address:

What is the best way to contact you? Check One:  □ Cell Phone  □ Home Phone  □ E-mail  □ Text Message

If by phone, what times are best to contact you? ___________________________________________

School (Attending in Fall 2014):

Grade Level Next Year (in Fall 2014):

Parent or Guardian’s Name (First, Last):

Parent or Guardian’s Contact Number:

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

Birth date:                        Gender:  Female  Male

Birthplace:      What Year Did you Come to the U.S. (if applicable):

1. Languages other than English that you speak and/or write: ________________________________________________

2. What language(s) do you speak at home?: ________________________________________________________________

3. Are you an English Language Learner (ELL) student? □ Yes   □ No, I was never an ELL student
   □ I used to be      What year did you stop?__________

4. Do you receive free or reduced lunch at school? □ Yes  □ No

Race/ethnicity (check all that apply):

□ Bangladeshi  □ Cambodian  □ Chinese  □ Hmong  □ Filipino  □ Indian
□ Indo-Caribbean  □ Japanese  □ Korean  □ Laotian  □ Malaysian  □ Pacific Islander
□ Pakistani  □ Sri Lankan  □ Taiwanese  □ Tibetan  □ Vietnamese  □ African American
□ Latino  □ White  □ Nepali  □ Other (please specify): ____________________________________________
Please answer the following questions. You may answer on a separate sheet if you prefer.

1.) How did you hear about ASAP?

2.) Please describe any extra-curricular/ out of school/ work/ volunteer activities you CURRENTLY participate in. Please include days and times.

3.) Please describe any extra-curricular/ out of school/ work/ volunteer activities you are interested in joining during the NEXT SCHOOL YEAR. Please include days and times if you know.

4.) Please choose your level of participation as an ASAP member:

   ______ Core Member (Meets every week)

   ______ General Member (Meets every month)

5.) Is there anything else you think we should know?

ALL APPLICANTS MUST ATTEND A FIRST ROUND INTERVIEW. Please remember that we will contact you to schedule an interview date on one of the following days: Friday 7/18 and Saturday 7/19. When you receive your application confirmation, we will let you contact us to set and confirm your interview time.

Student & Parent Agreement & Consent

I, _________________________________ (parent/guardian’s name), grant permission for _________________________________ (student’s name) to apply for CACF’s Asian American Student Advocacy Project (ASAP). If selected, we commit to full participation of the program’s summer institute, weekly or monthly sessions during the school year (4:30-6:30pm), 3 hours of ASAP-related homework every week, meetings outside of ASAP sessions, and a presentation of the group’s final project. We understand that ASAP will take place in downtown Manhattan, at CACF’s office and/or other locations in NYC to be determined. In order to participate in ASAP, my child must be able to travel to and from the program after school. We understand that my child must stay in fair school standing and any decline in academic performance or not meeting program expectations may result in dismissal from ASAP.

Signature of Student:            Date:

Signature of Parent/Guardian:        Date:
Asian American Student Advocacy Project (ASAP)
2014-2015 Student Application Form

Personal Statement
On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the 2 questions below. Each answer should be ½ to 1 page long. Typed essays are preferred. Handwritten essays are acceptable, but must be neat and legible.

Essay 1: Tell us about yourself!
• What does the word “Asian Pacific American” mean to you?
• Tell us about your family background. You can include information about: your/ your family’s immigration experience to the U.S., where your family came from, AND/OR who you live with and what your family life is like.

Essay 2: ASAP and You.
• Why would you like to join ASAP? What qualities and experiences can you bring as a member of ASAP? What are you hoping to learn?
• Tell us about your experience as a high school student in New York City? What is one problem you think should be addressed and why? How would you address it?

Learn a little more about ASAP’s Campaign Bridge:
(So you know what we’re working on… and what you will be supporting!)

ASAP is working on a college and career readiness campaign, Campaign Bridge. We want to make sure that ALL Asian Pacific American students have the guidance and support they need to be successful after high school. We want to see all Asian Pacific American students graduate high school and be prepared for college and future.

We know that Pacific American students have problems in school. We know that they are not all getting the support they need in school from teachers and guidance counselors and at home from their parents and family. We see students who need help in their classes and coursework and might not have the information and resources to make decisions about their future. There are many reasons that make us unprepared, whether it is family situations, language barriers (especially for English Language Learners), lack of support from school and family, etc. Consider these facts:

In New York City:
• 1 out of 2 Asian Pacific American children are born into poverty.
• Asian Pacific Americans have the highest rate (28%) of linguistic isolation meaning that no one over the age of 14 in a household speaks English well.
• Only 50% of Asian Pacific American students are considered prepared for college and career.
• 1 out of 4 Asian Pacific American high school students does not graduate on time.
• 75% of public high school students who enroll in community college need to take remedial math or English courses before they can take college-level work.
Asian American Student Advocacy Project (ASAP)  
2014-2015 Recommendation Form

Your student has expressed interest in participating in CACF’s Asian American Student Advocacy Project (ASAP), a leadership project for Asian American high school students who want to learn how to make positive changes in their school community. ASAP Youth Leaders work in a group with 20 peers on a college and career readiness campaign that aims to ensure all Asian American students have the opportunity to receive a good education and are prepared for college and their careers. Students develop a campaign by conducting research and meet with decision makers to share recommendations and conduct community education to raise awareness of issues.

Application deadline: Monday, July 7th, 2013! Please return your recommendation to the student to be submitted as part of their application packet.

Applicant's Name: ____________________________________________

Relationship to Applicant: ______________________________________

Reference's Name: _____________________________________________

Title: _________________________________________________________

Affiliation: ___________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: _________________________________________________

Phone Number: _________________________________________________

E-mail address: _________________________________________________

In a SEPARATE letter of reference, please make sure your recommendation addresses the following questions.

1. How long have you known/worked with the applicant, and in what capacity?
2. Please describe three qualities that you admire in the candidate.
3. What are the applicant's primary strengths and weaknesses? How might these affect the applicant's performance in ASAP?