



Korean American Youth Leaders in Training Summer 2026

The K.W. Lee Center for Leadership is sponsoring an exciting leadership development initiative for high school and college students called the Korean American Youth Leaders in Training (KAYLT) program. *Sa-i-gu* (April 29, 1992 Los Angeles civil unrest), which serves as the impetus for this program, exposed many deep-rooted problems in the Korean American community, particularly the lack of leadership. The purpose of this program is to take deliberate steps to fill that void by developing and supporting a new generation of Korean American leaders. The program provides an opportunity for Korean American students to develop leadership skills, explore their culture and history, experience hands-on community organizing, and develop a larger perspective of themselves in relation to their own community as well as the larger public arena.

Who Should Apply?

High school and college students who have an interest in the Korean American community and want to develop their leadership skills to create social change may apply. Non-Korean applicants are encouraged to apply. Each program is limited to 15 high school and 10 college interns. High school students must be at least in the 9th grade when applying to the program and will receive community service hours for their participation in the internship, if requested. The high school program tuition is \$200 for the entire seven-week program.

Program Components

The KAYLT program will be conducted in-person. High school interns will meet Monday through Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. College interns will meet Monday through Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.

EDUCATION emphasizes community organizing, power, politics, cultural diversity, gender, and generational issues.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT entails interviewing skills, coalition building, facilitation, and strategic planning.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS provide an opportunity to organize around critical issues facing the Korean American community.

Mailing Address: 853 S. Lucerne Blvd., #104, Los Angeles, CA 90005
Training Site: 3255 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 813, Los Angeles, CA 90010
tel: (213) 985-7451 • www.kwleecenter.org • email: info@kwleecenter.org

Tentative Curriculum

- Session 1: Orientation
- Session 2: Site Visits to Koreatown Organizations (Domestic Violence, Immigrant Rights, Education Equity, Civic Engagement, Mental Health)
- Session 3: Community Organizing v. Community Service
- Session 4: Asian Gangs & Reentry
- Session 5: Food Insecurity
- Session 6: History of Koreatown
- Session 7: *Saigu* (1992 Los Angeles Civil Unrest)
- Session 8: Houselessness
- Session 9: Workers' Rights
- Session 10: Coalition Building
- Session 11: Anti-AAPI Hate Crimes
- Session 12: Divided Families
- Session 13: Free Chol Soo Lee Movement
- Session 14: Interview with Elected Official

Application Timeline

- Application Deadline: March 15, 2026 (email submission only)
- Program Begins: June 15, 2026
- Program Ends: July 31, 2026

Who is K.W. Lee?

K.W. Lee is a renowned journalist, having worked in the mainstream and ethnic media for 40 years as a reporter, editor, and publisher. He has covered such issues as civil rights struggles in the South in the early 1960s, massive vote buying practices in southern West Virginia, and the plight of Appalachian coal miners, but he is best known for authoring an investigative series on the 1974 San Francisco Chinatown gangland murder conviction of immigrant Chol Soo Lee. His five-year-long coverage with more than 120 articles sparked a pan-Asian American community organizing movement, which led to a new trial and an eventual acquittal and release of Chol Soo Lee from San Quentin's Death Row.

Inspired by the lifetime of service and activism of K.W. Lee, the Center reflects his passion for community consciousness and his dedication to fostering young leaders. The mission of the Center is to train young people to take proactive steps toward improving and enriching the quality of life in their communities.

More Information

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Do Kim at (213) 321-7220 or at dokim@kwleecenter.org.

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Korean American Youth Leaders in Training

High School Application

Name _____
First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address _____
_____ Telephone # _____

Email _____ Cell Phone # _____

Birth Date _____ Birthplace _____ Gender _____

Name of High School _____ Year of Graduation _____

In Case of Emergency Notify _____
Name _____ Relationship _____ Telephone # _____

How did you hear about the program? _____

I. Personal Statement

- Please tell us something you think we should know about you. How will you be able to contribute to this program? (2 pages)
- Please identify an issue in your community you feel is pressing? (1 page)

II. Reference

Please list the name and contact information for an individual who can provide a reference.

Name	Title/Organization
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Telephone	Relation to you
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III. Resume

Please attach a copy of your resume.

By signing this application, I am stating that all of the information provided is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____ Date _____

Completed applications can only be submitted by email to Do Kim at dokim@kwleecenter.org.