

 <b>한국문화원</b> Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles		<b>Press Release</b>	<b>다시, 대한민국! 새로운 국민의 나라</b>
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## KCCLA hosts 'Coming-Of-Age Ceremony'



- ▶ Event Title : 80th Liberation Anniversary – 2025 Korean Traditional Coming-of-Age Ceremony
- ▶ Date : Saturday, February 22, 2025, 2:00 pm ~ 4:00 pm
- ▶ Location : Korean Cultural Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Ari Hall
- ▶ Presented by KCCLA & Hwarang Youth Foundation
- ▶ Organized by Myungwon Cultural Foundation
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The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (Director Sangwon Jung) announced that it will host a **Korean Traditional Coming-of-Age Ceremony** on February 22 at Ari Hall in collaboration with the Hwarang Youth Foundation (President Howard Park) and the Myungwon Cultural Foundation California Branch (Director Youngmi Yi) to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Korea's liberation.

The traditional coming-of-age ceremony, the first of the Four Ceremonial Rites of passage in Korean culture (Gwanhonsangje), marks the transition to adulthood. It helps youth recognize and commit to their roles and responsibilities as responsible members of society.

This ceremony will allow around 20 Korean and American youths to experience Korea's unique coming-of-age culture. Participants will wear traditional attire and partake in traditional rites, such as **Samgarrye (Three Bows Ceremony)** and **Suhoonrye (Admonition Ceremony)**. They will then receive a **Myeongjacheop (Certificate of Adulthood)**, acknowledging their status as adults. Additionally, they will pledge to fulfill their responsibilities as adults and spend time receiving congratulations and words of encouragement from their parents, family, friends, and relatives.

A special event will also take place where some participants will present portraits, they painted of U.S. veterans invited in honor of Korea's 80th Liberation Day. This gesture is intended to express gratitude for the sacrifices of these veterans who dedicated themselves to Korea's liberation and the defense of democracy. Furthermore, the Cultural Center will provide all participants with **K-culture goodie bags** symbolizing congratulations and good fortune.

Howard Park, President of the Hwarang Youth Foundation, stated, "We extend our congratulations to the youth celebrating their coming-of-age abroad while cultivating the Hwarang spirit. We hope they cherish relationships with others through love, tolerance, and trust while appreciating and honoring the traditional culture and etiquette of Korea."

Sangwon Jung, Director of the Korean Cultural Center in Los Angeles, remarked, "Just as Israel has its Bar Mitzvah and Mexico has its Quinceañera, this event aims to introduce the

remarkable Korean traditional coming-of-age ceremony to the local U.S. community while reflecting on the significance of Korea's liberation. Through this event, we hope the Korean-American youth, as future leaders, will take their first steps toward becoming responsible members of the global community."