

# SOUTHERN DISTRICT JR. YBL CHUCK MATSUMOTO KOKORO AWARD

The Chuck Matsumoto Kokoro Award, formerly the Dana Award, is an annual award offered by the Southern District Jr. YBL. In 2017, the Dana Award was renamed to acknowledge and honor the memory of Chuck Matsumoto who passed away while serving as the Southern District Jr. YBL Advisor in 2017. Between 2015 and 2017, Chuck served as the Southern District Jr. YBL assistant advisor and then as the head advisor. Chuck, who was a member of the Arizona Buddhist Temple was the temple president for over 10 years and the Jr. YBA advisor for over 15 years.

The word 'Kokoro' (heart) best describes Chuck's selflessness, compassion and commitment to the teachings of the Buddha. Chuck's dedication to the Southern District Jr. YBL, to his chapter and temple best exemplifies the true inner heart of Dana that he demonstrated for the benefit of the young Buddhists. Giving back to his temple and community were important to him and it is a virtue that we should all pursue.

The kanji for kokoro 心, is part of a kanji that makes up Namu Amida Butsu. The kanjis for Namu Amida Butsu are as follows:

**念仏 (Nembutsu) = 念 (mindfulness) + 仏 (buddha)**

**念 is made of two characters, 今 (Ima which means now or present) and 心 (Kokoro which means mind and heart).** The literal translation being, 'now my heart is one with the Buddha'. Chuck's selflessness, his gratitude for the Nembutsu and his genuine compassion are all examples of Chuck's heart being one with the Buddha. Chuck gave unselfishly and unconditionally from deep within his heart.

This award is for graduating high school seniors who have gone over and above by providing service to not only their temple but also to their community. The applicant's efforts must exemplify the true meaning of Dana, to give without attachment and expectation of receiving anything in return.

Requirements are as follows:

1. Applicant must be a high school graduate in the year of application
2. Participation in a majority of the past year's Jr. Y events
3. A letter of recommendation from either the chapter advisor or ministerial advisor (if the chapter advisor is a parent or related to the applicant).
4. Essay using one of the prompts in the application.

Each applicant will be evaluated by the advisors and ministerial advisors of the non-participating chapters (chapters with no applicants) along with the Southern District Jr. YBL advisor and assistant advisors.

The top three applicants will be awarded.

**Questions?**

**Contact Ralph Honda at [rkhonda205@gmail.com](mailto:rkhonda205@gmail.com) or 619-885-3788**

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\* Applicant must be a high school graduate in the year of application

Personal Data Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Last, First): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Ministerial Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Jr. YBA Information (circle best answer or fill in the blanks)

1. How many years have you been a member in your Jr. YBA? 1   2   3   4

2. How many years have you been attending your temple? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Have you ever served on your chapter's cabinet? Yes   No

4. If you answered "Yes" to #3, what positions did you hold and in which years did you hold them?

9<sup>th</sup> grade: \_\_\_\_\_ 10<sup>th</sup> grade: \_\_\_\_\_

11<sup>th</sup> grade: \_\_\_\_\_ 12<sup>th</sup> grade: \_\_\_\_\_

*During this year*

5. Of Leadership (LD), Jam Session (JS), Religious Retreat (RR) and the three seminars, which of these did you attend?  
(please circle event(s) attended)

|  |    |    |    |      |      |      |
|--|----|----|----|------|------|------|
|  | LD | JS | RR | Sem1 | Sem2 | Sem3 |
|  |    |    |    | Low  |      | High |

6. If your chapter hosted an event this past year, how would you rate your contribution to the preparation of the event? NA   1   2   3   4   5

7. How would you rate your contribution to your temple? 1   2   3   4   5

8. How would you rate your attendance at service? 1   2   3   4   5

9. Describe your best experience while in Jr. YBA.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## Essay Prompts:

**On a separate sheet of paper, please respond honestly to one of the following prompts:**

In a 600-word length essay, typed and double spaced: (Please write the selected prompt on your Essay)

1. *What is the single most important lesson you have learned while being a member of the Jr. YBA and how is that lesson used in your everyday life?*
2. *When has Buddha's Teachings been there for you?*
3. *What challenges have you experienced, and how has Buddhism helped you resolve them?*

## Guidelines for Applicants

- 1) The application (along with essay) and Letter of Recommendation must all be in by the deadline, or the application will not be considered.
- 2) Applications and Essays will **NOT** be accepted via email. Both must be mailed.
- 3) The top three applicants will be awarded. Awards will be presented at the Conference Banquet

## Advisor Letter of Recommendation

- 1) Please have your chapter advisor or temple minister (if the chapter advisor is a parent or related to the applicant) send a one-page letter of recommendation.
- 2) In support of your application for the Chuck Matsumoto Kokoro Award, this letter should contain information (but not limited to) such as the following:
  - Applicant's involvement in the chapter's Jr. YBA
  - Applicant's contribution to the chapter, temple, other.
  - Applicant's growth as a member or leader of their chapter/temple.
  - Applicant's understanding of the teachings of the Buddha and the practice of these teachings.
- 3) Letters can be mailed in, or emailed

## Guidelines for Letters of Recommendations

- 1) Recommendations will only be accepted from the applicant's chapter advisors and ministers.
- 2) A chapter advisor is one that is a current Jr. YBA advisor for the 2018-19 year.
- 3) The recommending party must sign the Letter of Recommendation. OR advisors and ministers may send in an email as a Letter of Recommendation provided it comes from their personal email address. This will substitute for a signature.
- 4) PLEASE adhere to a one-page limit request.

**Deadline: All applications must be MAILED and postmarked on or before August 1, 2020**

**Send applications and/or Recommendations to:**

Buddhist Temple of San Diego  
2929 Market Street  
San Diego, CA 92102  
ATTN: RALPH HONDA SDJRYBL CHUCK MATSUMOTO KOKORO AWARD

**Letters of Recommendations may be mailed and postmarked on or before August 1, 2010  
or emailed by the deadline date.**

**Email recommendations to:**

Ralph Honda  
rkhonda205@gmail.com