

SARINA THAO

📍 Milwaukee, WI

Objective

A prospering, highly-driven, academic and personable scholar who is passionate in learning, community service, and heightening the importance of her Hmong heritage and identity.

Honors

High Honor Roll Scholar

- Recognized at HAPA for having a GPA above 3.5 (weighted)

Middle School Valedictorian (2024)

- Recognized for the highest cumulative GPA in the Middle School class, as well as portraying personable and professional skills

Teens Grow Greens, Perennial First Place Winner (2024)

- Creation of an eco-friendly, homemade business called Paper Gals (through Teens Grow Greens mission), then presented and pitched it to roughly 20 active business figures

First Tech Challenge Robotics, State Qualifier + Judge's Choice Award (2024)

- Presentation of a robotics bot and recognized for our thorough reach back to Hmong community

Wisconsin Middle Level Forensics Association State Qualifier (2024)

- Passionately presented to judges about the importance of women empowerment, through pop-culture symbolism, such as Disney's Mulan

Academic Experience

Education

Hmong American Peace Academy (2028 expected)

- 4.5 Weighted / 4.0 Unweighted GPA
- AP Scholar / Advanced Math / All Advanced State Testing

Extracurricular Activities

Student Government Secretary (2022–present)

- Advising, leading, and advocating for student activities, accommodations, and health throughout the entirety of the year
- Past Grade Representative and Middle School Vice President

Key Club Secretary (2024–present)

- Assisting with school, community, and cultural events/activities around the city—furthering the experience for members but also the powerful mission of communal volunteer work

Community Experience

Marquette University, Summer Youth Institute (2024)

- Direct legal career experience through an intensive, focused week of preparation for a mock appellate court, in-person tours, interviews, and learning from a range of legal figures with differing backgrounds

Milwaukee Bar Association, Honorable Charles Clevert Internship (2025)

- Engaged in a realistic, full-time (9–5), 4-week experience that allowed for direct legal programming; shadowing, active menteeing, legal advice, and more—all while being placed at the focused US Bankruptcy Court

INPOWER, Voices of Hope (2025–Present)

- Delves into business through the creation of a useful, innovative campaign to improve the city of Milwaukee's youth mental health

Milwaukee Public Library, Teen Advisory Board (2025)

- Active volunteer at various MKE public libraries, assisting with public events, creating packages for the community, and leading meetings to improve our reach on teens/youth/the community