

STUDENT APPLICATION
2012 STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM
HIGASHIMURAYAMA, JAPAN / INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI
SPONSORED BY
THE JAPANESE SISTER CITY COMMITTEE
A COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

The Independence Japanese Sister City Commission sponsors an annual student exchange program with Independence's Japanese Sister City, Higashimurayama. Students share friendship and culture between the two countries in the overall annual event.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligible students must have completed the 9th grade or be younger than 22 years of age at the time of the trip and must meet one of the following requirements:

1. Be a resident of Independence, Missouri; OR
2. Be a child of, and residing in the home of, an employee of the City of Independence; OR
3. Be a child of a current or former program escort; OR
4. Be a child of, and residing in the home of a family who has acted as a student host family within the previous two years; OR
5. Be currently enrolled in the Independence School District.

2012 EXCHANGE POLICY

Depending on airfare and program fee's, applicant must be able to finance the estimated cost up to \$2,000 dollars. The Japanese Sister City covers many costs for housing and events once in Japan.

Applicant must be willing to assist the Commission at the Cherry Blossom Festival and participate with the Japanese Exchange Students following the return from Japan.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, submit this form, two (2) letters of recommendation (one being from a teacher, past or present) and a brief essay answering the following questions in detail:

1. Have you ever traveled? If so, where and when?
2. Have you ever been away from home alone, overnight?
3. What is your current GPA?
4. What activities are you involved in at school?
5. What community activities have you been involved in (church, volunteering, clubs, etc.)?
6. Why do you want to go to Japan and why would you be a good exchange student for this program?

You will be contacted within two (2) weeks after the application deadline for a personal interview.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAME	M	F	
ADDRESS (Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip)
PHONE (Day)	(Evening)		
SCHOOL	GRADE		
BIRTHDAY	AGE		

PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN(S):

I (we) have read the requirements and give our approval for our student to apply for participation in the Student Exchange Program with the City of Higashimurayama, Japan during the year 2012.

PARENT'S OR GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE	DATE
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Participation is limited to ten (10) students and one adult escort. Applications are accepted beginning January 2011. They will be reviewed and students who meet eligibility and policy requirements will be considered for participation in the Exchange Program. The Commission will make final selections of participants in the program after personal interviews. Consideration will be given to the applicant's academic performance and involvement in community and school activities. In the school year of 2011-2012 the selected students will meet with the escort monthly to prepare for the trip. The time in Japan lasts approximately two (2) weeks, with additional travel time (a day there and a day back) plus two weeks in Independence with some involvement required with the Japanese students. The 2012 exchange is scheduled for July 12th - 27th. Accepted applicants will live with a Japanese family while in Japan.

RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:
THE JAPANESE SISTER CITY COMMITTEE
 C/O John Seeley
 111 E. Maple
 Independence, MO 64011
 email: john_seeley@indep.k12.mo.us