



Rotary Club of
Newport-Balboa



Newport Balboa Rotary Club Newport Beach Sister City Association 2020 Reciprocal Okazaki-Newport Beach Student Exchange

Part A– Information and Instructions

Dear Interested Student and Parents,

We are excited to share with you the information about the Wendell Fish Student Exchange program, now in its 35th year. The exchange program provides participants the opportunity to experience the culture and people of Japan on a very personal level.

Students who are selected for the program will live with a Japanese family who has a son or daughter of the same. During the exchange trip students will visit their Japanese counterpart's school and participate in other activities along with sightseeing and cultural activities. This is a unique opportunity to visit and learn about a different culture and make lifelong friends.

Then in the fall, the participant will welcome his or her Japanese student counterpart to their home in Newport Beach to show them what life in the U.S is all about.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Dates

The actual exchange dates will be set by March 2020. Traditionally, the exchange is 10 days and occurs during the following time period:

Newport Beach to Okazaki – End of June to Early July.

Okazaki to Newport Beach – Late September to Early October.

The length of the Japanese students visit to Newport Beach is about a week.

Who is eligible for the Student Exchange?

- Public, charter or private 8th grade students
- The student applicant must live within the Newport Mesa Unified School District boundaries
- The student applicant's local school must allow the Japanese student to shadow them at school. Newport-Mesa School District allows shadowing for the exchange program. Policies at private and charter schools may vary.
- You must be able to host the Japanese student at your home.
- **There are no exceptions to these rules.**

Who is organizing the Exchange?

Two Rotarians, Wendell Fish of the Newport Beach and Masao Kato of Okazaki started the exchange 35 years ago.

The Newport Beach Sister City Association organizes the exchange, along with great support from the Newport-Mesa Unified School District. The City of Okazaki manages the exchange in Japan.

Newport Balboa Rotary Club and NBSCA select the students and help to organize the stay in Japan with Okazaki. Two teachers from the Newport-Mesa Unified School District travel with the students as chaperons.

Application Deadline

The application deadline is January 31, 2020. Candidates will be interviewed and selected February 8/9, 2020.

Selection Criteria:

The students who are selected will act as ambassadors representing their school, Newport Beach, California, the USA, and above all, their families and themselves. To qualify applicants should meet the following criteria at a minimum for consideration:

- Demonstrate proper manners and respect.
- Be able to make good decisions and be self-directed so that your actions always represent the highest quality of integrity, diplomacy and judgment.
- Demonstrate good academic performance.
- Be articulate and thoughtful.
- Exemplify the qualities of leadership – a leader knows how to lead and follow.
- Are Friendly with others.
- Show a real effort and interest in learning about Japan, its geography and culture.
- Demonstrate an awareness and respect for the cultural differences between Japan and the United States.

Lastly, you and your family must serve as hosts to your Japanese “buddy” in September/October. You also must participate in events that are scheduled for the exchange students (American and Japanese).

Written applications are first screened by the Newport Balboa Rotary Club and the Newport Beach Sister City selection committee and final selections will be made after personal and parent interviews.

Who is the contact?

Connie Skibba
Newport Beach Sister City Association
Okazaki Committee Chairperson
cskibba@att.net

How do I apply?

The Application Package consists of the following required forms:

Part A – Information and Instructions

Part B – Student Application Form

Part C – Parent Application Form

Part D – The Statement of Intent and Medical Form

Complete all forms and submit them via e-mail to Connie Skibba cskibba@att.net . If you are unable to scan in documents, please let us know at cskibba@att.net .

Follow the steps below:

- Review **Part A** and familiarize yourself with the procedures
- Complete **Part B - Student Application Form**, including the essay: “Why I Think I Will Be a Good Ambassador to Okazaki.”
- Have your parents complete **Part C - Parent Application Form and Part D – Statement of Intent and Medical Form**
- **Submit all documents to: cskibba@att.net . Deadline for submittal of your Application Package: January 31, 2020**

Applications received after the deadline will not be “accepted”.

Send your application early.

Applications that are not complete with all forms and signatures will not be considered.

What happens once I submitted my application?

After applications are submitted, finalists will be chosen and asked to participate in an interview. Based on your application and the interview, the selection committee will select the students that will be part of the 2020 Student Exchange to Okazaki, Japan.

What is next if I am selected to go to Japan?

Together with the other selected students and two chaperones, who are Newport-Mesa District teachers, you will meet with members of the NBSCA on several occasions to prepare you for your trip to Japan and discuss travel arrangements. You will also learn some Japanese phrases and background information about living with a Japanese family and going to a Japanese school.

How does the Exchange work?

In early July the selected exchange students and chaperones will go to Japan for ten days. During your time in Japan, you will be staying with a Japanese family in Okazaki and go to

school with your Japanese exchange student counterpart. While in Okazaki, you will officially represent Newport Beach at various formal meetings with Japanese officials. During of your visit to Japan, you will travel to Tokyo and ride the bullet train to Okazaki.

In the fall, you will reciprocate and host your Japanese counterpart in your home. The program will require you to accompany your Japanese buddy during school days and participate in formal and informal events. You will be required to accompany your Japanese buddy to all events.

Background and home checks

All parents and adults 18 yrs. and older that will be living in the home during the time the Japanese student is visiting Newport Beach will be required to undergo a background check, th “Live Scan” through the California Department of Justice. The cost is approximately \$35.

How much does it cost?

Each selected student assumes the cost for airfare to and from Japan and spending money. Airfare has typically been approximately \$1,600. Cost for incidental expenses (host family gifts, souvenirs etc.) are about \$250.

A \$500 fee is required to cover the cost of the land package expenses. The land package includes a visit to Tokyo, overnight stay, city sightseeing tour with an English speaking guide and riding the bullet train to Okazaki.

This fee is due when airfare is booked. All air and land package arrangements will be made by Nippon Express Travel, USA.

Airfare and land package fees are subject to cost at time of booking the reservations.

Each selected student will host the “buddy” student from Okazaki. You and your family will be responsible for expenses associated with hosting your “buddy student” in your home for approximately 6 days and to include the “buddy” student in your family activities.

Remember, submittal deadline is January 31, 2020.

Essay

Tell us something special about yourself that would make you a unique ambassador to Okazaki, Japan.

You should write your essay by yourself and it can be as long or short as you decide. You may submit the essay on a separate sheet.

Full Name (Last, First, Middle):

Relationship to Student Applicant:

Date of Birth:

Country of Birth:

Residence Address:

Street:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Email Address:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Business Phone:

Driver's License Number:

State of Issuance:

Employer:

Occupation:

Additional adults should be included on a separate copy of this form.

Provide for each family member or other persons living with you the following information:

Name: Sex: Age: Relationship:

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Family Information

Family hobbies or special interests:

Pets at home: Y/N How many:

What kinds of pets:

Will the Japanese exchange student share a bedroom? Y/N

If so, with who?

Do you have friends or neighbors with other high school aged children?

Have you had any hosting experiences in the past? If so please provide a brief description:

Will your son or daughter stay with any other family while the Japanese exchange student is here in Newport Beach? If so, please provide brief details.

Personal References

Please provide two personal references

Reference 1

Name: Relationship to you:

Address:

Street:

City: State: Zip Code:

Home or Cell Phone: Business Phone:

Email:

Reference 2

Name: Relationship to you:

Address:

Street:

City: State: Zip Code:

Home or Cell Phone: Business Phone:

Email:

Waiver, Consent and Release

I certify that all of the statements in this application, and any attachments hereto, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also certify that I have not withheld any information that would affect this application unfavorably, if disclosed. I understand that any omission of facts or misrepresentations will result in my son's or daughter's elimination from consideration for participation in the Wendell Fish Student Exchange Program. I further certify that I understand that the Newport Beach Sister City Association's (NBSCA) intent is to deny a position to anyone convicted of a crime of violence or a crime against another person.

I hereby give my permission to the NBSCA to investigate, verify and obtain information given in this application, including search of law enforcement and published records (including driving records and criminal background checks), contact with employers and reference interviews. I understand that this information will be used, in part, to determine my eligibility for hosting an exchange student as part of the Wendell Fish Student Exchange Program. I understand that I will have an opportunity to review the records and that there is a procedure available for clarification, if I dispute the record as received.

I specifically acknowledge that the NBSCA or its affiliates will inquire about, and I authorize them to verify, my employment, experience, personal references, background, including criminal background checks that may contain arrest and conviction data. I waive any right to assert that such an investigation or request constitutes an invasion of my privacy. I recognize that such inquires are in the interest of all personal involved in the Wendell Fish Student Exchange Program and I fully consent to such investigations.

IN CONSIDERATION of my acceptance and participation in the Wendell Fish Student Exchange Program, I, to the full extent permitted by law, hereby release and agree to save, hold harmless and indemnify, all members, officers, directors, committee members and employees of the participating entities, including but not limited to, NBSCA, Rotary, the City of Newport Beach, the Newport-Mesa Unified School District from any or all liability for any loss, property damage, personal injury or death, including any liability which may arise out of the negligence of any of the Indemnities, which may be suffered or claimed by me as a result of an investigation of my background in connection with this affidavit.

I further agree to conform to the rules, regulations and policies of the NBSCA and its affiliates and understand that my service can be modified or terminated, with or without notice or cause, at any time, at the option of either the NBSCA or its affiliates, or at my option. I understand and agree that the NBSCA or its affiliates may, in their sole discretion, decline to accept my application for volunteer services with or without cause.

If accepted as a host family, I/we agree to treat the visiting exchange student as our own son or daughter, and to provide appropriate supervision to him or her.

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE APPLICATION, WAIVER, CONSENT AND RELEASE AND THAT I SIGN THIS FORM VOLUNATARILY.

Signature of Father/Guardian: _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature of Mother/Guardian: _____

Printed Name: _____ Dated: _____

Part D - Statement of Intent

The Application Forms Parts B and C are only valid once the original signed Part D Statement is received.

Student's Name: _____

With my signature below, I hereby acknowledge that:

I, the parent/guardian of the above named student applicant, am interested in my above named son/daughter being considered for the reciprocal student exchange program between the cities of Newport Beach, CA and Okazaki, Japan ("Wendell Fish Student Exchange Program").

My son/daughter is interested in participating in the Wendell Fish Student Exchange Program.

If selected, my son/daughter and I, as the parent, will agree to the terms and conditions as set forth by the NBSCA.

If my son/daughter is selected, I will pay for the round trip airfare to Japan and land package fee.

If my son/daughter is selected, I will host a Japanese exchange student as part of our family.

If selected, my son/daughter will shadow the Japanese exchange student and will spend time with him/her. Further, I agree that if selected my son/daughter will participate **without exception** in required activities that the NBSCA is organizing for **all** the exchange students, even if this means that our son/ daughter will have to miss classes or tests and will have to make them up a later date. The NBSCA will arrange the excuses with the appropriate school administrations.

If selected, my son/daughter and I agree that our son/daughter will serve, if called upon, as an ambassador of the NBSCA on future events. Such events could be recruiting appearances at schools, City Council meetings, participation at parades, etc.

Furthermore, I also acknowledge that I have read and reviewed:

- Part A – Information and Instructions
- Part B – Student Application Form
- Part C – Parent Application Form
- Part D – The Statement of Intent Form

I further acknowledge that the above forms are complete and correct.

Parent's initials _____
Student Application initials _____

Medical Information:

The NBSCA will procure medical travel insurance for students and chaperons for the period of the trip to Japan. Parents will be responsible for the cost of the medical travel insurance.

Please indicate below whether your son/daughter is on any prescription medication that he/she will be taking while staying in Japan.

Name of Prescription Drug(s):

Dosage and Frequency of Consumption:

Is your son or daughter able to administer the drug by him or herself: Y/ N

Please indicate whether your son/daughter has any allergies/adverse reaction, such as to bee stings, penicillin, milk/milk products that need any medical attention.

Allergic/Adverse reaction:

What is the typical treatment?

Is your son or daughter traveling with the necessary medications listed if at all above? Y/ N

Signature of Father/Guardian: _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature of Mother/Guardian: _____

Printed Name: _____ Dated: _____