

Experience **JAPAN**

The Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission is seeking **student** and **adult** applicants to be Friendship Ambassadors to Richmond's sister city, Shimada, Japan.

The Trip

Our Friendship Ambassadors will live in Japan with host families, assist in teaching conversational English classes, visit schools, speak to community groups, and participate in local events. Prior to departure for Japan, ambassadors are required to attend cultural orientation sessions. Upon returning to Richmond, the selected ambassadors will participate in local Friendship Commission activities.

Shimada, Our Sister City

The Cities of Richmond and Shimada, Japan have been sister cities since 1961. Shimada is a city located in Shizuoka Prefecture of central Japan. It distributes lumber products, manufactures machinery and produces foodstuffs. Tea and mandarin oranges are cultivated on the plateau near the city. During the Edo Period (1600-1868), Shimada was a crossing point for the Oi River and was a prosperous post-station town on the Tokaido highway. Its importance in cross-Japan travel made it a popular subject for artists. Shimada has been depicted in woodblock prints by Utagawa Hiroshige and in poetry by Matsuo Basho, a 17th century poet who helped perfect the art of haiku.

Requirements

Applicants should reside, attend school, or be employed within the West Contra Costa School District.

Student applicants should be in their sophomore or junior year of high school.

Adult chaperon applicants must be 25 years or older & agree to a background check.

Dates:

The trip will occur in mid-June to mid-July and lasts three to four weeks.

Cost:

The total cost is \$1,700, this includes housing, food, and round trip airfare.

Important Dates and Responsibilities:

Deadline for applications: December 15th 2018

Interviews, Selections, and Notification: January - February 2019

Mandatory Orientation Meetings (attendance at all 3 sessions is required) : February - June 2019

The trip to Shimada: mid-June, 2019 through mid-July 2019 (Four Weeks).

Upon your return in August 2019 you will **assist and/or provide home-stay opportunity to a Shimada guest, provide a written and oral report on your experience in Japan, participate with fundraising, teach visiting Shimada students English, and serve as an Ancillary Ambassador, attending at least 3 commission meetings.**

How to Apply:

Applications available online at: erl.neocities.org/shimada-japan.html

If you have additional questions, feel free to send an email to: marilynleonglee65@gmail.com

Complete this application and return it with your personal statement and letter of recommendation to:

Marilyn Lee
2626 Tuller Ave.
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission

Student Friendship Ambassador Application

Directions:

1. Please complete all of the fields below.
2. On a separate sheet of paper, provide a short statement (limited to 250 words) telling why you would be a good ambassador and what you can contribute to the program over the ensuing year. Also provide any other information which may be helpful to your selection.
3. Please provide a letter of recommendation written by one of your current teacher.

Name

First Middle Last

Address

Street Email Address

City State Zip

Child's Phone Number Parent's Phone Number Email Adresses for Parent and Child

Citizenship

Are you a US Citizen? If you are not a US Citizen, what is your current status?

Do you have a US passport? If you do not have a passport, when do you plan on applying for one?

School Experience

Current Attending Grade Grade Point Average

Academic Reference: List the name and phone number of the teacher who is writing your letter of recommendation.

Community and Travel Experience

Community Service Experience

Foreign Countries Visited

What Languages do you speak?

Do you have work experience?

Position

Location

Hobbies and Interests

Medical

Do you have any medical conditions that could effect your performance as an ambassador? If so, please explain.

Do you have any dietary restrictions such as veganism, vegetarianism, or gluten intolerance?

Personal References

List two adult/professional references who are non-relatives, include their addresses and telephone numbers:

Ability to Host Students

Would you be able to host a Japanese student ambassador or chaperon for up to two weeks before or after your trip?

Parent / Guardian Approval:

My son/daughter has applied for the Student Friendship Ambassador program. I have read the program announcement attached to this application. I approve of his/her participation in the program, and will permit him/her to fulfill the responsibilities if selected.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date