

What is a Sister City Relationship?

- Its when two similar-sized cities like Higashimurayama, a suburb of Tokyo, and Independence decide to learn more about each others culture and life.
- Our special relationship started in 1978.
- The Student Exchange Program began in 1980 with the Adult Program beginning in 1983.
- Now, over 300 Independence Youth and 150 Adults have participated in both Exchange Programs.



Sister School performance
By Glendale Students



Sister School Teacher and
Escort with local Children

Each year, 10 Student Ambassadors have a 2 week home-stay in Japan, then host a 2 week home-stay for 10 Japanese Students.



Japanese Students Visit Powell Gardens and the Giant Insects.



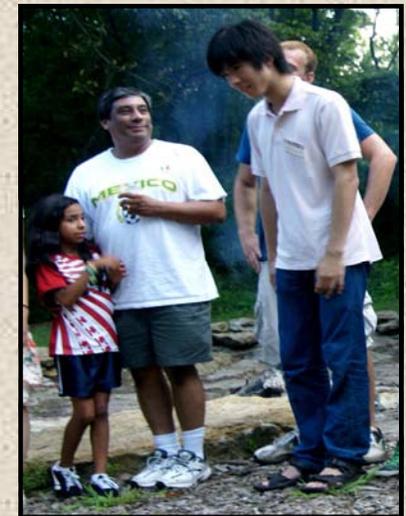
The Japanese Garden at City Hall, created by the Gardeners of Higashimurayama

How Can I Help?

If you would like to participate or contribute in support of the Sister City Programs, please Contact the Friends of Sister City, Chaired by Bruce Benson at (314) 259-1108 or by email: kbsbbb@comcast.net

Japanese Sister City

FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE TO SHARE THEIR LIFE WITH OTHERS!



Old Friends greet each other, while new Friendships are made.

www.ci.independence.mo.us/sistercity

What is the Purpose of the Japanese Sister City Committee?

- To fulfill President Dwight D. Eisenhower's goal after World War II of mitigating global conflict by bringing people closer together through various People-to-People programs.
- To develop and support Intercultural relations with Independence's Sister City of Higashimurayama, a suburb of Tokyo, Japan.
- To foster friendship with people from a different culture and life style.
- To provide opportunity for both youth and adults to enjoy homestays.
- To promote appreciation for the Japanese culture through cultural activities.



Student Group Visits Japanese Temple

For More Information
Email us at: jeannae@sbcglobal.net
Find us on FACEBOOK with
jscfriends@yahoo.com email address
www.ci.independence.mo.us/sistercity
and www.H-IFA.com

What Programs Are Offered?

- Exchange Programs that include:
 - Independence and Japanese Students.
 - Independence and Japanese Adult Groups.
 - Teacher and Government Official Visits.
- Sister School Programs:
 - Glendale and Megurita Elementary Schools.
 - Pioneer Ridge Middle School and Higashimurayama's 2nd Jr. High.
- Intercultural Events
 - Kansas City Japan Festival.
 - Annual Anniversary Celebration.
 - Visiting Artist Performances..
- Alumni Club Activities:
 - Former students can now join a Facebook Alumni Club for all past American and Japanese Exchange Students.



Higashimurayama's
Friendship Symbol

How are the Programs Funded?

- Proceeds from the annual Cherry Blossom Festival.
- Contributions through the Friends of Sister City 501c charitable organization from tax-deductible donations.
- Santa-Cali-Gon Parking Lot receipts.
- City of Independence assistance with maintaining the Japanese Garden.
- Assistance from the Mayor's Office in conducting official business and ceremonies.
- Community support from other public agencies and groups.
- Business contributions of various kinds.



Past and Future Exchange Students help raise money by parking cars.