

**STUDENT APPLICATION  
2017 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 Committee (JSCC) co-sponsors an annual Student Exchange Program with the Higashimurayama International Friendship Association (HIFA) to promote friendship and cultural awareness between the citizens of both cities.

**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 (June 2017) 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.

**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 between JSCC and HIFA.

PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE	DATE
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**2017 STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM POLICY**

Applicant must be able to finance air fare to Japan, the estimated cost up to \$2,200 dollars. JSCC and HIFA provide for housing and all meals. Applicant must be able to participate in Cherry Blossom Festival (Spring 2017) and the Japanese Student Exchange (August 2017). Participation is limited to ten (10) students and one adult escort. Applications are accepted beginning July 2016. Students who meet eligibility and policy requirements will be contacted for personal interview by a selection committee. JSCC will make final selections. Upon admission to the program, students will meet monthly with the Adult Escort to prepare for the trip. The 2017 Student Exchange is scheduled for June 2017 (Independence in Higashimurayama) and August 2017 (Higashimurayama in Independence).

RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:  
THE JAPANESE SISTER CITY COMMITTEE  
C/O Jeannae Segura Brown  
3721 S. Hocker Ave  
Independence, MO 64055  
email:Jeannaesb@gmail.com