

SISTER CITIES OF DELRAY BEACH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE TO MIYAZU, JAPAN

Youth bridging culture in friendship

In 2020, Sister Cities of Delray Beach will send a student delegation to Miyazu, Japan. If you are a local high school freshmen or sophomore and have a love for cross-cultural experiences, learning new languages, an interest in traveling overseas, and enjoy making presentations before groups, the student exchange program just might be for you.

WHAT IS SISTER CITIES OF DELRAY BEACH?

Sister Cities of Delray Beach is a 501c3 non-profit organization. It was created by a resolution of the Delray Beach City Commission in April, 1977, to promote world peace through people-to-people diplomacy. Delray Beach has formed Sister City relationships with Miyazu, Japan; Moshi, Tanzania; Aquin, Haiti; and Pesaro, Italy.

In 1999, the student exchange program with Miyazu, Japan was established as a means of creating friendly ties between the youth in the two cities. Since then, the organization has sent ten groups of student ambassadors to Japan.

Miyazu, Japan is a seaside municipality in the Kyoto Prefecture. It was the birth place of George Sukeji Morikami, after whom The Morikami Museum and Gardens of Delray Beach is named. It is also famous for its scenic "Bridge across the Heavens", a pine tree-covered, offshore sand spit. Miyazu is the ideal place for students to experience the culture and beauty of Japan.

WHAT IS THE STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM?

The student exchange program is a two-year volunteer service commitment with Sister Cities of Delray Beach.

- * 10-months of cultural orientation
- * 8-day summer trip to Miyazu, Japan (includes home stay, school visits, goodwill diplomacy and a tour of Kyoto City).
- * Parent(s) and students are expected to participate in all fundraising events in the school years prior to and after the trip to Japan.
- * Group presentations to local schools and community organizations in the second year of the program.

WHO CAN BE AN EXCHANGE STUDENT?

Eligible applicants for the program must meet the following criteria

- * 9th or 10th grader when applying
- * 3.0 Grade Point Average
- * Resident or student in Delray Beach or child of a City of Delray Beach employee
- * Have submitted a complete application packet
- * No dietary restrictions (or restrictions can be flexed to fit local customs).
- * Physically and medically fit for international travel
- * Available to attend weekly orientation sessions
- * Available to participate in local presentations during the school year following the Japan trip
- * Willing to host a student from Japan (optional, but encouraged).

This is a cultural exchange. The program seeks students who are able to function and interact comfortably in an international setting as well-mannered representatives of the City of Delray Beach. Students can expect to be exposed to foreign cultural situations where accommodations, customs, religious beliefs and eating habits will be different. **Those with special physical or dietary needs and limitations should consider this before applying.**

HOW TO APPLY

The 2019 Student Application is posted online at: <http://www.sistercitiesofdelraybeach.org/307-2/>

Email the completed form and all scanned teacher evaluations, photos and documents to: scdbjapan@gmail.com.

Applications are due by **Thursday, April 18, 2019.**

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER APPLICATIONS ARE SUBMITTED?

An interview committee will review completed applications. Eligible applicants and their parent(s) will be invited to attend a welcome reception at a time and place to be announced. The interview committee will select 10-15 candidates to be interviewed at a later date. The committee will choose exchange students from the candidates.

For more information, contact Ms. Nancy King at (561) 702-5061 or by e-mail: nancyking527@bellsouth.net