



Ohara-Isumi City Student Exchange Common Questions and Answers

Q: How much does the trip to Japan cost?

A: We estimated the cost to be less than \$2,500. This would include airfare, passport, and personal allowance in Japan. Hosting expenses in 2011 are additional. Most expenses in Japan are generally covered by host families and the International Exchange Association in Ohara-Isumi City. Note that selected students and their parents are encouraged to organize fundraising events and activities to supplement the cost.

Q: How long will the visit to Japan be?

A: The actual number of days students will stay in Japan will be 10 days. Including the traveling days, it will be 12 days, August 6-16, 2010.

Q: What activities are students expected to participate before, during and after the trip?

- A:** Generally speaking, each selected student is committed to the following activities:
- Before the trip: students and their parents are expected to participate in meetings, mostly held at the DSCI office. In these meetings, we will learn about culture, customs, language, and other important aspects of Japan. We will also discuss relevant business items.
 - During the Ohara-Isumi City visit: time will be divided into family days and group activity days. On family days, students will spend time with their respective host families and experience Japanese ways of living. On other days, students will together take part in events and activities, including the official meeting with the Mayor and Tokyo visit.
 - After the trip: each student and his/her parents are expected to host a Japanese student at home for 10 days, and get involved in cultural exchange activities, in 2011.

Q: Where in Japan do students stay?

A: Each student will be assigned to a host family in Japan. Basic information about the host family usually becomes available before the departure.

Q: Are students from Duluth expected to know Japanese language?

A: Not really. Students selected for the delegation will learn important words and phrases during the orientation sessions. People in Japan can understand English much better than we understand Japanese.

Q: Do students travel by themselves?

A: No. One or two chaperone(s) are required for the student exchange and are most often parents of the student delegates.

Q: What is the selection process?

A: Students must first fill out an application form and send it to the Sister Cities Office with two letters of recommendation. Representatives of the Ohara-Isumi City Sister City Committee will then invite each student for an in-person interview during the last week of January. The final decision will be made by early February.