

Lima Sister Cities Association Youth Ambassador Program

Including Japan Cultural Tour and Home-Stay Application Packet



Selection Criteria for the Lima Sister Cities Association's Youth Ambassador Program: To participate in the Japan Tour and Home-Stay in Harima-cho, Japan, students must meet the following criteria:

- Must be entering the 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade in the upcoming school year at any public, private, or home school in Allen County.
- Maintain a C average or better in academic performance. Enthusiasm, attitude, and the willingness to do your best are key selection factors.
- Demonstrate strong oral and written communication skills.
- Show a positive interest in learning about new cultures, languages, and the exchange program (note: proficiency in Japanese is not required).
- Be actively involved or express interest in participating in school or community activities.
- Exhibit socially acceptable behavior and be able to work well in a team setting.
- Be self-sufficient and semi-independent (e.g., able to wake yourself up and get ready during the trip).
- Understand that you will be away from home and may have limited opportunities to call or text.
- Understand the responsibility to cover all associated costs, including airfare, passport, travel expenses, gifts for the host family, and orientation attendance.
- Submit all required forms on time and meet all payment deadlines.
- Understand that booked tickets are non-refundable if the student withdraws from the program after purchase.
- Students must participate in all group activities on the trip.

Application Deadline: December 14, 2024

About the Lima Sister Cities Association (LSCA): The Lima Sister Cities Association (LSCA) was established in 1995 to foster relationships with foreign cities, with a strong bond formed with Harima-cho, Japan. Over the years, LSCA has organized various exchanges, including official delegations, cultural home-stays, and youth educational programs.

The mission of LSCA includes:

- Introducing the Lima community to the cultures, people, and economies of our sister cities.
- Facilitating personal relationships between Lima and its sister cities.
- Promoting programs that encourage learning and discussion about sister cities across schools, businesses, and other institutions.

Contact Information:

- **Matthew Neeley - President**
 - Phone: 419-303-9870
 - Email: LimaSisterCities@gmail.com
 - **Sandra Liechty - Vice President**
 - Phone: 419-303-4505
 - Email: phoebe@bright.net
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Educational Youth Home-Stay Program:

The Youth Home-Stay program, started in 2001, offers Lima-area high school students a unique opportunity to share American culture with Japanese students. Hosted by the Harima-cho International Friendship Association (HIFA), the program includes home-stays with Japanese families, participation in local traditions, school visits, and meetings with government officials, including the Mayor.

Students will experience excursions to historical landmarks such as the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Mt. Fuji, Tokyo, Osaka, and the Koya-san Monastery (trip destinations may vary). Safety is the top priority for LSCA and HIFA, and each host family is carefully reviewed.

Youth Exchange Dates: Late May - Early June.

LSCA will provide:

- All travel arrangements
 - Home-stay accommodations
 - Group meals
 - Adult chaperones
 - Provide orientation sessions to prepare students and their families
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Application Questions: Please attach your responses to the following questions :

1. Why are you enthusiastic about becoming a Youth Ambassador?
 2. What would you like to share about your school, family, or community with Japanese students and host families?
 3. How will you share your experiences with LSCA, your school, and the community upon your return?
 4. Why should you be selected to represent LSCA, your school, and community?
 5. Have you ever traveled before?
 6. What interests you about Japan?
 7. Do you have a passport?
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Additional Requirements:

- Are you willing to speak to community groups or your School about your experiences after returning?
 Yes No
- Do you understand that attending several mandatory orientation meetings is required?
 Yes No
- Do you understand the financial responsibilities, including the non-refundable deposit after being accepted , membership fees, and payments due by specific deadlines?
 Yes No
- Will you follow LSCA and HIFA guidelines, as well as Japanese laws, during the trip?
 Yes No
- If disciplinary action is needed you understand that it will void any refunds or rebates and may incur additional financial responsibilities if a student needs to be sent home early?
 Yes No
- Do you understand Students must participate in all group activities on the trip.
 Yes No

Estimated Expenses for the 10-14 day trip:

- Round-trip airfare, hotels, group meals, group transportation, tours, museums, zoos, parks, etc.: \$4,400 (subject to final number of participants; refunds will be issued if less).
- Personal expenses (e.g., personal meals, souvenirs): \$500+ (estimate).

LSCA will provide:

- All travel arrangements, home-stay accommodations, chaperones, and orientation sessions.
- Students must obtain a valid passport and overseas insurance (as required by Japan).
Note: Travel insurance is factored into the airline ticket.

Youth Ambassador Rebate Program: Students can earn up to \$500 in reimbursement by participating in LSCA activities, such as:

- Helping with the Cherry Blossom Festival
- Participating in the Lima Multicultural Festival
- Attending all LSCA monthly orientation meetings
- Japanese Garden cleanup
- Public speaking engagements
- Fundraising opportunities
- Being prompt and responsible during the trip (e.g., meeting at designated times)
 - Waking up in mornings and meeting in lobby
 - Returning to meeting point after buddy group exploration

Youth Ambassador Program / Home-Stay Responsibility Agreement:

This program requires students to acknowledge and understand :

- Responsible to Cover travel expenses.
- Join LSCA with a two-year family membership (fee of \$50)
- Bring personal spending money for the trip
- Have luggage

Lima Sister Cities Association Youth Ambassador Program & Educational Youth Home-Stay Application:

Student Information:

- Name: _____
- Address: _____
- Student/Family Home Phone: _____
- Student Cell Phone: _____
- Student Email: _____
- Age and Birth Date: _____
- Grade Level Entering: _____
- School Attended: _____
- Current GPA: _____
- Are your parents or grandparents members of LSCA? Yes No

Personal References: (Attach additional pages if needed)

- **Name:** _____
- **Phone:** _____
- **Email:** _____
- **Position:** _____

- **Name:** _____
- **Phone:** _____
- **Email:** _____
- **Position:** _____

Please attach a letter of recommendation from a high school counselor or administrator, verifying that you meet the program's criteria.

This Letter should include Education Performance and Behavior in social settings.

Letter must be Signed, Dated, and turned in with application

Family Information:

- Mother's Name: _____
- Mother's Address: _____
- Mother's Cell Phone: _____
- Mother's Email: _____
- Father's Name: _____
- Father's Address: _____
- Father's Cell Phone: _____
- Father's Email: _____

Please attach a current school photo or personal photo with a blank background.

Acknowledgments: The LSCA will provide:

- All travel arrangements, including transportation to and from the airport
- Home-stay accommodations with a Harima-cho host family
- Host family profiles and contact information
- Adult chaperones
- A detailed proposed tour agenda
- Structured monthly orientations to ensure a safe, successful exchange
- We will have a local contact in case of emergency or flight delays.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the application and agree to abide by the program rules.

Parent/Guardian Signatures:

_____ Date: _____
 _____ Date: _____

If disciplinary action is needed you understand that it will void any refunds or rebates and may incur additional financial responsibilities if a student needs to be sent home early?

Parent/Guardian do you understand the above statement Initials _____ Yes No

Student Signature:

_____ Date: _____

Return applications to:

Elida Road Tire Service
 C/O Lima Sister Cities Youth Exchange
 Attn: Matthew Neeley
 4240 Elida Road, Lima, OH 45807

Application Deadline: December 14, 2024

Lima Sister Cities / HIFA
Application for Home-Stay in Harima-cho, Japan

(this information is sent to Japan (HIFA) to find best host for home stay and is a general form)

Name & Gender - 名前 - 性別 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Male - 男 <input type="checkbox"/> Female - 女	Age - 年齢 _____	Date of Birth - 誕生日 _____
Address - 住所 _____ _____	Can you speak Japanese? 日本語出来ますか? <input type="checkbox"/> No - いいえ <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary - 初級者 <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner - 初心者 <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced - 上級者 <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate - 中級者	Hobbies/Interests - 趣味、興味 _____ _____
Phone Number - 電話ナンバー _____ Social Media . ソーシャルメディア _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Health - 健康 <input type="checkbox"/> Good - 良好 <input type="checkbox"/> Need prescriptions - 常備薬が必要 (you do not need to list any meds during application process)	REQUIREMENT for travel Oversea Medical Insurance: 海外健康保険 (Basic Coverage included in Plane Ticket) 基本補償は航空券に含まれております <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - あります <input type="checkbox"/> No - いいえ
E-mail - イーメール _____ _____	Allergy - アレルギー _____ _____	Dietary restrictions - 食事制限有 _____ _____
Occupation - 職業 _____ _____ _____	Do you smoke? 煙草吸いますか? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes はい <input type="checkbox"/> No いいえ Do you mind if host family smokes? ホストメンバーが煙草吸ったら嫌ですか? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - 嫌です <input type="checkbox"/> No - いいえ	Do you prefer home with: どのような家庭が良いでしょうか? <input type="checkbox"/> Girl(s) - 少女 <input type="checkbox"/> Boys(s) - 少年 <input type="checkbox"/> Adult(s) - 大人 <input type="checkbox"/> Friend(s) - 友達
Religion: 宗教 <input type="checkbox"/> Christian - キリスト教 <input type="checkbox"/> Others 他 _____	Do you drink alcoholic beverage? お酒飲みますか? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - はい <input type="checkbox"/> No - いいえ	Do you object to pet(s)? ペットがいたら嫌ですか? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - 嫌です <input type="checkbox"/> No - いいえ

Comments to host family: ホーム・ステイ先へのコメント

