



Lima Sister Cities Association Educational Youth Home-Stay and Japan Tour Application Packet

Selection Criteria for the Lima Sister City Association's Educational Youth Home-Stay in Harima-cho, Japan and Japan Tour:

- *Student must be a ninth, tenth, or eleventh grader for the 2022-2023 school year in any Allen County public or private school.
- *Student's academic record must be of a C average or better. Attitude, enthusiasm, and willingness to do his or her best are the primary factors for selection.
- *Student performs well in oral and written communication.
- *Student exhibits a positive interest in the EYH program and exposure to different cultures and languages. (Japanese language ability is NOT a requirement.)
- *Student is currently or is interested in becoming an active member of his or her school and community.
- *Student behaves according to socially acceptable standards.
- *Student works well as a team member, being an active and cooperative participant.
- *Student understands his or her responsibilities, including airline ticket cost, valid U.S. Passport, all travel expenses, gifts for host family, and attending all orientations.
- *Student will submit all required permission forms in a timely manner.
- *Student will submit HIFA home stay forms in a timely manner.
- *Students and parents understand all payments must be made in timely manner and follow pay schedule
- ***Application must be submitted by the November 12, 2022, deadline.**

We invite interested students and their parents to attend an informational meeting about the 2023 Youth Homestay on Sunday October 16 at 2:00-4:00 P.M.

Location: Immanuel United Methodist Church @ 699 Sunnysdale St, Elida, OH 45807

About the Lima Sister Cities Association (LSCA)

The Lima Sister Cities Association was formed in 1995 to establish Sister City relationships with one or more foreign cities. We have developed a solid, intimate friendship with the city of Harima-cho, Japan. The friendship has grown from an Official Delegation sent to pave the way, to Business Delegations, Adult Cultural Homestays, to the Assistant English Teacher Program, and to the Educational Youth Homestays. In addition, Harima-cho sends delegations, adult homestays, and youth homestays to Lima bi-annually.

The purpose of LSCA is as follows:

*To introduce the Lima community to the people, cultures, and economy of comparable foreign cities.

*To facilitate the development of extensive personal relationships between a cross-section of the Lima social and economic community with its Sister Cities.

*To develop programs and activities that will disseminate information about the Sister Cities throughout Lima as well as to encourage the discussion and learning about our Sister Cities across the full range of public, private, and business institutions.

Contact Information:

Matthew Neeley, LSCA President and Board Member
419-303-9870

LimaSisterCities@gmail.com

Elida Road Tire Service

Sandra Liechty, LSCA Vice President and Board Member
419-303-4505

phoebe@bright.net

Complete this application packet and return it to:

Lima Sister Cities Youth Exchange

Matthew Neeley

Elida Road Tire Service (drop off available) M-F 8-5:30

4240 Elida Road

Lima, OH 45807

Applications must be received by November 12, 2022.

About the Educational Youth Homestay

The youth homestays began in 2001 when the Lima Sister Cities Association sent the first group of eight Lima-area high school students to share American culture with Harima-cho Junior High students. The Japanese Junior High school curriculum includes the study of English. Unfortunately, these Japanese students do not get much opportunity to interact with native English speakers. The Harima-cho International Friendship Association requested a Youth Home-stay exchange to provide an amazing global cultural opportunity for both Japanese and American students. The 2001 visit was a great success. The Youth Homestay exchanges were repeated in 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018 as Lima sent groups of area high school students to Harima-cho, Japan. We will be offering another rare opportunity for a Youth Exchange and tour of Japan in June 2023.

All youth Home-Stay delegations include adult chaperones. The students are placed in Japanese homes and stay with families during the Harima-cho exchange. Every Japanese family that applies is reviewed by the Harima-cho International Friendship Association (HIFA) as well as LSCA before being selected as a host family.

Our travelers' safety is the top priority of LSCA as well as HIFA.

Prior to the trip, the student delegates and their parents will be required to participate in several group orientations to acclimate them to the Japanese culture and customs. The students will experience all phases of Japanese life during their visit. They will participate in Japanese traditions, attend Japanese schools, stay in a Japanese home, and share American culture with their new Japanese friends. They will also visit some famous and historical sites. Past examples include: the ancient Buddhist Monastery at Koya-san, the Hiroshima Atom Bomb Museum, Miyajima Island, and the Kyoto "Eiga Mura" Movie Theme Park. Student delegates will be expected to actively participate with LSCA cultural and fundraising events prior to and after the trip. Upon their return to Lima, the Youth Exchange delegates will be expected to write and speak about their experiences for school and community events.

The 2023 Lima Sister Cities Youth Exchange will be early June 2023. (Exact date TBA) LSCA will make all necessary travel arrangements, provide chaperones, and schedule several mandatory orientations to equip our 2023 youth representatives and their parents with the knowledge to ensure a safe, successful educational exchange. Please review all this information with your student and discuss it as a family. This opportunity truly involves the entire family, as it is a big decision. LSCA promises that all safety procedures will be taken, to ensure a positive experience. We are proud of our many past successful youth visits.

We invite interested students and their parents to attend an informational meeting about the 2023 Youth Homestay on October 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Location: Swartz Contracting meeting room @ 2622 Baty Rd. Lima, Oh 45807 (look for signs)

If you have any questions, contact:

Matthew Neeley at 419-303-9870, LimaSisterCities@gmail.com
or Sandra Liechty at 419-303-4505, phoebe@bright.net

LSCA 2023 Educational Youth Home-stay Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Student/Family Home Phone: _____

Student Cell Phone: _____

Student Email: _____

Age and Birth Date: _____

2022-2023 Grade Level: _____

School attended: _____

Current Grade Point Average: _____

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: _____

Are your parents or grandparents currently members of the Lima Sister Cities Association? yes _____ no _____

Application Questions

Please attach answers to the following 4 questions:

1. Why are you enthusiastic about becoming a 2023 Youth Exchange delegate?
2. Please explain how you would share about your school, your family, or your community with Japanese students and the home-stay families?
3. Upon return from Japan, how do you plan to share your experiences with Lima Sister Cities Association, your school, and your community?
4. In a paragraph, why should you be chosen to represent LSCA, your school, and our community?

Additional Questions: Please Initial

1. If you are selected to be a youth delegate to Harima-cho, Japan, are you willing to speak to community groups and organizations about your experiences after returning?

_____Yes _____No

2. Do you understand that to be a youth delegate, you and one of your primary guardians must attend several mandatory orientation meetings, beginning in January 2023?

_____Yes _____No

3. Please understand this is a commitment if you are selected as a youth delegate. The total cost of trip is estimated at \$4000 (air fare, train passes, housing, group meals, etc.). This does not include personal expenses such as personal meals, souvenirs, and small expenses. Upon your approval, a 2-year family membership is required, as well as a \$1000 trip deposit which must be paid by December 31, 2022, for a total of \$1050.00. Additional monthly payments of \$1000.00 each must be made by January 31, 2023, February 28, 2023, and March 31, 2023, which covers the estimated trip total of \$4000.00.

Do you understand this financial responsibility?

_____Yes _____No

4. If you are selected as a youth delegate, you are agreeing to follow LSCA chaperones' directions and judgements as well as LSCA and HIFA directives and guidelines. For your own safety, you will be expected to follow Japanese laws. If you disobey a chaperone or don't follow LSCA or HIFA guidelines, you may be sent home immediately at your family's expense. Do you understand this?

_____Yes _____No

Personal References:

1. Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Position: _____

2. Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Position: _____

Please include a letter of recommendation from your high school counselor or administrator, verifying that you meet the criteria listed for this activity. This letter should include information about your educational performance and behavior in social settings. The letter must be signed and dated.

Please attach a current clear school or passport photo to the Application:



