



STUDENT APPLICATION

FOR

EXCHANGE PROGRAM

TO

MITO, JAPAN

Summer of 2016

ANAHEIM MITO SISTER CITY STUDENT EXCHANGE APPLICATION

The student exchange between Anaheim and Mito, Japan began in 1984. Since then a group of Anaheim high school students have traveled to Mito in order to experience the history, culture and people. Many students have found this to be a life changing experience. Student participant, Derrick Schisler (2008) said of the trip:

“If you could do just one thing in your life that was completely different and changed your life for the better, taking part in the Student Exchange Program would be that experience. For me those two weeks were filled with fun, new understanding, perspectives, and relationships with my host family, guides, and fellow students that have become a major part of my life. So take this opportunity now and change your life forever!”

Up to four (4) high school students from the City of Anaheim will be selected by the Anaheim Sister City Commission to visit Mito, Japan for two weeks from late June through mid-July in 2016. These students will travel with an Anaheim chaperone and will stay with host families in Mito. The City of Mito plans the itinerary for the trip with a schedule that includes visits to schools, a trip to Tokyo, meeting the mayor of Mito and participating in numerous cultural events. Please note, that speaking Japanese is not a requirement of the Anaheim students.

All applicants are encouraged to visit the Anaheim Sister City Commission website for more information about this program, including photos and videos highlighting past student exchanges with Mito. The Commission’s website also has the student application available for download and can be found at: www.anaheim.net/sistercity.

It is an honor to be selected as a Student Ambassador for the City of Anaheim and the Anaheim Sister City Commission Student Cultural Exchange Program to Mito, Japan. Therefore, there are some obligations which all applicants are expected to meet if selected:

Please read the application and follow all instructions. **The application deadline is December 1, 2015.**
Applications must be completed to be considered.

Application requirements include:

- ✓ Students must be U.S. citizens that live in the City of Anaheim and are in grades 9-11 for the 2015-2016 academic year;
- ✓ Must have an interest in Japan and the Anaheim-Mito Sister City relationship;
- ✓ Must be available to attend the group meeting on January 5, 2016 and the interviews on January 7, 2016 at an Anaheim site to be determined.

If selected applicants must:

- ✓ Be able to contribute (through fundraising or other means) at minimum \$1,000.00 to help subsidize your travel and stipend expenses by May 1, 2016 (the total value of the trip is in excess of \$3,000).
- ✓ Collaborate with the other students selected to create a Memory Book of your experiences in Japan after the trip. Copies of this book will be presented to the Anaheim Sister City Commission and also mailed to the Mito City International Association, Mito Host Families, and Anaheim City Council
- ✓ Attend all three of the student orientation meetings with parent or legal guardian that will occur in May and June 2016.

- ✓ If you do not have a passport, apply for one by February 1, 2016. Estimated cost is \$125. (Application Fee \$110 + Picture Fee \$15)
- ✓ Volunteer for a minimum of 10 hours during the Inbound Student Exchange of Mito Students coming to Anaheim in late July or early August 2016.
- ✓ Families do have the option to host our incoming Mito students and will have a stipend of \$300.00 per student for hosting, there is a selection process and families must be approved by our selection committee to host. *Hosting will take place in late July or early August 2016.*
- ✓ Complete a registration packet, which includes liability release, emergency contacts, photo/video, releases, etc.

SELECTION PROCESS

All of the applications submitted to the Commission by the December 1st deadline will be evaluated by the selection committee and scored based upon an applicant's community involvement and strength of their essay. At that time, the group of finalists will be selected and invited to participate in a two-step interview process that will be conducted as follows:

- Selected finalists will be required to participate in a mandatory group meeting on January 5th. This meeting is intended to give the commission an opportunity to meet and get acquainted with the finalists in a more social setting. **Attendance at this meeting is mandatory.**
- All finalists will be invited to an individual interview with a panel of Commissioners on January 7, 2016.

The students selected for the student exchange will be notified shortly after the interview process. Students not selected, will also be notified of the Commission's decision. Students will be selected according to, but not limited to the following qualities:

- ◆ Have shown a strong interest in Japan and the Anaheim-Mito Sister City relationship
- ◆ Capable of honorably representing the City of Anaheim appropriately
- ◆ Interest and participation in school and/or community service activities

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Complete the following application, including the necessary signatures
- ✓ Obtain **three (3) letters of recommendation** from people who are not related to you, one of which must be from a school administrator, counselor or teacher
- ✓ Include at least one color picture of yourself
- ✓ Application, essays, letters of recommendation and picture(s) are due on December 1st, 2015. Only completed applications will be accepted, do not submit materials separately. Preferably submit your application by e-mail. If you cannot submit by e-mail, mail or deliver to Anaheim City Hall, Attn: Maggie Solorio – Mito Student Exchange, 200 S. Anaheim Blvd, Suite 733, Anaheim, CA 92805.
- ✓ Applications must arrive by 5:00pm on December 1, 2015. If your application is not received by the deadline, it will not be accepted.

EXCHANGE STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please type or print the following information. If you are selected as an ambassador, this information will be used to help us match you with an appropriate host family in our sister city. All information must be completely filled out or your application will be denied.

NAME _____ BIRTHDATE __/__/____ SEX __

ADDRESS _____ APT. # _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE () _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

HIGH SCHOOL _____

Current Grade: _____ Freshman _____ Sophomore _____ Junior

FAMILY INFORMATION: List the names of each of your family members, their relationship to you, their occupation and their ages

| NAME | RELATIONSHIP | AGE |
|-------|--------------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

How do you spend your leisure time/recreational time? _____

What school activities are you involved in? _____

What community activities are you involved in? _____

Do you currently work ___Yes ___No? If so, where and what do you do? _____

Do you play a musical instrument? ____ If yes, which one? _____
List any special interests, talents, skills or hobbies not described above _____

Do you have a Passport? ___Yes ___No

Do you currently take any medication(s)? ___Yes ___No if yes, please explain _____

Do you have any medical problems, including allergies that **could interfere** with participation in this program? ___Yes ___No if yes, please explain _____

Are you allergic or have any fear of dogs and/or cats ___Yes ___No

Have you ever visited a foreign country before? ____Yes ____No If yes, where? How long did you visit? _____

How did you hear about the Anaheim-Mito Student Exchange Program?

Do you speak any foreign languages? ____ Yes ____ No If yes, which Language?

ESSAY SUBMISSION: REQUIRED

In 300 words or less, please share something that you hope to gain from the Mito Exchange Program. Please include information on why you applied and what impact this opportunity may have on your life.

Please include your completed essay on a separate page(s) and attach it to this application. It is preferred for essays to be typed and double spaced.

The Anaheim Sister City Commission Selection committee will review all applications received by the deadline of December 1, 2015 at 5:00pm.

CERTIFICATION

In submitting this application, we certify that the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of our knowledge. We also understand the obligations outlined on this application packet and will comply with the best of our ability.

Signature of Student Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent & Print

Date

*****Please remember to attach your letters of recommendation to your application as well as your completed essay and a colored photo of yourself.**

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED VIA E-MAIL OR DELIVERED by December 1, 2015

Scan and E-Mail to: msolorio@anaheim.net

Or

Mail/Deliver to City Hall:

Anaheim City Hall

Attn: Maggie Solorio – Mito Student Exchange

200 S. Anaheim Blvd, Suite 733

Anaheim, CA 92805

If you have any questions about the application, the qualifications or any other component of this process, please don't hesitate to contact the Anaheim Sister City Commission at (714) 765-5019.