



Sister Cities Youth Delegation Newsletter

The Sister Cities Student Youth Delegation put together a newsletter to update friends of our group about our current activities. We hope you enjoy reading it! Send comments to mcebull@cablone.net.



Sister Cities Student Meetings – Luke Myers

Hi, I'm Luke Myers. I am currently the president of the youth delegation of Idaho Falls/Tokai-Mura Sister Cities group. Most months of the year we have two meetings, one is led by the adults and the other is led by the youth. This past year we have tried to make our youth meetings more meaningful by incorporating Japanese language and culture into a lesson. Over the past months we have learned from Dan Weinrich about numbers, money and counting it. We know now how to make sakura flower origami from Michelle Retallic. We'll use the flowers to decorate at our fundraiser at Wasabi Restaurant in May. Donna Hill came and showed us what different hand gestures mean. We've learned survival phrases from Rachel Cebull to use when we head to Japan later this year. Connor Corbridge taught us how to play "Go" one evening. I shared how to read kanji numbers from 1 to 10 and then we talked about some cultural differences and how to be sensitive to those differences during exchanges. We are looking forward to having some JACL members visit us next month to share an etiquette lesson. These lessons help us have a better appreciation of our friends in Tokai and aid us in having a more meaningful exchange. If you have something you'd like to show or teach us, please let us know!

and Idaho Falls. Each year gets a section in the DVD, with a popular US or Japanese song from the year playing in the background. I had a lot of fun putting my year together. It was interesting to watch styles from Japan and Idaho change through time, and I got to see a lot more of Japan than I ever had. Even their music is different and unique, which was very cool for me to get to hear. Through this project, I got to experience little bits of Japanese culture that I wouldn't have gotten to experience.

Even just compiling these videos helped open my eyes to a place that is very different from America, and it helped me get a better idea of the customs that are new and different. I was definitely excited to visit Japan before, but now I'm very much more so. I got to see the natural beauty and grace of Japan, and it was rare to find a picture where everyone involved wasn't sporting a wide grin. This DVD was a wonderful opportunity.



2013 Idaho Visit – A'maurie Duckwitz

Every other year, a group of teenagers comes from across the world and stays at the homes of dozens of Idaho Falls residents. They come from Japan, in a city called Tokai-Mura. They get to experience new things, like new foods and new people. It's an opportunity that can't be missed, and it's made possible by the program called Sister Cities.

I joined Sister Cities this past year after my cousin did, and I have to say it was one of the best experiences of my life. I had two girls come and stay at my house. Their names were Chihiro and Miku. They were incredibly polite, and they brought dozens of gifts for me and my family. They were very cheerful, and always very kind. While they were here, we went up to Harriman and stayed in cabins. We went to Lagoon and rafting down the Snake River. We went to a rodeo and had a massive holiday party to introduce the kids to some of the holidays in the US. Each of these experiences was very enjoyable, and both Chihiro and Miku had a great time. These were all things that I hadn't really had the chance to do either, and so it was new and exciting for me as well.



Youth Sister Cities DVD – Rachel Cebull

This year, the youth from Sister Cities have decided to do something to commemorate the years of friendship between Tokai-Mura and Idaho Falls. We are putting together a DVD with pictures compiled from most of the 31 years of the visits, both to Tokai



When we weren't doing the planned activities, we were at home. Chihiro and Miku both really liked to play Super Mario Bros with my brother and I, and they would share snacks with us and listen to music. They made gifts for every one of my friends that they met too.

Sister Cities provides opportunities to meet new people, and be exposed to different cultures and experiences. It allows you to do new things, and go to new places. It was one of the highlights of my summer by far. The students were fantastic, I had a lot of fun with all of them, and they were all very kind. Sister Cities provided them with new experiences and the ability to travel to Idaho. Everyone was very kind, and they all enjoyed themselves quite a bit.

I learned a lot when the students came to visit. I learned about different customs, and gained a new perspective on culture and traditions in Japan. I still keep in touch with Chihiro and Miku, and I consider them to be close friends.

All in all, Sister Cities is one of the best programs I have taken part in, and it gave me a chance to do a lot of new things and make new friends. It was a learning experience, and I'm really looking forward to going to Japan later this summer and seeing even more of the things there.

News Links from this Summer's Exchange:

<http://www.localnews8.com/news/japanese-students-visit-idaho-falls-for-sister-city-exchange/21199722>

<http://www.localnews8.com/news/Idaho-Falls-welcomes-sister-city-delegates/15383008>



Summer Trip to Tokai – Bryna Haile

On July 30th, 13 students plus 3 chaperones will be traveling to

Tokai-Mura Japan. This trip will last until August 11. This two week trip will allow students to not only site see, but participate in Tokai-Mura's yearly festival. This year's festival will be special because it has not been

held for the past three years. This is because of the devastating tsunami and earthquake that occurred on March 11, 2011. The festival will be held August 9th and 10th. As a former Sister Cities student, I look forward to this trip for many reasons, such as meeting and connecting with a new host family, visiting old friends, seeing more parts of Japan, and learning more about Japanese culture. This upcoming trip will have many new experiences for former and new students.



Cherry Blossom Festival Celebration

From late March to mid-April, or even early May, visitors and locals enjoy Japan's beautiful sakura (cherry blossoms). In Washington, D.C., the National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo. The annual celebration honors the lasting friendship between the United States and Japan. Come join us at Snow Eagle Grill/Wasabi Restaurant on May 6th and help us celebrate the spirit of the cherry blossom festival. While we will not be able to provide the beautiful sakura, we will decorate the loft with cherry blossom origami and have a DVD of pictures from past Idaho Falls Youth Sister Cities' visits. We will have a table with Japanese memorabilia, Japanese candy, books from Tokai, and information about our group.

Snow Eagle Grill will donate a portion of the proceeds from meals when the diners mention our group. We will have a raffle with lots of great prizes (go to <http://youth.idahofallsistercities.org/cherryblossomfestival.html> for raffle and dinner details). All proceeds from the meals and raffle will be used to help defer costs of the student trip to Tokai-Mura.

Annual Garage Sale

Is it time for spring cleaning? Let us help you get rid of those items you no longer use. We will be having our annual garage sale at 3625 Charleston Lane in the Stonebrook subdivision during their neighborhood sale on May 17th. Thanks to Dr. Traynor for lending us his driveway. If you have items you would like to donate to our sale, please call Sharen at 313-4838 or email robsharen@cableone.net, and she will arrange for someone to come and pick them up.



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<https://www.innisbrook.com/credits/index/verify/?schoolcode=910267&SID=U>

4th of July Liberty Festival



This year our group will be helping the city at the Liberty Festival parade. We will be there early to help judge floats. We'd like to thank Cindy Ozaki for helping arrange this fundraiser with the Chamber of Commerce!

JACL Activities/Sister Cities Activities

Our group has enjoyed working with the JACL throughout the year. The JACL members were kind enough to provide funding for our welcome meal during the student visit from Tokai-Mura this summer, and we really appreciated the help.

One activity we help JACL with is Japan Day at Rocky Mountain Middle School. They provide activities such as origami, learning to use chopsticks, Kumihimo (braiding/necklaces), Kaku (writing names), karate demo, Taiko demonstration, and food tasting. The Japan club at the school provided an amazing hologram of a Japanese singer last year.

We are exited JACL members have agreed to present information at our student meetings. The first presentation will be an etiquette lesson from Junko Flynn in April. We look forward to learning from her.

Another area we enjoy working with JACL is their Bento Box fundraiser. It has to be the best tasting fundraiser ever. We look forward to helping them this fall.

Sister Cities Adult Delegation

The adult delegation was a huge help during the student visit from Tokai this summer. They provided two meals and all of the desserts for our farewell party.

Members of the group hosted the three chaperons and were kind enough to help whenever needed. We would like to thank them and would like to provide any help they need during the adult delegation visit this summer.

2014 Calendar of Events

April

- 9th Adult Meeting
- 21st Student Meeting– Etiquette Training (JACL)

May

- 6th Cherry Blossom Festival Dinner
- 7th Adult Meeting
- 9th Japan Day at Rocky Mountain Middle School
- 17th Garage Sale
- 19th Student Meeting

June

- 4th Adult Meeting
 - 16th Student Meeting
- We hope to schedule semiweekly Japanese lessons

July

- 2nd Sister Cities Adult Delegation Visitors from Japan
- 2nd Adult Meeting
- 4th Liberty Festival
- 14th Student Meeting
- 30th Leave for Tokai

August

- 11th Return from Tokai
- No meetings.

September

- 3rd Adult Meeting
 - 15th Student Meeting
- Bento Box & CommUNITY Festival

October

- 1st Adult Meeting
- 13th Student Meeting

November

- 5th Adult Meeting
- 17th Student Meeting

December

- No meetings.

