



* SISTER CITIES OF GREENFIELD, INC. *
Youth Exchange Program ~ Adult Chaperone Information

Each year the Sister Cities of Greenfield organization chooses a group of 7th grade through 11th grade students from Greenfield-Central Schools and adult chaperones to travel to our Sister City, Kakuda, Japan. Adults must meet the one of the following criteria in order to apply: 1) Be an employee of the Greenfield-Central Community School Corporation; 2) Be employed by Keihin, or 3) Be an employee of the City of Greenfield. While in Kakuda, Japan, the chaperones and wing members will live with host families for approximately ten days. Selection preference will be given to those who have hosted students or adults for Sister Cities.

Students and adults on the trip learn and experience, firsthand, the culture of Japan. They will tour Japanese schools and businesses as well as meet with city government officials. The students will also speak to a number of groups during their stay. Many times they will answer questions from their Japanese student counterparts about American lifestyles. The students also will enjoy wonderful sightseeing trips and festivities. At the end of the trip, the students visit one of the world's largest cities: Tokyo.

Many students and adults who have traveled to Japan through this exchange in the past have commented that this trip is once-in-a-lifetime. The value of firsthand experience with a different culture, as well as how the USA is viewed from another country cannot be overstated.

Costs for this experience are minimal. Most expenses are paid by Keihin and the City of Greenfield as well as through donations by local business and civic organizations. The board also conducts fundraisers to help offset trip costs. All participants must pay a fee of \$750. A \$250 deposit is due within two weeks of the offer to travel and the remainder is due when the travel chairman confirms the travel arrangements, usually in April. Not paying on time could cause you to forfeit your opportunity to travel. Travelers are also responsible for obtaining a passport and other travel expenses as well as providing any spending money they wish to take. While in Kakuda, most meals are provided.

The current travel schedule for the Greenfield delegation is planned for mid-June in 2018. Chaperone applications are available on the Sister Cities of Greenfield website: www.sistercitiesofgreenfield.org Applications must be mailed to Phil Boley, 5509 North Cherry Tree Drive, Greenfield, IN 46140 and the envelope must be postmarked no later than midnight December 22, 2017.

Chaperones are responsible for the supervision and support of student travelers. Invited adults will be called for an interview with the selection committee, and participants will be chosen in February 2018. Those selected will be required to attend language and culture classes in April or May in order to prepare for their trip. Participants will be responsible for attendance at all classes with only one excused absence permitted. Failure to attend classes may eliminate your opportunity to travel, and you will be responsible for the entire cost of your flight ticket without the usual subsidy. Please note: during the following year, the wing delegation may also represent Sister Cities of Greenfield, Inc. at area civic meetings and may be asked to speak publicly about their Sister City travel experience.

For further information, please contact Phil Boley at 317-370-5767 or phil.boleym@econnectionchina.org.