



SISTER CITIES OF GREENFIELD, INC.

*Youth Exchange Program  
Information for Student Participants*

Each year the Sister Cities of Greenfield organization chooses a group of 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 11<sup>th</sup> grade students from Greenfield-Central Schools to travel to our sister city in Kakuda, Japan, and live with a host family for approximately ten days. Adult chaperones will accompany the group.

While in Japan, the students learn and experience, firsthand, the culture of another country. They will tour Japanese schools and businesses and will 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 the experience of a lifetime. The value of firsthand encounters with a different culture, as well as observing how the USA is viewed from another country, cannot be overstated. The Sister City program has offered this valuable trip to Greenfield students since 1990. Thousands of Greenfield citizens have been positively affected, either directly or indirectly, by this program. The board of directors believes it is important to continue to offer this cultural exchange program.

Costs for this experience are minimal. Most expenses are covered by Keihin, Inc. and the City of Greenfield in addition to donations by local business and civic organizations. The board of directors also conducts fundraisers throughout the year. ***All participants must pay a fee of \$850. A \$250 deposit is due within two weeks of the offer to travel and the remainder is due when we confirm the travel arrangements, usually in April. Not paying on time could eliminate your opportunity to travel.*** Travelers are also responsible for obtaining a passport, paying for 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 June, 2019. Student applications are available from the school guidance office or on the Sister Cities of Greenfield website [www.sistercitiesofgreenfield.org](http://www.sistercitiesofgreenfield.org). Applications must be mailed to Nikki Baker, 2118 Justice Drive, Greenfield, IN 46140 and the envelope must be postmarked no later than midnight **Saturday, January 11, 2019.****

Selected students will be called for an interview with the selection committee, and participants will be chosen in February, 2019. All participants will be required to attend language and culture classes in April and May in order to prepare for their trip. All chosen students must attend all classes with only one excused absence. **Failure to attend could eliminate your opportunity to travel.** ***Please note:*** during the following year, the wing delegation may also represent Sister Cities of Greenfield, Inc. at area civic meetings and may speak publicly about their Sister City travel experience.

This opportunity is available only to Greenfield-Central students who will return to G-CHS or G-CJHS for the full school year following the trip. Students who move or otherwise fail to return to their G-C school may be held responsible for the sponsored portion of their travel expenses (Up to \$3,000)

For further information, please contact Nikki Baker at 317-339-6107 or [nikki-baker@live.com](mailto:nikki-baker@live.com).