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## LOS ANGELES - NAGOYA SISTER CITY AFFILIATION

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### PhotoLOS ANGELES NAGOYA SISTER CITY AFFILIATION

#### ANNOUNCES

## 2019-20 STUDENT AMBASSADOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN JAPAN

The Los Angeles-Nagoya Sister City Affiliation (known as "LANSCA") is sponsoring a student exchange program, which offers eligible students the opportunity to spend three weeks in Japan this summer with most of the expenses paid by LANSCA. In order to participate in this program you must apply **by FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019 (Chaperones and Student Ambassadors), 11:59PM.** Four students will be selected after personal interviews. If this is of interest to you, complete an application form and submit it without delay.

#### Description of Exchange Program

The sister city affiliation between Los Angeles and Nagoya (Japan's fourth largest city) began in 1959 and was the first sister city affiliation for either of these cities. A program of student exchange visits between the sister cities started in 1960 when a group of Japanese students visited the Los Angeles area. Reciprocal visits have continued since that time. This year marks the 27th time that Los Angeles will send high school students to Nagoya under the sponsorship of LANSCA.

The summer program is planned for approximately three weeks starting around July 9 this summer (the exact date is not yet fixed). Four student leaders will be accompanied by a chaperone (typically an educator from a Los Angeles area school) and will live in the homes of Nagoya families for the first two weeks. But, this is not just another home stay program. During those two weeks you will attend a local high school, wearing a Japanese student uniform, attending classes, and participating in after-school activities such as sports and student clubs. There will also be instruction in the Japanese language, visits to the historical and cultural sights of Nagoya, appearances at various social functions, and time to work on a project entitled "Nagoya Through My Eyes" to be submitted to LANSCA upon your return to Los Angeles. Following your two-week stay in Nagoya, you will spend approximately one week touring the other parts of Japan: Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and so forth.

#### Eligible Students

**Student candidates for this program must be currently in the 10th grade and will be juniors in September.** Under only exceptional circumstances will LANSCA consider a student from the 9th or 11th grade, upon a showing of the exceptional qualities of the candidate and the *absence of equally qualified students in the 10th grade.*

#### Costs of Program

LANSCA will provide, at no cost to you, air transportation to and from Nagoya and transportation and lodging while touring Japan. LANSCA will arrange, through its counterpart in Nagoya, the homes in which you will stay while in Japan. The City of Nagoya and the host families will take care of your uniforms, most meals, transportation, and most daily living expenses while in Nagoya.

You must pay the expense of obtaining a passport, pocket money while in Japan, some inexpensive courtesy gifts for your Japanese hosts, and the cost of your meals while on the one-week tour, souvenirs, and the materials required to complete your project.

It is important that you understand that the funds for this program are not derived from the City of Los Angeles but instead are raised through the donations of private sponsors and the fund-raising activities of our volunteer members. LANSOCA is interested in promoting worthwhile exchanges between Los Angeles and Nagoya and expects that all students who participate in its exchange program will make a sincere effort to use this trip to further their education and promote goodwill between the peoples of Los Angeles and Nagoya. It is also our hope that this trip will stimulate you to pursue studies in Japanese language and culture and to involve yourself in the future in the development of relations between Japan and the United States.

**Project: "Nagoya Through My Eyes"**

The LANSOCA Student Exchange Program is not a sightseeing junket; thought there will be ample opportunity to see the sights of Japan. Instead, it is intended to be an *educational experience*, and central to this experience is the project "Nagoya Through My Eyes." The purpose of the project is for you to focus your attention on one aspect of life in Nagoya and thereby experience some aspect of life in Japan in depth.

Each student must undertake a project while in Nagoya and present the results of this project to LANSOCA upon return to Los Angeles. The title of the project, "Nagoya Through My Eyes," reflects its theme: the study of some aspect of life in Nagoya. You are free to choose the aspect to be studied and also the format in which the project is to be presented. LANSOCA has no preconceived topics for these projects. To the contrary, LANSOCA will evaluate a candidate in part on the imagination and creativity in selecting a topic and format. In creating your project you should consider (1) what you can do in Nagoya that will help you to advance your existing interests or grow into new areas and (2) what can you offer to the members of LANSOCA upon your return which will give them an interesting insight into life in the City of Nagoya.

Examples of conceivable (not required or necessarily recommended) subjects would be traditional Japanese techniques for making pottery, comparison of city elections in Los Angeles and Nagoya, use of computers in Nagoya schools, unique architectural works in Nagoya, a day in the life of "Mrs. Suzuki", retail shop management in large department stores, attitudes of Japanese high school students towards the military, environmental concerns of the harbor in Los Angeles and Nagoya and so forth. Examples of project formats could include film interviews, photographic displays, ceramic wares made through traditional techniques, sound recordings of temple bells, water color renditions of street life, written papers, computer print-outs, performing a dance or piece of music learned in Nagoya, and so forth. It's up to you. Let your imagination go. However, remember. LANSOCA is looking for creative projects that can actually be done, not simply "way out" projects. Focus your thinking and narrow your goals.

You will not be left on your own on this project. Prior to departure LANSOCA members will work with you to shape the project into a workable form. We will offer suggestions as to how best to go about completing it. One of the principal functions of the chaperone is to help you with your project. LANSOCA will alert the Nagoya city officials to the kinds of projects, which you intend to pursue in order to arrange for the necessary visits and assistance. In short, we will help in every way we can to help you succeed.

One of the challenges of this program is to design a project, which can be completed within the time available. You will have two weeks in Nagoya to work on this project but remember: during this period there will also be demand on your time for sight-seeing, social functions, and so forth. Set realistic goals.

You are expected to have completed your project in time for presentation to LANSOCA at a dinner function to be held sometime in late August or early September. Thus, we would expect that you would probably spend your

time in Japan gathering the materials for the project, to be put in final form upon return. Also, outreach to City Hall representatives will take place when Student Ambassadors return.

### Selection of Candidates

Each candidate must prepare an application. An application form is attached for student ambassadors and educator chaperones. It can be copied. We explain below how to get extra copies. Your application must be submitted no later than **FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019 (Chaperones and Student Ambassadors)** and will form the basis for the preliminary review of candidates. We do not expect you to have thought out the proposed project completely. Instead, the proposed project need be described in only general terms. Nevertheless, we do expect you to have some definite, even if general ideas, for your project. We will probably reject your application if we cannot understand the objective of your project and cannot see how it will be achieved.

You should try in your application to address the following general criteria, which will be evaluated with priority points:

- (1) Likelihood of Benefiting From the Program: Highlight the qualities in your background, personality, academic experience, etc. which indicate that living in a foreign country is likely to contribute to your development and that you are likely to pursue over a longer term interests in Japan. Mere curiosity about Japan or a desire to visit a foreign country or a search for your "roots" in Japan is not sufficient.
- (2) Cultural Studies: Show some demonstrated interest in foreign language or cultural study. Prior study of Japanese language or culture is not a requirement, though it would be considered favorably.
- (3) Personal Qualities: Add information, which shows adaptability, maturity, and good judgment in dealing with the unfamiliar. These are important personal attributes in making the summer a success. You must be able to get along well in a group and handle situations beyond your everyday experience and must be able to act on your own and deal with pressure. In the past our students have been interviewed by television news stations and were constantly put before the public eye. Also of importance are the personal qualities of friendliness, patience and inquisitiveness. Clearly, you will be viewed as an unofficial representative of our city and nation and must be willing to act accordingly.
- (4) Talent: It is very likely that you will be required to make a brief talk about yourself on several occasions while in Nagoya; experience with public speaking is desirable. If you have a musical or other entertainment talent, your hosts will encourage you to perform. You should be prepared to do so.
- (5) Community Leadership: As a Student Ambassador representing LANSCA, we look for student leaders that will be able to outreach to City Hall officials about the student exchange experience. Evidence or potential to network in the community is desired.
- (6) Proposed Project: Create an original and interesting project proposal.

Your application must be accompanied by ONE letters of recommendation & TWO references: one from your school administrator, counselor, teacher or adult who is familiar with you and your studies, activities, and interests. The most helpful recommendation letters will address the first three points noted above (give a copy of these to the person writing the recommendation letter).

The Student Exchange Committee of LANSKA will review all applications and decide which students should be further considered ("finalists"). Each finalist will be interviewed by the full Committee. Each interview will last about 15 minutes and a schedule of interviews will be set up beforehand so that the process will move quickly. After the interviews are completed, the Committee will decide upon the four students to be included in this year's exchange and send out notices of the results that same day to all final candidates.

#### **Program Chaperone**

The students are accompanied to Japan by a chaperone, who has most frequently been a teacher or counselor from a Los Angeles area school. The function of the chaperone is to provide guidance and assistance to the students during their stay in Nagoya and travels about Japan and to help make the students' project an enjoyable, educational experience.

For example, for many of the students this will be the first visit to a country as foreign as Japan and probably the first time under conditions of a home stay program. The pressure of the Japanese pace of activities, the heat of the Japanese summer, the crowded conditions of the country, and the daily encounter with new and unfamiliar customs and conditions can become in time quite stressful for a tenth grader. A key role of the chaperone is to recognize this build-up of stress within the individual students and through counseling with the student and perhaps dealing with the program coordinators in Japan to relieve the stress in a way that becomes a positive educational experience for the student. This can be quite a challenge as well as a responsibility.

The chaperone will stay with a host family in Nagoya and accompany the students on many (but not all) of their activities. Except while traveling about Japan, the chaperone is not expected to give full time supervision to the students. Some activities in Nagoya will be for the entire group; others will be arranged by the host families on an individual basis. The chaperone will have free time while the students are away on other activities.

LANSKA makes this opportunity available to any qualified adult on the same general terms as the students. In selecting the chaperone, LANSKA will be looking primarily for that experience and those personal qualities, which demonstrate the sense of responsibility to insure that the students have a safe and positive experience while in Japan and the ability to work with the students to complete their projects. The chaperone must be able to work with tenth graders and deal with the problems which students of that age are likely to encounter while away from home in a strange country. The chaperone is not expected to be a tour guide and thus need not have been to Japan before. However, all foreign travel requires the qualities of a sense of adventure, a desire to explore, and a readiness to deal with the unexpected. This is especially true in Japan.

After the student exchange, a chaperone is expected to continue to participate in outreach efforts to City of Los Angeles staffers. Experience in community organizing is desirable.

#### **Orientation of Selected Candidates**

Each student who is selected to go to Nagoya will be expected to attend at least two and possibly more orientation meetings here in Los Angeles before departure. The purpose of these meetings is to introduce you to the Japanese foods and customs and familiarize with the program and the City of Nagoya. You will also get to know the others in the group. These meetings will, to as great an extent possible, simulate the environment, which you will find in Nagoya. If you know no Japanese language, you will be expected to learn some "survival Japanese" prior to departure.

Since you will be seen as a representative of the City of Los Angeles, it is expected that you will have an understanding of our city government, its history, its geography and places of interest. If time and opportunity permits, LANSKA will arrange for a tour of L.A. Harbor (in anticipation of your tour of Nagoya Harbor) and a meeting with the Mayor. The students you meet in Nagoya will surely ask you questions on these matters.

LANSCA will also provide information on obtaining passports and selecting the proper wardrobe and luggage for the trip. The summers in Nagoya are usually hot and humid, and yet the Japanese still maintain a higher level of formality in their dress than is typical of Southern California. It is important to bear in mind that you will be staying in a Japanese house, which is usually much less spacious and offers less privacy than homes in Southern California and that you will be traveling by public transportation much of the time. Plan to travel light.

**Hosting a Student From Nagoya in 2020**

In August of 2020 we anticipate that Nagoya will send four students to Los Angeles to do the kinds of things that you will be doing this summer: home stay, sightseeing, educational project, etc. We believe that the exchange program is only half completed with your trip to Japan. Hosting a student from Nagoya, for all or part of his or her two-week visit to Los Angeles, is an integral part of our program. **WE EXPECT YOU TO MAKE A FIRM COMMITMENT TO HOST A STUDENT IN 2020 OR FIND A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT. THIS IS AN ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT OF THE PROGRAM.** Usually, the students from Nagoya arrive in the first week of August and depart two weeks later.

Please discuss this with your family; they will become involved. Basically, this commitment entails you providing a place for a student from Nagoya to stay during his or her visit to Los Angeles. LANSCA arranges activities during most of the week but leaves the weekends open for the host families. We will ask your family to help with driving and to make an active effort to introduce this student from Japan to your family's life in Los Angeles. LANSCA does not provide financial assistance to host families or defray any expenses of the home stay, but LANSCA does sponsor some of the group activities (Universal Studios, etc.).

If you are eligible and interested in this program, make a copy of the application form attached to this Announcement, email LANSCA Student Ambassador Committee at [lanscastudentexchange@gmail.com](mailto:lanscastudentexchange@gmail.com). A contact telephone will be returned if a message is sent via email. Fill it and send it by **by FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019 (Chaperones and Student Ambassadors)**.

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