



City of Edmonds Media Release

Office of the Mayor ~ 121 5th Avenue North, Edmonds

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Contact: Contact: Carolyn LaFave | 425.771.0247 | carolyn.lafave@edmondswa.gov

Fostering Global Citizenship

Students gain international understanding with exchange program

(Edmonds, WA) There is no better way to build international understanding than immersion in another culture. Edmonds students have a unique opportunity to experience the day to day life, the language, and traditions of Japan through an exchange program coordinated by the Edmonds Sister City Commission. For 15 students each summer, it is the adventure of a lifetime. While in Japan, these kids live with a Japanese family and travel to see the sights and sounds around Hekinan, Japan. Upon their return, they and their families offer the same consideration to the Japanese students. Introducing these kids to each other's culture opens their world and encourages a global view.

The Sister City Commission of the City of Edmonds invites students 14-18 years of age to participate in the annual student exchange to Hekinan. Edmonds students will travel to Hekinan for the last two weeks in July 2016. Student cost for the trip will range between \$1,600 and \$2,000 depending on the cost of airfare. Students from Hekinan will travel to Edmonds for 14 days in early August. Hekinan has been our Sister City since 1988 and the exchange program has been a central component of that relationship. Deadline to apply is February 29, 2016.

Applications and more information at <http://www.edmondswa.gov/sister-city-exchange-programs.html>.