



City of Edmonds Media Release

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

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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. Students 14-18 years of age have a unique opportunity to experience the day to day life, language, and traditions of Japan through an exchange program coordinated by the Edmonds Sister City Commission. For ten students each summer, it is the adventure of a lifetime.

While in Japan, students 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. "Every year I'm amazed at the growth and transformation of the students participating in this program", said City Liaison to the Commission Carolyn LaFave. "It's especially rewarding to hear about the exciting things past student delegates are doing and how the program has impacted their lives and driven their career choices".

The City of Edmonds Sister City Commission 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 2020 and then host a Japanese student during their stay in Edmonds during the first two weeks of August 2020. Student cost for the trip will range between \$1,600 and \$2,300 depending on the cost of airfare.

Hekinan has been Edmonds' Sister City since 1988 and the exchange program has been a central component of that relationship. Deadline to apply has been extended to Friday, March 6, 2020.

For an application packet you can: visit the Commission's webpage at <http://www.edmondswa.gov/sister-city-exchange-programs.html>; contact the Mayor's Office at 425.771.0247; or email the Commission at sister.city@edmondswa.gov.

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