



BAKERSFIELD SISTER CITY PROJECT CORPORATION

Bakersfield-Wakayama Summer Cultural Study Program

Each summer, since 1988, Bakersfield Sister City hosts students from our Sister City of Wakayama, Japan. This year will be the 26th time that we have hosted this summer group. Wakayama's Sister City committee carefully selects the students who participate in this annual Cultural Study Program, which always includes a visit to Bakersfield, where the students have the opportunity to stay in the homes of American families. This summer the group of 27 junior high and 14 high school students will be visiting Bakersfield from Thursday, August 4 to Tuesday, August 9. Note that this will be only one week before the fall semester begins on Wednesday, August 17.

We are looking for families who would be willing to host two students for 5 nights/4 days. Though all of the students will speak some English, we always try to arrange the home-stays so that none of the Japanese students are "singles"; this helps both them and their host families to feel more comfortable. As home-stay hosts, you should simply continue with your normal activities, involving your guests as much as possible in a "typical" American family. The students will also be visiting the usual tourist attractions in the Los Angeles (Disneyland, Universal City Walk, etc.) and San Francisco areas. Those who have participated in the past in this home-stay program can tell you what a wonderfully rewarding experience it is. Often, these brief stays blossom into long-lasting friendships, even some multi-generational ones.

At this time, our plans for group activities have not been finalized. However, we are planning a required welcome party and other optional activities. This should still leave you with "family time" to bond with your guests.

If you are willing to host students this summer, please fill out the information on the attached form, and return it as soon as possible (by Friday, June 17, 2015) to one of the addresses below or send it via e-mail. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Deborah Verdugo at 333-0333.

If your family is selected to host we will contact you by Monday, June 20th, with the time and place for an orientation meeting. After we have received the final list of Japanese students, we will match them with their home-stay hosts, and give you their names and contact info. At the meeting, we will discuss what you may expect to experience as hosts and answer any questions that you may have. We will also have more definite plans for group activities to share with you at that time.



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***2016 Wakayama Summer Cultural Study Visit
Host Family Application***

Yes! We would like to host Japanese students this summer.

Parent's Names _____

Parent phone numbers: (home) _____ (cell) _____

Host Student Cell: _____ e-mail _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Parent e-mail: _____

Family Member Information: Children (If more space is needed, use the back.)

1. Name _____ Age _____ Gender _____ School _____ Grade: _____

2. Name _____ Age _____ Gender _____ School _____ Grade: _____

3. Name _____ Age _____ Gender _____ School _____ Grade: _____

Do parents both work? Yes _____ No _____

If both parents work, who will be the responsible adult during work hours?

Do you have pets in your home? _____ If yes, what kind? _____

Does anyone in your family smoke? _____

Number of students you can host: two _____ three _____

Preference: boys _____ girls _____ does not matter _____

What sort of accommodations can you provide? (Note: a separate bedroom is not required) private bedroom _____ shared bedroom _____ hide-a-bed or air mattress _____

Have you participated in a Bakersfield Sister City student home-stay program before?
_____ If yes, when? _____

Have you hosted other exchange students before? _____ If yes, from what country? _____ Through what program? _____

For the host student: Because we want to match students with compatible families, please tell us a little about your interests and favorite/typical activities:

How did you hear about this program?

Reasons that you would like to host:

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

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