



BAKERSFIELD SISTER CITY YOUTH AMBASSADOR TRIP TO WAKAYAMA, JAPAN

BAKERSFIELD SISTER CITY PROJECT CORPORATION IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR YOUTH AMBASSADORS WHO WILL VISIT OUR SISTER CITY OF WAKAYAMA, JAPAN JUNE 6-15, 2018

NEXT ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: Monday, February 19, 2018 at 7 pm
The Stone's Residence: 7401 Hooper Avenue, 93308
APPLICATION & NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$150 * DUE February 23, 2018 *
COST PER PERSON: \$2,500

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

As a Bakersfield Sister City Youth Ambassador you will have the opportunity to form global friendships and enjoy a life-changing experience, while fulfilling and underscoring the mission of the Sister Cities International program of "bringing the world together through education and cultural exchange."

The Bakersfield Sister City Youth Ambassador Program offers the youth of Bakersfield an opportunity to represent the City as a Youth Ambassador to Bakersfield's Sister City – Wakayama, Japan, while also visiting other cultural and historical sites in Japan.

The Youth Ambassadors and adult chaperones are immersed in a cultural experience while living with host families and experiencing a variety of activities planned by the city and their hosts, including visits to schools and other places of interest in Wakayama.

After their stay in Wakayama, the group will visit three very historic Japanese areas-Nara and Kyoto—where they will visit Buddhist temples, and Shinto shrines, and Hiroshima, where they will visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum.

FOR A DETAILED ITINERARY AND AN APPLICATION FORM:

- **E-MAIL SUSAN STONE AT rstone2@bak.rr.com**
- **OR DOWNLOAD THE ITINERARY & FORM FROM OUR WEBSITE: www.bakersfieldsistercity.org**

PRICING & PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Price:

Airfare, hotel, some meals, and land transport in Japan = \$2,500 (or less, depending on number of participants).

This does not include transport to and from LAX, but does include a \$50 membership fee to Bakersfield Sister City to help defray our expenses (gifts for city officials & others in Wakayama, etc.).

Payment Schedule:

A deposit of \$150 (non-refundable) is due **on or before Friday, February 23, 2018** to reserve your airline ticket. Space is limited to just 18 students.

The remaining cost is due **on or before Friday, April 20, 2018**.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

- **Date/time: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2018 AT 7:00 PM**
Place: THE STONE RESIDENCE: 7401 HOOPER AVENUE 93308
- **Bring:** Completed application & check for \$150 made out to *Bakersfield Sister City Project Corp.* This deposit will reserve your plane ticket & place in the group.
- **Topics to be discussed:**
 - Itinerary (briefly outlined above)
 - Homestay in Wakayama: what to expect
 - What to take with you
 - What makes this experience unique
 - Fund-raising for the trip

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Youth Ambassadors stay with host families individually. The opportunity to experience the Japanese culture firsthand by living with a Japanese family is a chance of a lifetime.
- The minimum number of Youth Ambassadors each year is 10 and the maximum number is 18. If less than 10 Youth Ambassadors are scheduled for the trip, the trip may be canceled. Space is limited and early registration is strongly encouraged.
- Bakersfield Sister Cities Wakayama Committee will review completed applications received by the deadline and at their sole discretion will select Youth Ambassadors. Notice will be given by March 1, 2018. All those selected must agree to participate in activities while Wakayama youth visit Bakersfield and/or host a student from Japan in their home during their visit in August.
- Certificate: Bakersfield Sister City will present a Youth Ambassador Certificate at the November Sister Cities meeting to all Youth Ambassadors who successfully represented Bakersfield Sister City & the City of Bakersfield. The certificate makes recipients eligible to list Youth Ambassador to Wakayama, Japan on any applications, resumes, etc. Copies can be provided to recommending Teacher/Counselor & Principal.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE A YOUTH AMBASSADOR

- Must be current member of Bakersfield Sister City or pay the \$50 family membership fee.
- Must be between 13 and 18 years of age (at the time the trip begins).
- Must complete the official application form.
- Must submit a letter of recommendation from a current teacher or counselor.
- Must write a PARAGRAPH (about 100 words) telling why you wish to visit Japan and why you would make a good youth ambassador.
- Must attend mandatory orientation meetings prior to the trip.
- Must be willing to host Wakayama students when they visit Bakersfield in August 2018.