



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 31st 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 30 junior high and high school students will be visiting Bakersfield from Monday, August 4 to Monday, August 11.

We are looking for families who would be willing to host one or two students for 7 nights/6 days. Though all of the students will speak some English, we try to arrange the home-stays so that none of the younger 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. Our Bakersfield Sister City-Wakayama Committee are planning several day-time activities—but evenings will be "family time." 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 two required events: a visit to City Hall & a Farewell party, along with other optional activities. This should still leave you with "family time" over the weekend 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, May 30) to the address indicated or send it via e-mail. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Stone at 661-487-6239.

If your family is selected to host we will contact you by Tuesday, July 1, with the time and place for an orientation meeting on Tuesday, July 15. 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.