

Okinawa Prefecture Homestay for Overseas Youths of Okinawan Descent

Application Guidelines

1 Purpose

The purpose of this program is to deepen participants' understanding of and ties to their ancestral home of Okinawa as well as to contribute to the development of overseas Okinawan society and the fostering of the next generation of leaders who will take on the responsibility of the worldwide Uchinā network. This is accomplished by providing homestays in Okinawa Prefecture for overseas youths of Okinawan descent, through which they interact with the local people, learn first-hand about Okinawan history, culture, and nature, visit local schools, and explore their local ancestral roots.

2 Details

- (1) Dates: 11 days & 10 nights from June 16th, 2010 to June 26th, 2010 (projected dates)
- (2) Hands-on Learning Activities (subject to change)
 1. School attendance (period of several days)
 - attend an Okinawan school and interact with Okinawan youths of about the same age
 2. Visit to the community of the participant's ancestral roots
 - visit the city, town or village of the participant's ancestral roots, and participate in local events
 3. Hands-on Okinawan culture
 - hands-on learning of Okinawan traditional arts, cooking, karate, crafts, etc.
 4. History and peace
 - learn about the Ryukyu Kingdom and other parts of Okinawan history by visiting World Heritage-listed historical sites
 - reflect on war and world peace by visiting war sites in Okinawa
 5. Local Society
 - learn about the current situation of Okinawan society by experiencing nature, going on study tours of local industry, and learning about military base issues
 6. Household interaction & other activities

3 **Number of participants:** Roughly 8 (If there are a large number of applicants, a selection process will be carried out based on the submitted applications.)

4 **Eligibility and Conditions for Application**

(1) Eligible Applicants

- those of Okinawan descent or with a keen interest in Okinawa
- those who have not participated on the Junior Study Tour in the past
- middle school, junior high, senior high or university students
 - * if not a student, must be between the age of 16 and 25

(2) Requirements

- be mentally and physically healthy, have a cooperative spirit, and act in an disciplined manner
- be able to understand and adapt to Japanese and Okinawan lifestyle
- be recognized by the top official of a *kenjinkai* as one who will sustain the future Uchinā network
- be able to participate according to the determined travel terms
- abide by the laws and regulations of Japan as well as those of his or her country of residence

(3) Japanese Language Ability

In order to have a meaningful homestay experience, applicants with a level of Japanese language ability necessary for everyday life are preferred.

(4) Travel Expenses and Travel Insurance

The participant must bear round-trip travel costs between his or her country of residence and Okinawa. Participants should also purchase travel insurance that will cover any potential medical expenses during their time in Japan.

(5) Expenses During Stay

The host family will bear normal living expenses while staying in Okinawa such as lodging, food, transportation, and entrance fees to various facilities. However, participants will be responsible for personal expenses such as purchasing gifts for people back home or long-distance transportation for private trips.

(6) Documents to Submit

- Homestay Participant Application (Form 1)
- Statement (Form 3)

Topic: What you hope to gain from a homestay in Okinawa and why you should be chosen

Length: one page (A4 or 8½ x 11 inch size)

* Please submit with a Japanese translation provided by the *kenjinkai*.

5 **Submission Deadline:** Thursday, April 1, 2010

6 **Notification of Selection:** Friday, April 16, 2010 Japan Standard Time

7 **Please direct questions and submissions to:**

Jane F. Serikaku
Executive Director
Hawaii United Okinawa Association
Hawaii Okinawa Center
94-587 Ukee Street
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
Tel: (808) 676-5400
Email: edhuoa@huoa.org