

**2018 Japan Short Term Youth Exchange**

**Hosting Students from Japan**

**Introduction:**

The Ross Redmond Short Term Youth Exchange has been in existence for 39 years. Our District, 7470, sends 28 students and 2 leaders to Japan the first 3 weeks in July. Our sister District 2670 on the island of Shikoku, sends 28 students and 2 leaders to the US the first 3 weeks in August.

A cornerstone of the program is hosting students both in Japan and the US. **We are looking for families to host 2 Japanese students for 6 days in July/August.** The specific dates, schedule and locations are below. You do not have to have a high school age student in your household to host.

**Details:**

Japanese students are generally 15 to 17 years of age. Students often speak very little English, but the language barrier has rarely presented any problems. With a lot of smiling, pointing, pictures, translators and dictionaries you will manage rather well. In the event a detailed conversation is needed, the Japanese leaders who speak both English and Japanese are available.

**Accommodations**: Students do not need their own room. They do need their own bed. No sharing of beds is permitted. The bed can be an air mattress or pull out couch.

**You do not have to take off from work to host.** From 8:00 am to 5:30 pm on weekdays Rotarians take the students on trips such as to New York, Philadelphia and the Jersey Shore. You will simply drop them off and pick them up at a near-by bus stop. On weekends the students are yours to enjoy and entertain!

**Meals**: There is no need for any special meals. Students will eat what you would typically serve your family. If you want to take students out to a restaurant that is fine.

**Benefits**: Hosting is a unique opportunity to learn about Japanese culture and food, develop new friendships and make a positive difference in the life of a student. Our past host families have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and found it to be very rewarding. It is always easier than you imagined.

**Training**: The Ross Redmond Short Term Youth Exchange Committee will host a training webinar to provide information and answer your questions on how to have a successful experience.

**Requirements**: Our program is under the governance of Rotary District 7470 and the US State Department. Regulations require that each adult host family member have a background check and certify their willingness and suitability to host students.

**Hosting dates are as follows:**

**Week 1 (**Sussex, Warren and western Morris Counties)

**From July 27 to August 2, 2018**

                       Drop off and pick up in Phillipsburg or Mt. Arlington

**Week 2  (**Morris County andBernardsville)

**From August 2 to August 8, 2018**

                        Drop off and pick up in Florham Park

**Week 3  (**Essex County, Morris County and Bernardsville)

**From August 8 to August 14, 2018**

Drop off and pick up in Florham Park or

                        Drop off and pick up in West Orange

Since the inception of this program 40 years ago, thousands of students from both countries have taken part, building goodwill and fostering international understanding.  Now you have the opportunity to get involved and help in this cause.  With your involvement the bond between these two countries can grow stronger.

To volunteer to be a host family, contact Jim Allison at 201-213-6382 or jra188@aol.com.