

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT For Immediate Release

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Deadline Approaching – Partial Scholarships Available for 2010 Summer Study Abroad in Kobe, Japan



2009 participant Kelly Galleguillos with her homestay family.

San Francisco, CA (February 24, 2010) – The deadline to apply for the 2010 Nikkei Youth Cultural Heritage (NYCH) Program is Friday, March 5, 2010. Partial scholarships of \$500 are available for students applying for the program through the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC). The NYCH Program is sponsored by the JCCCNC in San Francisco, the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) in Los Angeles, the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington (JCCCW), in Seattle and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii in Honolulu (JCCH). Each cultural center will choose up to four college students to participate in a month-long intensive language study and homestay program in Kobe, Japan.

The NYCH Program, in cooperation with the Kobe YMCA Language School (Hyogo Prefecture, Japan) is designed for Nikkei youth to gain a better understanding of their ancestral and cultural background while discovering Japan in a unique and exciting way. This program will allow participants to immerse themselves in Japanese culture through Japanese language and writing classes, introductory classes in traditional Japanese art forms, and late afternoon and Saturday excursions exploring different parts of the Kansai region all the while using and practicing their Japanese language skills daily with their homestay families. The Kobe YMCA Language Program is an accredited university and some past participants received college credit for their language study.

This program is open to students at any level of the Japanese language skills, even those with little or no experience. Applicants must be 18 years of age and older and have completed a minimum of one semester of college studies. NYCH Program participants will be chosen based on their application, essay and interview. Applicants will select the cultural center which is most convenient for them to be interviewed at (March 25 – 31, 2010) and if selected, must be able to attend a pre-trip workshop in preparation for their one-month stay in Japan.

For more information and to download the application, visit the JCCCNC website at www.jcccnc.org or call Aya Ino at (415) 567-5505.

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About the Kobe YMCA Language School

The Kobe YMCA Japanese Language School was established in 1872. Its goal is to develop strength, knowledge, and understanding of the totality of the Japanese language in “reading”, “writing”, “listening” and “speaking.” Its curriculum covers a broad range of levels that focuses on personal one-on-one attention that suits every individual’s learning style. It has small class sizes, with courses lasting as short as one-month to two years.

About the JCCCNC

Envisioned by the Japanese American community, JCCCNC will be an everlasting foundation of our Japanese American ancestry, cultural heritage, histories and traditions. The JCCCNC strives to meet the evolving needs of the Japanese American community through programs, affordable services and facility usage. The JCCCNC is a non-profit community center based in San Francisco.