



Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program

A Program of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC)

March 2014

Dear 2014-15 Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program Candidate:

We are excited that you are interested in applying for participation in the 2014-15 Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program (TYAFP). Participants selected for the 2014-15 TYAFP will participate in a 14-month program culminating with a trip to Japan in July 2015*. Please find enclosed a copy of our 2014-15 application form with detailed instructions along with a promotional flyer for the TYAFP.

The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) is proud to have provided opportunities for Bay Area youth to travel to Japan for cultural exchange programs for the past 16 years. As part of the 40th anniversary of the San Francisco-Osaka Sister City relationship, the JCCCNC and the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco sponsored the first exchange program to Osaka and Kobe, Japan in 1997.

If you are selected as a member of the 2014-15 TYAFP, you will spend the summer months learning about and participating in the community; begin to develop a deeper understanding and awareness of your role as an ambassador; participate in cultural workshops to learn about Japan – its people and its customs; develop lifelong leadership and civic skills; and spend time together as a group in preparation for our journey to Japan next summer.

The TYAFP Selection Committee will look closely at the dedication of the participant to make a full commitment to the Program once they are selected. This commitment by all participants allows the TYAFP Advisory Committee the opportunity to fully plan and prepare for a successful program and trip to Japan.

While the primary beneficiaries of the TYAFP are its youth participants, the families of TYAFP youth are also afforded a unique opportunity to benefit from the enriching cultural exchange activities locally. TYAFP families are also expected to promote the principles of the program. The dedicated effort of the TYAFP families plays a critical role in the success of the Program, especially as parents supporting and learning with their child. All participant families are expected to enthusiastically and reliably meet the TYAFP commitments.

Activities for the Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program participants include:

- Participation in community activities and events
- Japanese/Japanese American history and cultural workshops
- Leadership development and communication workshops
- Team building activities
- Family potlucks and get-togethers
- Fundraising activities developed and implemented by the youth

If you are interested in applying, please note that the deadline for submission of your completed TYAFP application and letter of recommendation is **Friday, April 18, 2014 by 5:00 p.m.**

Once your application is received, we will contact you about scheduling interview times for parents and applicants which will fall within the dates of April 21-23, 2014. The interviews should last no longer than one hour. The TYAFP Advisory Committee will make their participant selections no later than May 9, 2014. You will be notified by mail shortly thereafter.

If selected to participate in the 2014-15 TYAFP, here is what will be required of you:

- Attend a family orientation meeting on June 14, 2014 at the JCCCNC.
- Attend all TYAFP activities (please see tentative schedule on application form). A complete calendar of activities will be provided at the TYAFP Orientation Meeting)
- Become a member of the JCCCNC.
- Continue to serve as a mentor to the students who follow you on this program to encourage their interest and appreciation of Japan.

We will be hosting two TYAFP **informational meetings** at the JCCCNC, on Thursday, March 27, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 29, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. and welcome interested individuals and organizational representatives to attend. Please RSVP for the informational meeting by March 26, 2014. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Matoba at lmatoa@jcccnc.org or by phone at (415) 567-5505.

We look forward to your participation in the 2014-15 program.

Sincerely,



Paul Osaki
Executive Director
JCCCNC



Donna Kimura
TYAFP Chairperson

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