

Shinzen Program

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Brief History and Goals of the Shinzen Program

In 1995, discussion began between the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) and the Office of the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco to create a more dynamic and meaningful exchange program between the United States and Japan. It was agreed that although there are a substantial number of traditional cultural exchanges and intellectual exchanges, there is a greater need for meaningful dialogue and goodwill exchange between youth in Japan and Japanese American youth.

The significance of a first-hand cultural experience with another young ambassador would be invaluable in helping a young person in the Japanese American community define his or her identity, and establish a greater connection to their sometimes seemingly distant heritage.

GOALS OF THE SHINZEN PROGRAM

- To promote international goodwill and exchange between youth of Japan and the youth of the Japanese American community.
- To provide meaningful and thoughtful dialogue and discussion on youth issues related to each others culture and heritage.
- To develop and nurture young ambassadors between the United States and Japan.
- To provide an opportunity for friendship and spirited competition.
- To promote U.S./Japan bilateral interest and responsibilities amongst young people.
- To engage with and encourage Japanese American youth and their families to learn about their personal family history as well as that of our San Francisco Japantown and broader community history.



Shinzen USA Nikkei Youth Goodwill Sports Program

A program of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California
1840 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115-3220

Shinzen 2019

- Applicants should be 13-15 yrs of age (7-9th grade)
- Travel to Osaka and Kobe, Japan
 - Travel (tentative) Dates: July 23-August 1, 2019 (8 nts)
 - Activities to include:
 - Homestays in Osaka and Kobe
 - Youth Stay at traditional farming village (Osaka)
 - Cultural exchange activities
 - Basketball games against Japanese teams
 - Visit to Nagata Kodomo Home (orphanage)
 - Tour of Kyoto

Focus of the Program for Youth Participants (in preparation to be youth ambassadors)

- Through workshops and team-building exercises, participants will learn about:
 - Japanese American and Personal Family History (with parents)
 - Japanese Customs and Etiquette
 - Japanese Culture and Traditions
 - Japanese Language and Communication
 - Role as a Youth Ambassador
- Youth will also be asked to participate in:
 - Community events – Colma Cemetery Clean-up (May) and Center Annual Fundraiser (September)
 - Basketball practices
 - Hip-hop dance

Family Involvement and Commitment

INVOLVEMENT

- Although this Program is primarily for the player, family participation will be greatly encouraged for the success of the overall Program
- Parents will be required to learn about JA/personal history and create a family history book with their child in the winter/spring
- Families will have the opportunity to build friendships with other families participating in the Program

COMMITMENT

- Dedicate Spring-Fall 2019 (February-September) to the Shinzen Program
- Workshops/Family Gatherings/Fundraisers (Saturdays and Sundays, June 8-July 21)
- Work to achieve Youth and Family fundraising goals
- Continue to support JCCCNC as a member of the Shinzen alumni



Frequently Asked Questions

- **How many basketball games do we play?**
There will be 2 games against the Japan teams and possibly a Friendship Tourney where all youth will be mixed to create teams so players have the opportunity to interact more closely. **Although basketball is a component of this program, it is not the focus.** Basketball is the vehicle to get youth involved in the Program to learn more about Japanese/Japanese American culture, traditions and heritage and to foster friendships with Japanese youth.
- **Do we really need to commit to all of the weekends in June-July to participate?**
We have scheduled the majority of the Program's workshops and practices in June and July so we do not compete with existing school activities and annual basketball tournaments. It is our hope that participants and their families understand the importance of attending all planned Shinzen activities to help guarantee the program's success and for participants to enjoy and appreciate all that this Program has to offer.
- **What if I can not commit to one of the listed activities?**
Missing commitments will be discussed during the interview process. We understand that emergencies may arise but we ask that all participants attend all planned activities.
- **What is the expected cost for family members to travel to Japan?**
Based on the 2017 trip, the cost per person is approximately \$4,000/double occupancy and includes air/hotel/land/some meals and admissions, but does not include fuel/tax surcharge. (approx. \$340 as of 11/10/18, but fluctuates each quarter)
- **What type of fundraising activities/events will we have to plan/support? And what is the financial commitment/requirements?**
The individual commitment will include selling t-shirts and/or raffle tickets (\$2,000/per player) while group fundraising activities (\$25k group goal with individual goals) will be decided by the fundraising committee (which will be formed by parents once the team is selected*), but have included poker and golf tournaments in the past. This year each player is required to pay a \$1,500 participant fee.
- **What does the participant fee and fundraising cover?**
The participant fee, raffle sales and family group fundraising will help cover the cost of the players' air/land travel and program costs for activities in Japan.
- **What if my team has a game on Selection Day?**
In the planning process we tried to choose a date that would work for most, but if your team has a regularly scheduled league game on your gender designated Selection Day, please let us know and we will try to accommodate you as best as possible.

If you have other questions, please feel free to contact the Center at (415) 567-5505 or email shinzen@jccnc.org.

