study abroad in japan this summer

San Francisco (April, 2014) – The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCNC) is currently seeking applicants for their 2014 Nikkei Youth Cultural Heritage Program (NYCHP). The NYCHP is being sponsored by the following three cultural centers in the United States: the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCNC) in San Francisco, the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington (JCCCW) in Seattle and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii in Honolulu (JCCH). This unique program will bring college-age participants from each of the respective cultural centers to Kobe, Japan for a month-long intensive language and homestay program (July 3 – August 2, 2014).

The NYCHP, in cooperation with the Kobe YMCA Language Program (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; attend introductory classes in traditional Japanese art forms; late afternoon and Saturday excursions exploring different parts of the Kansai region; all while having the opportunity to use and practice their Japanese language skills on a daily basis with their homestay families. Participants will stay with two families, for two weeks each.

This program is open to students at any level of the Japanese language, 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.

The NYCHP 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 (week of April 16 – April 23, 2014) and if selected, be able to attend a pre-trip workshop in preparation for the one-month stay in Japan.
The exclusive NYCHP tuition rate will be $2,100* per student and does not include airfare. (Confirmed tuition will be provided by April 3. This rate is based on 100 yen = $1USD)

The NYCHP price includes language class tuition, texts and class materials; hotel stay (for two nights); homestay fee, which includes breakfast and dinner daily; participation in traditional cultural art classes (which may include ikebana, karate or shodo); and day trips to Kyoto and Nara. Not included in the program cost is air travel to Japan, domestic transportation in Japan and/or personal spending money. Partial scholarships are available.

A 2013 participant of the Kobe YMCA Language Program, Taylor Nishimoto writes, “the most wonderful and beneficial part of staying in Japan was living with my host families. I will not lie; at first, I was utterly terrified to be staying in two different homes with complete strangers. Over time, spending time with these two families became effortless... I honestly felt that I was a member of their families.”

For more information and to download the application, visit the JCCCNC website at www.jccnc.org or call Ryan Kimura at (415) 567-5505. Applications are due on Wednesday, April 9, 2014.

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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.