

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT For Immediate Release

Contact:

Aya Ino, Program Associate, aino@jcccnc.org
Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California
1840 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 567-5505, www.jcccnc.org

Application Deadline is Approaching for 2011 Nikkei Youth Cultural Heritage Program

San Francisco, CA (February 23, 2011) – The deadline to apply for the **2011 Nikkei Youth Cultural Heritage (NYCH) Program** is Friday, March 11, 2011.

Scholarships are available for up to four participants who applied for the program through the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC), and meet the following requirements: 18 years of age and older; completed a minimum of one semester of college studies. Accepted applicants must also be able to attend a pre-trip workshop in preparation for their one-month stay in Japan. There is no prerequisite for any level of Japanese language skills.



2010 participant Alyssa Kato with her homestay family.

The NYCH Program is also sponsored by 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 (JCCH) in Honolulu. Each cultural center will also choose up to four college students to participate in the study abroad program.

NYCH Program participants will be chosen based on their application, essay and interview. Applicants will select the cultural center that is most convenient for them to be interviewed at. Interviews will take place from March 24 – 30, 2011.

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 home stay families. The Kobe YMCA Language Program is an accredited university and some past participants received college credit for their language study.

For more information and to download the application, visit the website at <http://www.jcccnc.org/programs/nyss.htm> 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.