Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program

Sponsored by The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation

Organized by the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

2025 Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program

Eligibility: Enrolled in a California High School between grades 9-12*
Deadline to Apply: Monday, March 31, 2025
Dates of Program: April-September 2025
Cost: $3000.00

The Program
The Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program (TYAFP) was created by the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (the Center) as a way to encourage young high school students to learn about the history of the Japanese American community in San Francisco; learn the responsibilities of being an active civic participant; gain exceptional leadership skills, and to learn and appreciate the history and culture of Japan by serving as a young ambassador between the two countries.

What You Will Experience
Through the TYAFP, participants will gain invaluable skills such as leading peer groups; navigating through the cultural districts of San Francisco as well as in Japan; learning the value of mottainai - the concept of reuse and reinvention - and many other life and cultural skills by experiencing adventures first-hand.

This year, TYAFP participants will also be encouraged to host, plan experiences and guide Japanese high school students from Japan who will be visiting San Francisco for several days in June 2025. They will also be able to visit a Japanese high school while visiting Japan in mid-July/early August, and learn important aspects about the country and its significance in the world today.

Responsibilities and Qualifications
Successful Applicants Must be:

- Self Motivated
- Attend Classes and Events at the Center throughout the months of April-September, 2025
- Have a genuine interest in Japan
- Have a valid passport to travel to Japan
- Be a positive group member and be willing to work with others
- Be open to new adventures and experiences including trying different culinary dishes in Japan
- Be willing to carefully follow a planned itinerary while in Japan and be on time for all events
- Be available to serve as a host to Japanese students visiting from Japan in June 2025

*Must be entering into your senior year of high school. Students who will have graduated from a high school before May/June 2025 are not eligible to apply.

Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Application

Please complete the following application.

Section I: Applicant Information

Applicant: _____ Birth date: _____
First Middle Last Mo / Day / Year

Address (primary residence):_____

City_____ Zip _____ County _____

Name of High School _____ Current Grade _____

Applicant's e-mail address: _____ Gender _____

How do you wish to be addressed:_____

Section II: Applicant Questions

Please answer the following questions in the space provided:

A) Why are you interested in the Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program (TYAFP)?

B) What do you hope to learn or gain from the experience?

C) Each participant brings different qualities and experiences to the program. Please share an example of what you would be willing to share with the group and a recent group activity you participated in?

Section III: Parent Information

Mother's Name: _____
First Middle Last

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Family Ancestral Prefecture in Japan (if applicable) Maternal: _____
Paternal: _____

Father's Name: _____
First Middle Last

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Family Ancestral Prefecture in Japan (if applicable) Maternal: _____
Paternal: _____

Family's Primary e-mail address: _____

Section IV: Letter of Recommendation

Please attach a letter of recommendation from a non-family member who should state how they are acquainted with you and the reason(s) why you would be an excellent candidate for the Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program.

Section V: JCCCNC Membership

Is your family a member of the JCCCNC?
☐ No ☐ Yes, membership # _____ ☐ No, but we would like to receive more information.

Section VI: Japanese American Community Involvement

Please indicate any Japanese American Community Organizations you and your family are actively involved with, type of involvement, and years served. You can also list other community or public service activities you participate in.

Organization	Type of Involvement	Participant / Parent	Years Served

Section VII: Certification

I (name) certify to the best of my ability that the information contained in this application was written by me and is true to the best of my ability.

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Section VIII: Backnotes

Applicants are not required to speak or have had any previous Japanese language experience prior to them being accepted into the TYAFP. However, they will be required to learn key foundational phrases to communicate with people in Japan and will also be encouraged to continue their language learning after the conclusion of the program.

Selection will be made based on the information submitted with this application and decided upon by a committee formed to review applications. All decisions will be final.

Students will need to share rooms while in Japan and be responsible for administering their own prescribed medication.

Further information on the details of the program and mandatory training dates will be supplied at the time of acceptance.

Your completed application packet must be received by the Center on Monday, March 31, 2025. Faxed application packets will be accepted to meet the deadline. The Center fax number is (415) 567-4222. You can also email your packet to TYAFP@jcccnc.org or submit by mail to:
JCCCNC, 1840 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115-3220 Attn: TYAFP Selection Committee