

**CLEARWATER/NAGANO
SISTER CITY STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM
APPLICATION – Deadline: November 27, 2007**



If you are interested in spending two weeks in Nagano, Japan, this summer, and meet all of the criteria to apply for this exchange program, complete the application form and include:

- the necessary recommendations
- a letter from your parents giving their permission and support
- your 200-word essay

Please send entire application packet by mail or deliver it personally to:

Margo Walbolt, Cultural Affairs Manager

Mailing address:
Clearwater Parks & Recreation
P.O. Box 4748
Clearwater, FL 33758-4748

Office location: Parks & Rec.
Municipal Services Building
100 S. Myrtle Avenue
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Students will be selected for an interview based on their applications. Interviews are typically conducted in a group format in early December. If you have any questions, please direct them to Margo Walbolt at (727) 562-4809.

Margo.Walbolt@myclearwater.com

Remember: Application Deadline is: November 27, 2007



CLEARWATER/NAGANO SISTER CITY STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM – SUMMER 2008

The City of Clearwater and the School Board of Pinellas County currently participate in “Sister City” teacher and student exchanges with Nagano City, Japan. Since 1991, sixty-four Pinellas County students have been given an opportunity to visit Japan and immerse in the language and culture of that country. This year, four high school students will be selected to visit Nagano, Japan for two weeks. During their stay, the students will reside with home stay families and visit junior and senior high schools. The students will make numerous presentations during these school visits, attend school daily and actively participate in educational exchanges.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Student must be a resident of Clearwater or attend a Clearwater school.
2. Student must be presently enrolled in a high school world language class or have already completed a sequence of world language study.
3. Student must be currently enrolled in Grade 9, 10 or 11 and anticipate being enrolled in a Pinellas County high school during Grade 12.
4. Student should possess strong communication skills and be willing to make presentations.
5. Student is expected to participate in group performances for Nagano schools that highlight American culture through a variety of interpretive ways such as dance, music, or drama.
6. Student must submit an application.
7. Student must submit four letters of recommendation/references from:
 - Two teachers
 - Two others (minister, priest, employer, etc.)
8. Student must submit a parental permission/support letter.
9. Student must submit a 200 word double-spaced, typewritten essay titled, “What I hope to gain from a two week stay in Nagano, Japan.”
10. Student must appear for one group interview with a committee that may include:
 - School Principal or designee
 - Supervisor of World Language or designee

Teacher/Chaperone of student group
Clearwater Sister City Representative
City of Clearwater Representative

11. Student and parents must attend a minimum of 4 orientation meetings prior to the departure.
12. Student must be able to bear expenses of \$500.00 for incidental costs, while in Nagano.
13. Student must be willing to purchase gifts for home stay family members.
14. Student must be willing to obtain small token gifts for students and teachers at the schools they visit.
15. Student must be willing to commit to up to 50 hours of service hours to the City of Clearwater that may include working events, attending orientation, preparing presentations and promotional activities.
16. Upon returning from Nagano, the student must agree to be available to present/discuss and share his or her learning experiences with civic groups and other interested citizens.
17. Student's parents must assume all medical/accidental insurance liability.
18. Students will be selected based upon the following rubric/criteria:

Application	=	25 points
Recommendations	=	25 points
Essay	=	25 points
Interview	=	25 points

TRAVEL EXPENSE:

The approximate travel expense for the trip is \$2500. This cost includes: round trip airfare from Tampa Airport to Narita Airport, accommodations and transportation in Japan.

City residents are eligible to receive a scholarship that will provide for the cost of the travel expense through the following program.

SCHOLARSHIP/FUNDING PROGRAM:

Selected students who are City of Clearwater residents are expected to participate in a scholarship program that covers the cost of the travel.

In exchange:

- Student agrees to participate in at least two designated fundraising events prior to the trip.
- Student agrees to provide up to 50 hours of service in designated City activities.

Selected students who are not residents of the City of Clearwater may earn up to half of the travel costs by participating in the above outlined activities.

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES FOR STUDENTS:

Students should plan to spend up to \$500 for incidentals such as souvenirs, entertainment or optional activities.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: November 27, 2007
STUDENT APPLICATION FOR NAGANO, JAPAN

Student's Name _____

Address _____ Telephone No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Are you a City of Clearwater resident? _____ Are you a U.S. citizen? _____

Birthdate _____ Birthplace _____ Email _____

Parent or Guardian's Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. _____ Email _____

Name of High School currently attending _____ Grade 9 10 11

What school do you anticipate attending in 2008-09? _____

Do you now hold a U.S. passport? Yes __ No __ Have you flown before? Yes__ No__

If yes, give your passport number _____

Medical Information: General health, allergies, any physical limitations, medications needed. _____

Have you served as a host family for an exchange program? _____

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Course of Study _____

Grade Point Average (weighted) _____ (unweighted) _____

Foreign studies or foreign language programs in which you have participated. # yrs: _____

List: _____

Please list any skills, experiences or talents you have that would benefit presentations or performances.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, COMMITTEES, ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY SERVICE _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____