



Gresham Sister City Association

Student Exchange Eligibility

Ebetsu, Japan

The purpose of this student exchange program with our Sister City of Ebetsu, Japan, is to provide students with a unique opportunity to learn about Japanese culture. Selected students will travel to Ebetsu and live with a Japanese family while attending school and engage in other activities with the host family.

Benefits of Participating in a Student Exchange

- Being able to serve as a Student Ambassador for the City of Gresham and the United States.
- Learning or experiencing a language and culture through immersion.
- Making lifelong friends with people from another country.
- Building memories that will last a lifetime.

Criteria for Selection

- Complete the entire application and all forms on the application check list.
- Be an American citizen.
- Be a full time student, sophomore or junior, in one of the Gresham area high schools (Gresham, Sam Barlow, Springwater Trail, Centennial, Reynolds) or be a Gresham resident attending a local area private school.
- Be willing to sign a publicity release statement.
- Have, or be able to get, a passport and be available to travel during the time specified, approximately June 21 thru July 21.
(The exact dates will be decided after the selections are made.)
- Able to represent Gresham and the United States in a respectful manner proper for foreign understanding.
- You must have at least a minimal skill in Japanese. You will be traveling to Ebetsu and attending school for four weeks. Your language skills will improve immensely while away, however, you will need to be able to communicate sufficiently with your host family. You do not need to know enough to effectively participate in school lessons, but do need to be able to talk with locals.

Funding

- The GSCA may contribute toward the airfare of each student selected (students receiving contributions from GSCA must be members in good standing). The remainder of the airfare and all personal costs will be paid by the student.

GSCA is a 501c (3) non-profit and can assist with fund raising efforts.

- Students will need to have funds available for extracurricular activities that host families may or may not pay for (i.e. movies, sporting events etc.). Students will also need to have spending money for any souvenirs they wish to purchase. Basic needs will be supplied by the host family.

What if I am not sure about going on an exchange?

This is something that every student has to think about carefully. You will be traveling with other local students so if you are lonely you will have someone close by that you can talk to, however, there is no guarantee that you will be placed in the same schools as the other students going. It can be a great culture shock to travel to a new country. Talk it over with your parents and feel free to ask Gresham Sister City Association members questions to make sure that you are making the correct decision. If you feel that this is not right for you but still would like to have some cultural immersion, you can always apply to host a student.

The GSCA and the City of Ebetsu will arrange for host families for the time the Gresham students are in Ebetsu

Rules While Abroad

- Follow the local laws.
- Follow all cultural customs to the best of your ability.
- Follow the host family's rules.
- Act as if you are a child in the home you are visiting and not a guest (help with chores).
- No illegal drug use or alcohol consumption (even if they feel it is culturally acceptable).
- Do not drive any motorized vehicle.
- No inappropriate conduct (make sure you are aware of what is considered inappropriate in Japan).

If you are unable to follow the rules while away and are asked to leave and return home, all airline fees and expenses will be the student and family's responsibility, not that of Gresham Sister City Association.

What should you do if you are accepted in the program?

- Obtain a passport as soon as you are accepted. Passports usually take 4-6 weeks to process.
- Health Insurance: all students must have health insurance which is effective for medical costs overseas. In the event that emergency medical care is required, your host family shall have limited authorization for emergency medical care.
- Obtain Immunization documentation: Make sure that you check with local health departments to determine whether you have the required immunization to travel abroad.
- Medical and Dental checkup. It is always a good idea to have a medical and dental checkup before traveling abroad. It is good to make sure that you can have any necessary treatment for any dental or medical conditions handled before leaving. It is also good to have a record of your medical history to have with you in case of emergencies.

Should I bring any gifts?

It is culturally acceptable to bring gifts to your host family. Gifts do not need to be expensive or elaborate, but something that shows appreciation of the family for allowing you to stay with them. Popular gifts include favorite American candies for children, postcards and other things that are distinctly American or from the Northwest.

What do I need to bring with me?

- Clothing that is culturally acceptable. Please check with your language teacher to make sure you are taking clothes that will be acceptable.
- Passport and several photocopies.
- Health insurance card or policy number with contact information.
- Flight information.
- Emergency contact information and international calling card in case of emergency.
- Immunization records (if needed).
- Copies of prescriptions for medications, eyeglasses, and contact lenses (if needed).
- An extra pair of glasses and extra contact lens solution (if needed).
- Sufficient toiletries (It may be difficult to locate some items you are used to in Japan).
- School supplies for the month you are away. (Paper, pens, pencils and a bag to carry them to school in).

Can you bring electronics?

Yes, you can bring your MP3 player, laptop, hairdryer, etc., but do make sure that you obtain the proper adapter before leaving to make sure that you will be able to charge without harming your devices. If you are going to bring your cell phone, make sure that you check with your carrier to make sure that it will be supported overseas and to check fees.

What things do you need to know about Japan?

- How to communicate in a way that is not offensive.
- How men and women usually dress and what type of clothes, jewelry and makeup is appropriate.
- What an average day is like in Japan, when meals are eaten, food that is eaten, sleeping arrangements etc.
- What is considered taboo?
- What religions are common and what not to do to insult a religion?
- What the common leisure activities are and things that you would like to try while in Japan.
- Learn the basics of local culture and local government so that you can know something about the people you will be staying with.

Host Family

Families around the world have much in common with local families; they have rules that need to be followed and chores that need to be done. Make sure that you show your host family the same respect that you would show your own family. You might experience some things that are different from the way that your family may do things; however, this is part of the learning with the exchange. Stay open minded about how to do things. You may wish to share with your host family how things are done in your home, but ultimately things should be done the way the host family likes.

Make sure that if you have question on what you should be doing that you ask. Things you might want to talk to your host family about upon arriving are what rules are expected to be followed. What chores they would like you to do. How meals work as well as what you are expected to do if you get hungry between meals (can you help yourself to food or do you need to ask for something to be prepared for you). Just remember that every student will have different experiences and should stay open minded and discuss any problem when they arise and not wait until there is a major problem.

Feedback

Within three months of their return, student(s) will be prepared to:

- Upon completion of exchange be willing to write a brief summary of their exchange and should be willing to share their experience with the board.
- Present their experiences to the Gresham City Council and/or the community with Gresham Sister City Association sponsorship.
- Be available to speak at local schools.
- Be available to be interviewed by the local media.

For Further Information Contact:

Dashia Chasteen: 503.957.5546 or

Email: dmcclenahan@juno.com

Submission Deadline: Tuesday March 1st, 2012.

Do not delay in completing and returning your paperwork! Talk to your parents and make sure that you are prepared for being a Student Ambassador. We ask that once you are accepted into the program that you do not drop out unless you experience circumstances which prevent you from going. We also ask that you become a member of Gresham Sister City Association to show support of the program. Remember that participation is not guaranteed upon applying and is a privilege not a right. Once accepted into the program you will be expected to maintain good grades and not get into any legal trouble or your application may be revoked.



Deadline: March 1, 2012

Gresham Sister City Association

Student Exchange Application

Ebetsu, Japan

Contact Information

First name	Last name	Preferred name
Address		
City	State	Zip
Mailing address if different from above		
City	State	Zip
Phone	Alt Phone	Email

Personal Information

Date of birth	Age	Sex
Allergies? (food or environmental) Yes / No If yes Explain:		
Do you smoke? Yes / No		
Does smoke bother you? Yes/ No		
Do you have any health problems we should know about: (please attach another page if you need more room)		
Are there any pets that you would not like to have in a potential host home? Explain:		
What are your favorite hobbies and interests?		
How long have you lived in Gresham?	Do you have a passport? Yes/ No	
In a few words, why do you wish to become a Student Ambassador?		
How do you feel you would profit from a trip abroad?		

Family Information

Mother or female guardian

Name	Age	Occupation
Phone	Email	

Father or male guardian

Name	Age	Occupation
Phone	Email	

Brother/Sister (please circle one)

Name	Age	Grade
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Brother/Sister (please circle one)

Name	Age	Grade
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Brother/Sister (please circle one)

Name	Age	Grade
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Brother/Sister (please circle one)

Name	Age	Grade
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*Please list any additional siblings on back

Education

Current High School	Grade Level
Teacher who referred you	Current GPA (optional)
Favorite subjects	Sports and/or activities you are active in

Language Skills

Which foreign languages have you studied?
Which foreign countries have you visited?
<p>How would you describe your language skills? Please circle one:</p> <p>Beginner--I can express myself in simple sentences, such as asking directions, ordering food, but still have problems in understanding native Japanese language speakers in conversations.</p> <p>Intermediate-- I am able to understand most Japanese social conversations and can read Japanese. I can make myself understood when speaking Japanese in most social situations.</p> <p>Advanced-- I am able to clearly speak Japanese and express myself clearly as well as understand Japanese in all forms of conversations.</p>

Application Checklist

Please make sure you have finished everything for your application before submitting by March 1, 2012

- ☐ Read the Eligibility requirements
- ☐ Complete Application in its entirety
- ☐ Attach a photo suitable for potential host family
- ☐ Attach two references on form provided
- ☐ Attach a letter addressed to the Gresham Sister City Association explaining why you wish to visit Ebetsu, Japan
- ☐ Signed student agreement

I _____, have completed the application honestly and to the best of my ability and attached all requested forms.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____



Gresham Sister City Association

Student and Parent Agreement for Exchange to
Ebetsu, Japan

This agreement is between the Gresham Sister City Association and

_____ and
Student

Parent/Guardian

I agree to the following terms:

1. I will represent the Gresham Sister City Association from the time of selection to three months after returning or until such time as I have completed my community-wide presentation.
2. I will attend an orientation on Korean culture and customs.
3. I will write a letter of introduction to my host family, including at least one photo, and submit a copy of the letter to the Gresham Sister City Association.
4. I will exhibit behavior and personal conduct which will enhance the Sister City relationship.
5. I will pay all costs associated with the visitation, including fees to obtain a passport and/or visa.
6. I am covered by health insurance which is effective for medical costs overseas. In the event that emergency medical care is required, my host family shall have limited authorization for emergency medical care.
7. I agree to hold harmless the Gresham Sister City Association, its officers, representatives and agents, and Gresham/Ebetsu Committee members, for any injury, illness, or damage or loss to property. I understand that travel to a foreign country involves risks including accidents, injury, sabotage, or civil unrest and I am willing to assume that risk.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date



Gresham Sister City Association

Exchange Student Recommendation

Ebetsu, Japan

_____ is applying to the Gresham Sister City Association to be a Representative of Gresham during a visitation to Ebetsu, Japan.

Personality traits you have directly observed:

<input type="checkbox"/> Polite	<input type="checkbox"/> Optimistic	<input type="checkbox"/> Calm	<input type="checkbox"/> Friendly
<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Quick-tempered	<input type="checkbox"/> Casual	<input type="checkbox"/> Neat
<input type="checkbox"/> Spontaneous	<input type="checkbox"/> Adaptable	<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional	<input type="checkbox"/> Shy
<input type="checkbox"/> Serious	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserved	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal	<input type="checkbox"/> Active
<input type="checkbox"/> Responsible	<input type="checkbox"/> Curious	<input type="checkbox"/> Open	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiet
<input type="checkbox"/> Traditional	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent	<input type="checkbox"/> Informal	<input type="checkbox"/> Patient
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			

Academic or other achievement of which you have direct knowledge:

Brief statement explaining why you are recommending that this student visit Ebetsu, Japan, as a representative of Gresham:

What is your relationship to this student and how long have you known him/her?

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Release Form for Media Recording



I, the undersigned, do hereby consent and agree that Gresham Sister City Association, its employees, or agents have the right to take photographs, videotape, or digital recordings of me and to use these in any and all media, now or hereafter known. I further consent that my name and identity may be revealed therein or by descriptive text or commentary.

I do hereby release to Gresham Sister City Association, its agents, and employees all rights to exhibit this work in print and electronic form publicly or privately and to market and sell copies. I waive any rights, claims, or interest I may have to control the use of my identity or likeness in whatever media used.

I understand that there will be no financial or other remuneration for recording me, either for initial or subsequent transmission or playback.

I also understand that Gresham Sister City Association is not responsible for any expense or liability incurred as a result of my participation in this recording, including medical expenses due to any sickness or injury incurred as a result.

I represent that I am at least 18 years of age, or Guardian of the minor listed below, and have read and understand the foregoing statement, and am competent to execute this agreement.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Name of Minor: _____

Signature: _____