



STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2020

GENERAL INFORMATION. Lomita's affiliation with Takaishi, Japan, officially began in October 1981. Through student, adult, art and cultural exchanges with Takaishi, Lomita hopes to help foster worldwide understanding, communication, and brotherhood.

Since its inception, the annual exchange of students between Takaishi and Lomita has been the principal focus of the Lomita Sister City Association's activities. The Association offers Student Exchange Program participants a unique and extraordinary opportunity to expand their personal horizons while acting as worldwide ambassadors for their community and country. The Association takes great pride in the exemplary student representatives sent to Takaishi in the past; every effort will be made to assure the continued excellence of the Program.

The 2020 Student Exchange will be limited to a maximum of ten (10) students. These students will visit Takaishi for approximately 2½ weeks in late July-August.

ELIGIBILITY. Prospective applicants must be:

- ✓ High School or College Students.
- ✓ Sixteen to twenty-two (16-22) years of age, at the time of application.
- ✓ Live, work, or perform community service in Lomita.
- ✓ Carry a Grade Point Average (GPA) of "C" (2.0) or better.
- ✓ Interested in learning about Japanese customs, culture, and language.
- ✓ A legal U.S. resident.

SELECTION. The Cultural Exchange Committee of the Lomita Sister City Association will review all applications, interview all applicants, and select the final participants. If selected to participate in the Exchange Program, 1)a student must be willing to attend all orientation meetings, 2)participate with his or her family in other Lomita Sister City Association activities, 3)support activities when Takaishi students visit Lomita, and 4)commit to be a host family and help with carpool is required.

****Family Membership in the Association required.**

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS. The Lomita Sister Association will pay one-half the round trip airfare to Osaka, Japan. Travel health and accidental insurance will also be included in the airfare; this is additional protection if it's not already available through the family insurance. All participating students will be responsible for the balance of their airfare, flight cancellation, insurance, personal spending money, gifts for host families, and must obtain a valid passport and submit a clear COLOR copy no later than 2 months prior to departure date, or risk the opportunity to participate and forfeit any money paid towards trip.

DEADLINE. The deadline for submission of applications is **FRIDAY, JANUARY 10th, 2020.**

STUDENT APPLICATION. Applications will not be accepted unless all the following items are included:

- ✓ A complete & organized Student Exchange Program Application form.
- ✓ Transcript confirmation of grades for the two previous school years, as well as transcript confirmation for the Fall semester.
- ✓ A one-page letter addressed to the Lomita Sister City Association, written by the APPLICANT, stating why the applicant would like to participate in the Student Exchange Program, in addition to what the applicant hopes to gain from this experience.
- ✓ One letter of recommendation from school faculty or administration.*
- ✓ One letter of recommendation from a parent or guardian.*

*All letters of recommendation should be written by someone who has had the opportunity to observe the applicant, and who can give a worthwhile opinion of the character, industry, purposefulness, disposition, and general worthiness of the applicant.

**Applications are to be mailed
by FRIDAY, JANUARY 10th, 2020
to:**

LOMITA SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1048, Lomita, CA 90717

Or drop off at Lomita City Hall,
must indicate for Lomita Sister City Association

QUESTIONS. If you should have any questions, Please call:

Linda Roehm 310-326-2333

For more information, please visit us at:

<http://lomitasisistercity.webs.com>
http://www.lomita.com/cityhall/about_lomita/index.cfm?p=sistercity.cfm

**Please also read & review ALL the
standard code of conducts listed.**



STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

All host families, students, all LSCA members and persons over the age of 18 shall abide by the standards of conduct listed here, these are established to ensure that the student's stay in the United States/Japan is as successful, safe, and secure as possible. LSCA expects the highest standards of behavior from all program participants at all times and, in turn, assume responsibility for the welfare and safety of the student throughout the program. Any violations of these rules will lead to disciplinary action and possible termination from the program. Any violation of local, state, or federal laws or serious misbehavior in the host family or community will result in dismissal from the program and early return to the home country at the expense of the student's parents and with no refund of any program fees.

Section 1. LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LAWS –If LSCA determines it is reliably confirmed that the student has acted illegally, the student will be dismissed from the program and will be returned as soon as legally possible to the home country at the expense of the student's natural parents.

a. Drinking of alcoholic beverages, including beer and wine, is not permitted while on the program and is illegal in most states for persons under 21 years of age.

b. Smoking is illegal in most states for persons under 18 years of age. If the student has stated in the application that he/she is a non-smoker, then he/she must refrain from smoking while in the U.S. or traveling abroad in Japan. If a student is found to be a smoker after having stated otherwise, he/she may be dismissed from the program and returned home. If the student is a smoker, he/she must comply with all smoking restrictions imposed by the host family, any public or private venue, and state laws.

c. The student must not buy, sell, possess, or use illegal drugs of any kind or use any controlled drugs, unless prescribed for him/her by a physician or other health professional. If the student is taking prescription drugs, the English name, dosage, and length of time of use for each drug must be listed on the Medical Information Form. The student must not associate with any persons involved in illegal drug-taking or drug-possession.

d. The student must not commit or take part in any act of violence against another person or property.

e. Shoplifting and theft are illegal and may lead to criminal charges.

f. Driving a car without a driver's license is illegal. Students under the age of 25 are strictly prohibited from driving.

Section 2. HOST FAMILY PARTICIPATION –All AMERICAN host families are volunteers and receive no compensation for hosting a foreign student. Students must show their appreciation and gratitude to the host family for hosting them. Host families participate in the program because of their desire to have a cross-cultural experience and learn about other cultures while sharing the American way of life with the foreign student.

a. No guarantee is made with regard to placement of the student in a particular family or home.

b. A private bedroom is NOT GUARANTEED. A separate bed is GUARANTEED.

c. The student must show respect to the host family at all times and must not exhibit any behaviors deemed by LSCA to be inappropriate. The student must comply with all rules of the host family (ex. curfews, chores, visitors, phone calls, computer and internet usage, etc.)

d. Meals: During the daily activities, the meals (lunch and sometimes dinner) will be covered by LSCA. Host families are responsible for all breakfast, dinners, and all meals during the family weekends. Please refer to more information in the student handbook.

e. Personal information: Students are not allowed to give information on their host family (including: host family names, address, phone number, email address) to anyone except the students' natural family or other host family participating in the program at the same time, and must not post any of this information on a social networking internet site.

f. The student must keep the host family informed at all times of his/her whereabouts, whom he/she is with, and times of departure from and return to the host family's home. Students must ask permission of the host family before making plans.

g. The student must not borrow money from the host family or from any other source. Nor may the student loan money to the host family or anyone else. Natural parents are required to supply the student with an adequate amount of spending money at all times.

h. The student must speak with the host family or LSCA program officials about any problems or issues that arise. Students must not speak of the host family's private affairs to other students, community members, or friends.

Section 3. VISITS AND STUDENT TRAVEL WHILE ON THE PROGRAM –Overnight travel with the host family, LSCA approved groups, is permitted if prior consent is given by the LSCA coordinator or board.

Section 4. LIFE-CHANGING DECISIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS RULES

a. Students will not be permitted to make life-changing decisions, including but not limited to marriage, religious conversion, or other decisions with legal, political, religious, and/or social ramifications.

b. Students are to abstain from sexual behavior and activity.

c. Students are not allowed to have any piercings or tattoos done while on the program.

d. The student is responsible for his/her personal property. Any lost, stolen or damaged personal property of the student, including money, is the responsibility of the student and is not covered by any insurance policy.

Section 5. RETURNING HOME AT THE END OF THE PROGRAM –If a student leaves a host family and has any outstanding debts (such as medical bills not covered by insurance or long distance telephone calls), the student's natural family will be responsible for payment of these debts in addition to a \$150 surcharge per debt to cover the costs of collection by US program officials.

Section 6. DRIVER'S EDUCATION AND DRIVING A MOTORIZED VEHICLE –Students may not drive a car while on the program under any circumstances. Because of the danger and liability involved in driving a motorized vehicle, the student may not drive any motorized vehicle for which an operator's license is required. Students are not permitted to drive a motorized vehicle which is not covered by their travel insurance.

Section 7. AGREEMENT TO ABIDE BY THE PROGRAM STANDARDS OF CONDUCT – We ask that all student, parent/legal guardians, to have read and understand all the above stated in LSCA Program Standards of Conduct, and agree to obey the Standards of Conduct and all rules set by LSCA, Host Family, or program officials, even if he/she are or will be 18 years of age on the program. Parents/legal guardians also agree that their son/daughter will obey the Standards of Conducts and all rules set by the LSCA, Host Family, or program officials, even if he/she is or will be 18 years of age on the program, with understanding that any violation of these Standards of Conduct or any rules set by the LSCA program, Host Family or program officials may lead to disciplinary action and possible termination from the Program, which may result in an early return to the home country at the parent's expense and with no refund of program fees. We, the Host Family, agree that all members of our household will obey the Standards of Conduct set by LSCA or program officials, and agree to "LIVE SCAN" and background check for all persons living in the household 18 years of age and older. All must understand and agree that LSCA has sole discretion in making ANY decisions regarding termination of the student from the program and return of the student to his/her home country.



Lomita Sister City Association

P.O. Box 1048, Lomita, CA 90717 Telephone: 310-539-1399 Email: lomita.sistercity@gmail.com

APPLICATION: STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM, YEAR 2020

[Preferably typed or print in blue or black ink very clearly. If needed, use additional paper.]

I. GENERAL

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____ Age _____ Birth Date _____

School in Which Currently Enrolled _____ Grade _____

Is current grade point average "C" (2.0) or better? Yes No

School Activities _____

Future Educational and/or Career Goals _____

Extracurricular Activities Including Employment, Clubs, Associations, Community Service, Travel, Etc.

Hobbies _____

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes No

If **YES**, please explain _____

Will you and/or your family be able to participate in all Lomita Sister City Association activities such as

FUND RAISING and MEETINGS**? Yes No

If **NO**, please explain _____

**Attendance at meetings is MANDATORY if you are selected as an exchange student.

How did you hear about our Student Exchange Program?

School Lomita Newsletter Email Others _____

II. MEDICAL HISTORY (This section must be filled out by every applicant. Declaration of illnesses or surgeries will not necessarily exclude you from being selected or participating in the exchange program.)

Medical Emergency Contacts

1. Parent(s) _____ Relationship _____

Address _____ Occupation _____

Phone Number(s) _____

2. Alternate(s) _____ Relationship _____

Address _____ Occupation _____

Phone Number(s) _____



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(continued)

Medical Insurance Company Name _____ Policy# _____

(Please check with your medical insurance company if they cover your medical during travels.)

Do you have any medical or physical problems/restrictions? Yes No

If **YES**, please explain _____

Do you wear Glasses or Contacts

Do you SMOKE cigarettes or e-cigarettes? YES or NO

Have you ever had or do you current have the following, please check and give dates as necessary

- _____ Abscessed Ears _____ High Blood Pressure _____
- _____ Allergies _____ Kidney _____
- _____ Asthma _____ Motion Sickness _____
- _____ Bronchitis _____ Recent Exposure to a Contagious Disease _____
- _____ Diabetes _____
- _____ Epilepsy _____ Serious Injury/Operations _____
- _____ Frequent Colds _____
- _____ Frequent Sore Throats _____ Sinus Allergies _____
- _____ Heart Problems _____ Stomach Upsets _____
- _____ Hepatitis _____ Tuberculosis _____
- _____ Others (please list your prescription medications) _____

(Use the back of this page for additional information and/or comments.)

Please include required documents with this application. (Refer to Information Sheet)

I certify that all the above information is correct.

I realize that the falsification of any portion of the application will result in my disqualification.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

If under age of 18, please have parent or legal guardian sign & date above.

Send this form and other required documents to:

Lomita Sister City Association
P.O. Box 1048, Lomita, CA 90717

Or drop off by due date at Lomita City Hall – Lomita Sister City Association (LSCA)

The DEADLINE is FRIDAY, JANUARY 10th, 2020.