



**KAKEHASHI Project**  
**Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA)**  
**Young Japanese Americans Batch No.2 Program Report**

**1. Program Overview**

Under “Japan’s Friendship Ties Program”, 59 young Japanese American, university and graduate school students from United States visited Japan. During the 8 days program from January 12th to January 19th, 2016, the participants studied the Japanese government, society, history, foreign policy, culture and much more. The participants aim to promote Japan through mediums such as SNS.

**2. Participating Countries and Number of Participants**

USA (59 Participants)

**3. Prefectures Visited**

Tokyo, Fukuoka and Miyagi

**4. Program Schedule**

January 12 (Tue)                      Arrival at Narita International Airport and Haneda International Airport

January 13 (Wed)                      Orientation  
  【Lecture on Japan】 Cabinet Office  
  【Observation】 Japanese Overseas Migration Museum

January 14 (Thu) ~ January 17 (Sun)

Divide into 2 groups and move to Fukuoka or Miyagi

\* Group A: Fukuoka Prefecture

【Courtesy Call】 Fukuoka City International Affairs Dept  
【History and Culture】 Dazaifu Tenmangu, Kiuso Painting  
【Traditional Cultural Experience】 Ohori Park Noh Theater  
【School Exchange】 Seinan Gakuin University  
【Homestay】  
【Workshop】

\* Group B: Miyagi Prefecture

【School Exchange】 Miyagi Gakuin Women's University  
【Introduction of the Region】 City of Sendai  
【Observation of Historical Site】 Matsushima  
【Traditional Cultural Experience】 Painting  
【Homestay】

	<b>【Workshop】</b>
January 18 (Mon)	Move to Tokyo
	<b>【Reporting Session】</b>
January 19 (Tue)	Departure from Narita International Airport and Haneda International Airport

## 5. Program Photos



1/13 **【Lecture on Japan】** Cabinet Office (Tokyo)



1/14 **【School Exchange】** Seinan Gakuin University (Fukuoka City)



1/14 **【School Exchange】** Miyagi Gakuin Women's University (Sendai City)



1/15 **【Traditional Cultural Experience】** Ohori Park Noh Theater (Fukuoka City)

	
1/15 【Introduction of the Region】 City of Sendai (Sendai City)	1/18 【Reporting Session】 (Tokyo)

## 6. Voice from Participants

### ◆ U.S.A, Student

This program reinforced my belief in the importance of learning a second language. I was so happy that I was able to meet and speak with so many fascinating people. The level of customer service and home hospitality was above and beyond my mildest expectations. I felt like even a stranger cared a lot about each other and showed a level of respect to one another that is hard to find in the USA. I think the US could learn a lot from Japan, especially with regards to being respectful to one another and having a sense of responsibility. Furthermore, the innovative nature of Japanese product design was very impressive to me and I think American business could find increased economic success if they learned more about Japanese design. I hope to share my experiences on social media and with friends when I return. As a Japanese-American, this was an especially invaluable experience.

### ◆ U.S.A, Student

Being completely immersed in the culture and the people was, by far, what impressed me the most. The keyword of my trip, if I could only pick one word, would be “kindness”. The female university students, homestay families, and other participants have inspired me to travel more and explore Japan and its culture more. Without the people I befriended along the way, this journey of discovery would have been incomplete. The music, food, shopping, bullet train, and museums were just the icing on the cake. I am forever indebted to the wonderfully hospitable people of this country. I know I am blessed with this opportunity and I am grateful that I was exposed to the sincere mannerisms of the Japanese.


### ◆ U.S.A, Student

What impressed me most with Japan is the progressiveness of the country as a whole. I visited 6 years ago and I think Japan has drastically changed. From a largely patriarchal society, Japan has changed to viewing women as a prominent source of power in the workplace which I believe is huge. I had so much fun with my home-stay, I think that was the highlight of the trip. Interacting with my family was amazing. It is mind-blowing interacting with a family with roots so close to my own ancestry, however our cultures are entirely different. I created lasting memories that made me to grateful for this experience.

### ◆ U.S.A, Student


Japan is truly a beautiful country with beautiful people. Everyone shows utmost kindness and respect towards you, and you really see Japanese values in aspects of everyday life. I was really impressed by how eco-friendly Japan was. There was no trash on the ground or in the streets, the bathrooms were always clean, all trash is recycled or disposed of as best as possible. I really admire this ethic of taking care of each other and taking care of the environment. I was especially impressed by the kindness of our home stay mother who, despite her rough English, went over and beyond to make us welcome and give us great experiences. I really enjoyed the homestay because it is a glimpse into Japanese life, and into Japan. Going to tourist attractions, shrines and museums is one thing, but living side by side in Japanese household allows you to live as a Japanese person and to really understand what it means. I feel like I've learned so much and with a greater sense of clarity I am excited to return home and share about Japan.

## 7. Action Plan Presented at the Reporting Session by Participants

<p><b>General Findings</b></p> <p>Quiet in public Many bike and use mass transit Work-driven society People dress more formally Active nightlife:     Arcades, crane games, and cafe     Pachinko and drinking culture Modern architecture and technology Efforts to increase female participation in the workforce</p> 	<p><b>What We Will Do Ourselves</b></p> <p>Social Media and Word-of-Mouth Influence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Post photos and information via social media platforms (e.g. Facebook and Instagram)</li><li>• Share experiences with friends and family</li><li>• Share Japanese culture through the creation of art, animation and various entertainment</li><li>• Post about Japan on personal blogs</li><li>• Study Japanese in school</li><li>• When taking family trips to Japan, teach family what you have learned</li></ul>
<b>Findings</b>	<b>Action Plan</b>

<h3>What we did</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Shinkansen</u> to Sendai in Northern Japan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational: Miyagi Gakuin Women's University</li> <li>• Geographical: Matsushima</li> <li>• Cultural: Dontosai festival, <u>Kokeshi</u> doll painting,</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Kami Town with homestay families</li> </ul>	<h3>Homestay testimonials</h3> <p>"Even though we couldn't communicate, they treated us and accepted us as family."</p> <p>"The homestay was a genuine experience and truly unique. I am grateful for the opportunity to experience the history behind such a rich culture."</p> <p>"Crying with the family during the send off. It was really cool to see how two different cultures can affect each other in such a short time."</p> <p>"We all felt so loved!"</p> <p>"[I enjoyed] seeing a 300 yr old samurai house in Kami [Town]. I appreciate how these things are preserved."</p>
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Findings in Japan	Action Plan

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