



KAKEHASHI Project

Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA) High School Students

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under “Japan’s Friendship Ties Program”, 50 high school students from U.S.A. visited Japan. During the 8 days program from March 15th to March 22nd, 2016, the participants studied the Japanese government, society, history, culture, foreign policy, and much more. The participants aim to promote Japan through mediums such as SNS.

2. Participating Countries and Number of Participants

U.S.A. (50 Participants)

3. Prefectures Visited

Tokyo and Okinawa

4. Program Schedule

March 15th (Tue) Arrival at Narita International Airport

March 16th (Wed)

【Orientation】

【Lecture】 “Japan’s Foreign Policy” by the North American Affairs Bureau, MOFA

【Observation】 Imperial Palace

March 17th (Thu)~March 21st (Sat) Move to local area

【Observation】 Peace Memorial Park ; Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum ;
Cornerstone of Peace

【School Exchange】 (Group A) Okinawa Prefectural Futenma High School

(Group B) Okinawa Prefectural Urasoe High School

【Observation of Historical Landmark】 Shuri Castle

【Cultural Experience】 Eisa Dancing with Eisa dancing club at Okinawa University

【School Exchange】 Castle HS visits Futenma HS / Bozeman HS visits Urasoe HS

【Home stay】

【Observation】 Okinawa Prefectural Museum

【Workshop】 Preparation for the Reporting session

March 21st (Mon) Move to Tokyo

【Reporting Session】

March 22nd (Tue)

【Historical Monument Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine / Harajuku

Departure from Narita International Airport

5. Program Photos



3/16 【Orientation】 (Tokyo)



3/16 【Lecture on Japan's Foreign Affairs by MOFA】 (Tokyo)



3/17 【Peace Memorial Park】 (Itoman City)



3/17 【Observation】 Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum (Itoman City)



3/17【School Exchange】Okinawa Prefectural Urasoe High School (Urasoe City)



3/17【School Exchange】Okinawa Prefectural Futenma High School (Ginowan City)



3/17【School Exchange】Okinawa Prefectural Urasoe High School (Ginowan City)



3/17 【Observation of Historical Landmark】 Shuri Castle (Naha City)



3/17【Cultural Experience】Eisa Dancing with Eisa dancing club at Okinawa University (Naha City)





3/20 【Farewell Party】 (Naha City)



3/20 【Workshop】 Preparation for the Reporting session (Naha City)



3/21 【Reporting Session】 (Tokyo)

	
3/22 【Observation】 Meiji-jingu Shrine (Tokyo)	3/22 【Observation】 Sensoji-Temple (Tokyo)

6. Voice from Participants

◆ U.S.A. High school student

The Japanese people are incredibly kind and welcoming. The history in Okinawa is extremely unique and well-established .Between the traditional music and food, to the very prevalent Shisas. I have learned so much about this culture and I cannot wait to learn more. I was thrilled to experience life with Okinawans and truly learn about their home in Japan. It has been fascinating to understand the relationship between the United states and Japan. And I wish to share this sentiment back home in Montana and to moreover revisit Japan in the future.

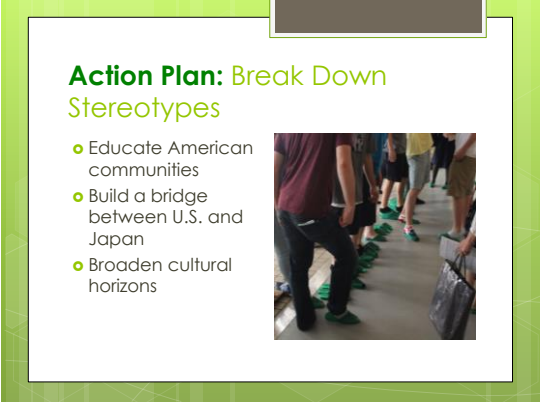
◆ U.S.A. High school student

I was extremely struck by the intimacy and genuine nature of the Japanese culture. We often see Japanese or assumes as reserved or shy, but over my homestay, I realized that this was, in actuality, a commitment to only truth and genuine expression of themselves. Further, friendship here is so caring, almost parental. The food was absolutely amazing everywhere. At the high school, as we learned Sanshin, calligraphy, Karate, Japanese archery and much more. I saw how proud the Okinawans were of their culture and how excited they were to share it with us. Lastly, this program fully taught me to be better person. The amount of gratitude that runs so deeply in this nation is so evident in every action the citizen take. I will happily share these remarks when I return.

◆ U.S.A. High school student

This trip was a wonderful experience. Being able to attend school with students in Japan was a great way to experience culture. Homestay at a high school student's house really opened my eyes to seeing the similarities of Hawaii and Okinawa. Japan and Okinawa are very forward in technology as well. They are very densely populated, so they are very wary of everyone's health condition. I did not know of the battle of Okinawa and to learn and see evidence left from the battle really taught me a lot. Hands on experiences and videos that shared the testimonies and history of Okinawa were very informational. I have learned so much about this country and experienced a lot which is something I will never forget.

7. Action Plan Presented at the Reporting Session by Participants

 <p>Cultural Findings: Acceptance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generosity Hospitality Selflessness Non-judgmental Peaceful Outgoing 	 <p>Action Plan: Execution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawk TV Hawk Tawk In-class presentations
Findings in Japan	Action Plan
 <p>Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pop Culture (Music) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diverse; Influenced by countries like America Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tatami room acts as safe space for the family to bond and interact Hygiene/Cleanliness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone takes measures to ensure health of themselves and others. Family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All members make time for each other; Homestay guest welcomed into family. Cuisine 	 <p>Action Plan: Break Down Stereotypes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate American communities Build a bridge between U.S. and Japan Broaden cultural horizons
Findings in Japan	Action Plan