



## **KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America) Inbound program for Okinawa Program the 2nd Slot Program Report**

### **1. Program Overview**

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 25 High school students and supervisors from the U.S. visited Japan from March 12 to March 19, 2019 to participate in the program aimed at promoting their understanding of Japan with regard to Japanese politics, economy, society, culture, history, and foreign policy. Through the lectures, observations and interactions with Japanese people etc., the participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to improve their understanding of Japan and shared their individual interests and experiences on social media. Based on their findings and learning in Japan, each group of participants made a presentation in the final session and reported on the action plans to be taken after returning to the U.S.

#### **【Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants】**

United States of America: 25 participants

#### **【Prefectures Visited】**

Tokyo, Okinawa

### **2. Program Schedule**

Mar.12(Tue)	Arrival
Mar.13(Wed)	【Orientation】 【Lecture】 Ms. Hisami Andrade, Tokai University 【Observation】 Odaiba Move to Okinawa from Tokyo
Mar.14(Thu)	【Historical Landmark】 Shuri-jo Castle 【Observation】 Makishi Public Market, Kokusai Street 【Meeting with Host Family】
Mar.15(Fri)	【Homestay】
Mar.16(Sat)	【Farewell Party with Host Family】 【Observation of Peace-Building related Facility】 Chibichirigama, Simukugama 【Historical Landmark】 Zakimi Fortress 【Observation】 Michi-no Eki Kadena (a highway road house and

shopping area)

- Mar.17(Sun)      **【Nature Experience】** Tidal flat, Coral Culture Facility  
**【Historical Landmark】** Cape Zampa Lighthouse  
**【Workshop】**
- Mar.18(Mon)      Move to Tokyo from Okinawa  
**【Cutting-Edge Technology】** Chiba Institute of Technology  
**【Observation】** Chiba Institute of Technology Tokyo Skytree Town ®  
Campus
- Mar.19(Tue)      **【Reporting Session】**  
**【Historical Landmark】** Naritasan Shinshoji Temple  
Departure

### 3. Program Photos

	
<p>3/13 <b>【Orientation】</b></p>	<p>3/14 <b>【Meeting with Host Family】</b></p>
	
<p>3/14 <b>【Observation】</b> Shuri-jo Castle</p>	<p>3/15 <b>【Homestay】</b></p>
	
<p>3/17 <b>【Workshop】</b></p>	<p>3/19 <b>【Reporting Session】</b></p>

#### **4. Voice from Participants (abstract)**

◆ The homestay was my favorite part of this program. It let us slow down, step away from mainstream attractions and experience daily life in Yomitan village. I got a lot closer than I expected with my host mother and I would love to stay in touch. Even through a massive language barrier and cultural gap, I learned it's possible to make meaningful connections no matter our differences.

◆ The homestay experience was truly incredible. There is nothing that could replicate what it was like. At first, we were just going to tourist attractions, then we started going to places like local cafes and farmers markets. We learned how to play a traditional instrument and we ate traditional food. This experience will stick with me for the rest of my life.

◆ The lecture was perfect, we got a lesson on Japanese culture, history, and traditions from Professor Andrade from Tokai University. Her talk was a very important factor to how the rest of my trip played out, previously I did not know much about Japanese culture and tradition however after listening to her speech I felt much more confident on correct behavior in Japan.

#### **5. Voice from Japanese Students/Schools/Host Families/Organizations**



##### **◆ Host family**

The students were bold and fearless, and I was impressed when I saw the four of them taking time to have a pleasant conversation after dinner. For dinner on the first night, we worked together on preparing various dishes, including *temaki-sushi* (hand-rolled sushi) and *tonkatsu* (pork cutlet), which was nice. The students actively played with our grandchildren, too.

##### **◆ Host family**

It was exciting to come into contact with a different culture, which was nice. I was amazed at the students' communication skills.

## 6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p><b>Sydney Yang</b> 2 hrs · 🌐</p> <p>We went to two caves. Chibichiri-gama and Shimuku-gama cave. As a whole, we learnt above the history behind the two caves. Very interesting and sad. #Kakehashi2018</p> <p>Like Comment Share</p>	 <p>Liked by marie.florival and 341 others</p> <p>catherinebultema "What is going on?" My sentence for the trip! Even though I don't know any Japanese, the people here are so friendly and kind! I love meeting new people that make me see japan in a new way! #kakehashi2018 #Japan</p>
<p>About Observation of Peace-Building related Facility(Facebook)</p> <p>We went to two caves. Chibichiri-gama and Shimuku-gama cave. As a whole, we learnt above the history behind the two caves. Very interesting and sad.</p>	<p>About KAKEHASHI Project (Instagram)</p> <p>"What is going on?" My sentence for the trip! Even though I don't know any Japanese, the people here are so friendly and kind! I love meeting new people that make me see Japan in a new way!</p>

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

<p>Action plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present to CUSD school board meeting</li> <li>• Post on social media and reply to comments and questions</li> <li>• Present to friends and family</li> <li>• Continue contact with host families by email and text</li> <li>• Present to university and high school classes</li> <li>• Return to Japan in the future</li> </ul>
<p>Action Plan</p> <p>Present to Chico Unified School District school board meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post on social media and reply to comments and questions</li> <li>• Present to friends and family</li> <li>• Continue contact with host families by email and text</li> <li>• Present to university and high school classes</li> <li>• Return to Japan in the future</li> </ul>

