



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

Inbound program for Sports Program

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 10 University students from the U.S. visited Japan from January 15 to January 22, 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: 10 participants

[Prefectures Visited]







Tokyo, Miyazaki

2. Program Schedule

Jan. 15 (Tue)	[Arrival]
Jan. 16 (Wed)	[Orientation] [Lecture]Ministry of Foreign Affairs [Sports Exchange] "Kodokan" (Bunkyo-ku)/ "Shidokan" (Shinjuku-ku)
Jan. 17 (Thu)	Move to Miyazaki from Tokyo [Lecture] Nobeoka City Government
Jan. 18 (Fri)	[Sports Exchange] Nobeoka Gakuen High School Judo Team [Observation] Asahi Kasei Museum [Meeting with Host Family]
Jan. 19 (Sat)	[Sports Exchange] Nobeoka Gakuen High School Judo Team [Culture Exchange] Zazen [Homestay]
Jan. 20 (Sun)	[Culture Exchange] Iaido Exhibition [Farewell Party with Host Family] [Workshop]

Jan. 21 (Mon)	Move to Tokyo from Miyazaki [Reporting Session]
Jan. 22 (Tue)	[Observation] The Japanese Sword Museum [Departure]

3. Program Photos

	
1/16 [Orientation]	1/16 [Sports Exchange] "Kodokan" (Bunkyo-ku)
	
1/18 [Observation] Asahi Kasei Museum	1/19 [Sports Exchange] Nobeoka Gakuen High School
	
1/20 [Culture Exchange] Iaido	1/21 [Reporting Session]

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

◆U.S.A. Student

In Homestay, my judo mate and I was able to stay at this older couple's home in Kitakatamachi mimichi, Nobeoka, who lived in the mountains. They became grandparents for me and it was emotional since I do not have any grandparents anymore. We talked late for 3 hours about life and how she hopes me to do all the things I like so I can live happily. She told me about how she loves having guests over and her kids already became adults and left their home so it's a bit lonely. It makes me miss my grandparents too and so I decided that I will visit them again either next year or 2021.

◆U.S.A. Student

The most impressive part of the lecture was that sensei Andrade was that she was very educational yet very funny. She was very engaging and made the lecture fun to learn. The most significant impression about the school exchange was how respectful they were to each other, the senseis and to us. They were also excellent judoka. They were highly skilled and very fast making them unbelievable. The most impressive part of the company was how kind they were and how they always talked to us. The most impressive thing about the homestay was how they really treated us like actual family and how they were so caring about us. I was really impressed by this trip and I really hope the program continues for judoka in the USA.

◆U.S.A. Student

The most influential memory of my stay was the close cultural interaction with the Japanese people. The sports exchange as well as the homestay are great ways to learn the ins and outs of the Japanese culture. I managed to see the local wonders with my homestay family and learn and deeply understand the culture. I was able to experience the Japanese people's daily lives and study their mentality and commons. I also observed their own family interactions and behaviors. I experienced their love and care, something that completely came unexpected to me during the trip. This trip created in me an everlasting impression and love for the Japanese culture.

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

◆ Person in charge of receiving municipality


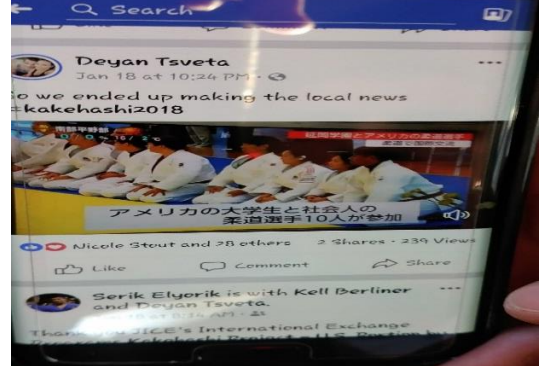
I have been putting a lot of effort into trying to improve the city and utilize vacation rentals, so being that our guests were American students who practice Judo, I was very happy that the program was well-received by both them and the host families. Nobeoka Gakuen High School has a solid Judo club, but it is also good at other sports like basketball, baseball and volleyball. It is certainly possible that we will be able to accept people from different countries in different fields in the future.

◆ Host family

They were really good kids and I was able to form a pretty strong relationship with them. And

they also ate some Miyazaki Beef and shiitake mushrooms. Since they seem to be good enough to be Olympic-level athletes, I'd like to support them in what they're trying to do. We were able to basically understand about 80 percent of what we were trying to communicate to one another with the help of a smart phone, but since it looks like they're going to learn a bit more Japanese and come back this way, I would definitely like to see them again.

6. Dissemination by the participants

	
<p>About the program (Instagram)</p> <p>Having an unimaginable experience here in Japan by visiting Tokyo, the legendary judo school at Kodokan, meeting with the minister of Foreign Affairs, tasting incredible Japanese food, making new friends, building a network and envisioning the future. I am greatly appreciated for this amazing opportunity held by #kakehashi2018#japan#tokyo.</p>	<p>About the program (Facebook)</p> <p>So we ended up making the local news #kakehashi2018.</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

ACTION PLAN:		
Why:	Who:	What:
• To spread knowledge of the Japanese culture that we experienced ourselves	• In general to inform the United States. To be more specific we will be presenting to our friends, family and other judokas.	• Present to any groups that will listen like our dojos.
When:		How:
• Any chance we get		• We will be presenting our new knowledge through power point, videos, and speeches

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- 2) Who: In general the United States. To be more specific we will be presenting to our friends, family and other judokas.
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- 4) When: Any chance we get.
- 5) How: We will be presenting our new knowledge through power point, videos, and speeches.