



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

Inbound program for Okinawa Program the 1st 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 December 10 to December 17, 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

12/10(Tue)	【Arrival】
12/11(Wed)	【Orientation】 【Lecture】 Ms. Andrade Hisami, Tokai University Move to Okinawa from Tokyo
12/12(Thu)	【Cultural Experience】 Okinawa Karate Kaikan 【Observation, Lecture】 Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum, Testimony of the War Survivor , Peace Memorial Park 【Cultural Experience】 Eisa Traditional Dance
12/13(Fri)	【School Exchange】 Okinawa Prefecture Nago Senior High School 【Meeting with Host Family】
12/14(Sat)	【Homestay】
12/15(Sun)	【Farewell Party with Host Family】 【Workshop】
12/16(Mon)	Move to Tokyo from Okinawa 【Observation】 Chiba Institute of Technology Tokyo Skytree Town® Campus 【Observation】 Senso-ji Temple, Asakusa
12/17(Tue)	【Reporting Session】

3. Program Photos



12/11 【Lecture】

Ms. Andrade Hisami, Tokai University



12/12 【Cultural Experience】

Eisa Traditional Dance



12/12 【Observation】 Okinawa
Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum



12/13 【School Experience】 Okinawa
Prefecture Nago Senior High School



12/14 【Homestay】



12/17 【Reporting Session】

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

◆ The lectures for Japan's history were absolutely eye opening, I was extremely saddened by the knowledge of what happened during the battles with America. No one should ever have to experience something so horrible as that, I will strive to make sure nothing like that happens again and I hope others will as well. The school exchange was full of beautiful friendships, laughter, and memorable experiences between both American and Japanese friends/family. These types of relationships will never be forgotten: I absolutely love and cherish my new friends so much. Their hospitality was amazing and I'm so grateful that they were open to helping all of us understand things that we had trouble grasping. I'm so grateful that I was given the opportunity to fly to and experience this amazing, inviting place.

◆ On the lectures, the most significant impression was in the lecture by Mr. Makoto Nakamura, where the importance of peaceful and understanding relationships became clear by learning about what happens when the relations get stressed. At the school exchange, during school cleaning, I was really amazed by how the Japanese culture stresses group strength and personal responsibility, and so all the students work together to keep their school clean. The home stay was one of the most enjoyable parts of the program. In the household, everyone was very nice to me, and I was able to see how the family functioned. When I was taking a shower, the bathrooms were very different, where you shower and then go into the bath. The father was not home much, as he was often at work, and that stuck with me, as I have heard about the expectations put on workers. I also went to an Onsen at the home stay, and I was able to understand some of the aspects about the bath culture.

◆ Going to the karate dojo and learning about the history of Okinawa karate was an unforgettable experience along with practicing karate. I enjoyed seeing the different type of tools the farmers used in karate. The lecture about peace was eye opening showing me the brutal history between the two countries. It is my hope to help continue the peaceful relations the two countries have. I really enjoyed Eisa. It was a great way to immerse myself in Okinawan culture and have fun. The school exchange showed Okinawa school life. It was interesting and I am glad I was there. There were many cultural niceties that would be useful in American school life that I wish to implement, such as student-cleaning. Homestay was great, I experienced Japanese food and games. Overall I was glad to do all activities.

5. Voice from Japanese Students/Schools/Host Families/Organizations (abstract)

◆ Student who participated in the school exchange



I was glad that when Churchill High School students arrived at Nago High School, it was in an atmosphere to communicate that both Nago and Churchill High School students were looking forward to reunion. They also enjoyed Karuta and Origami. At the farewell party, our relationship deepened further, and the bingo game pumped us up. When we danced Kachashi (Okinawan folk dance) together, Churchill High School students also enjoyed dancing, and we felt like we were united. We could deepen our friendship at this exchange

meeting, and I wanted to think about what we could do as a "Kakehashi." I hope that this exchange will not end at this exchange meeting but will continue from now on.

◆ Host family

As a host to accept homestay students, I learned about vegan food and other things that I didn't know before, and it was a good lesson for me. We all had fun while wearing yukata, preparing Matcha tea, and playing the koto. Children were nervous at first, but listened to explanations in English and came to speak natural English. It was a very good experience.

6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>michaelmorelike • フォローする ...</p> <p>michaelmorelike recycle We went to the Okinawa Peace Memorial Park/Museum and learned of the terrible battles that happened in Okinawa during World War II. We discussed the ways to prevent war in the future and how we can learn from the past. It was beautiful and sad and very important to learn about.</p> <p>#jice #kakehashi19 #japan #america #kakehashi2019</p> <p>2日前</p> <p>いいね! 76件</p> <p>コメントを追加...</p>	 <p>ammon.12 • フォローする Naha, Okinawa</p> <p>ammon.12 Was fortunate enough to participate in Eisa, a traditional dance from Okinawa that is performed during the Bon Festival to remember, pay respects, and send off the spirits of their ancestors.</p> <p>#kakehashi2019 #jice #usa #japan #okinawa1 #kakehashiaward</p> <p>5日前</p> <p>annora. bradley sequoia lacks ice</p> <p>jy.flores. 他日人が「いいね！」しました</p> <p>コメントを追加...</p>
<p>About the Observation (Instagram)</p> <p>We went to the Okinawa Peace Memorial Park/Museum and learned of the terrible battles that happened in Okinawa during World War II . We discussed the ways to prevent war in the future and how we can learn from the past. It was beautiful and sad and very important to learn about.</p>	<p>About Eisa Traditional Dance (Instagram)</p> <p>Was fortunate enough to participate in Eisa, a traditional dance from Okinawa that is performed during the Bon Festival to remember, pay respects, and send off the spirits of their ancestors.</p>


7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

Project 'Peace Together'

From Churchill High School

After Action Plan

- Why?
 - Promote peace internationally
- When?
 - Upon returning to America
- Who?
 - All Kakehashi participants
- To whom?
 - Everyone we meet
- How?
 - Showing presentations and pictures to classmates
 - Staff meetings
 - Climate action
 - Ethnic diversity group



【Group 1】

Every participant will share the experience, though social media, school presentation or assembly, thereby those who hear it will share it, and eventually it will spread on a large scale.

【Group 2】

We will constantly strive for peace and take actions for the rest of our lives, but for the moment, aim for the implementation in School Year 2019-2020 (by June 15, 2020).

We also aim to present our experiences in Japan in order to promote the importance of language learning experiences and the importance of international friendship activities.

The method would be; we will share our plan with our classmates and the rest of our school through pictures and presentation. We can also utilize the staff meeting, Climate Action group and District Ethnic Diversity group.