



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

Inbound program for Sport Program

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Programs, 3 swimming student-athletes from the U.S. visited Japan from January 15 to January 22, 2020 to participate in the program under the theme of sports 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: 3 participants

[Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo, Fukushima

2. Program Schedule

1/15 (Wed)	【Arrival】
1/16 (Thu)	【Orientation】 【Observation / Lecture】 Japan Swimming Federation @ Japan Institute of Sports Science 【Sport Exchange】 Tokai University
1/17 (Fri)	【Observation / Experience】 Tokyo Tatsumi International Swimming Center Move to Fukushima from Tokyo
1/18 (Sat)	【Observation】 Ouchi-juku 【Sport Experience】 Snowmobile tours experience 【Meeting with Host Family】
1/19 (Sun)	【Homestay】
1/20 (Mon)	【Farewell Party with Host Family】 【Workshop】
1/21 (Tue)	【Observation】 Ouei Swimming School Shirakawa, Xnus Sports Club Move to Tokyo from Fukushima 【Reporting Session】

1/22 (Wed)	【Departure】
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3. Program Photos



1/16 【Orientation】



1/16 【Sport Exchange】 Tokai University



1/17 【Observation / Experience】 Tokyo
Tatsumi International Swimming Center



1/18 【Observation】 Ouchi-juku



1/18 【Sport Experience】 Snowmobile tours
experience



1/21 【Reporting Session】

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

◆ I thought the school exchange was definitely interesting, as well as the home stay experience. It showed the distinct differences between living in the city, country side and America.

◆ My most significant impression of the lectures of the sports facilities was how advanced the technology was. Japanese athletes are frequently praised for their attention to detail and technique, and it was reflected in the facilities they train in. My impression of the school exchange was the mutual excitement of learning from one another. I thoroughly enjoyed working with and learning from the team, and they were very welcoming as well. The government office seemed very professional and safe. The home stay was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I felt so at home with my host family, as if I was actually a member of their family. Despite the cultural and linguistic barriers, they were extremely patient and went to great lengths to make sure that I was comfortable. I believe that we established a bond, and I hope to return soon.

◆ I was unfortunately sick during the lecture and school exchange so I did not get to experience those programs. Our visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was nice, the security is very good and the officers we met were very welcoming and polite. I was also unable to stay overnight with the host families, but I went to both homes and stayed for the day with my planned host family. I had a really fun experience at the mochi making festival and getting to dress up in the yukata. I thoroughly enjoyed making origami at the home stay and having conversations with the host family. They were very welcoming and patient with us. Since I was sick, I visited a clinic in Tokyo and again for a follow-up in Minamiaizu. The medical care in Japan is incredibly fast and affordable compared to that of the U.S. I am very grateful that they were able to get me healthy.

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



◆ The person in charge of accepting observation

Seeing both the smiles on the faces of the American college students and the fun look on the faces of the members of the swimming school was really satisfying. I'm looking forward to seeing what each player is going to end up doing in the future.

◆ Host family

The students that we took in were all really good students, so we had absolutely no issues hosting them. I was actually a little worried this year that we would not be able to show the students a good time because there was not that much snow out, but they all actually ended up having a great time doing things like skiing, wearing yukata, and making mochi.

6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>@2kakehashi19 ありがとう！ It was such a fun experience wearing our yukata and walking to the Jinja! Our home stay family was amazing. #kakehashiproject #kakehashi2019 #kakehashiaward #jice #japan #usa</p>	 <p>2kakehashi19 alyssa.mencel 他が「いいね！」しました 2kakehashi19 This morning we stopped in Shirakawa to join a women's swimming class at Ouei Swimming School! We were also filmed and interviewed by a TV station! It was such a fun and heartwarming experience to be able to swim with this group of women! Health and wellness are highly valued by people of all ages in Japan and it was great to hear about the incredible impact that this swimming school had on their community.</p>
<p>About homestay (Instagram) Arigatou. It was such a fun experience wearing our Yukata and walking to the Jinja. Our home stay family was amazing.</p>	<p>About observation (Instagram) This morning we stopped in Shirakawa to join a women's swimming class at Ouei Swimming School! We were also filmed and interviewed by a TV station. It was such a fun and heartwarming experience to be able to swim with this group of people of all ages in Japan and it was great to hear about the incredible impact that this swimming school had on their community.</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

<div data-bbox="558 1198 1037 1456"> <p>Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why: We want to display the wonderful aspects of Japanese culture and all of our memorable experiences in Japan's countryside with our host families. We want to show people in the U.S. details and nuances of Japanese life and culture that would otherwise be unknown. We also want to establish better relations and understanding between U.S. and Japan. When: post on social media within two weeks following departure from Japan, meeting within 2-3 months on our university campuses Who: Nick, Yifan, Lara </div>	<p>Why: We want to display the wonderful aspects of Japanese culture and all of our memorable experiences in Japan's countryside with our host families. We want to show people in the U.S. details and nuances of Japanese life and culture that would otherwise be unknown. We also want to establish better relations and understanding between U.S. and Japan.</p> <p>When: post on social media within two weeks following departure from Japan, meeting within 2-3 months on our university campuses.</p> <p>What: Presentation with many photos and detailed information about our trip, encouraging others to visit Japan. Social media posts.</p> <p>How: We will gather our swim team members with the help of our coaches and present the information to our teammates. We will also present at other events on campus. We will continue to post photos of our experiences on Instagram and Facebook.</p> <p>To whom: Classmates, teammates, professors, friends, and family</p>
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