



INFORMATION SHEET

Citizen Delegation to Neyagawa, Japan

(As of May 25, 2018)

- WHEN:** Friday, November 16 to Sunday, November 25, 2018
- WHERE:** Neyagawa, Osaka, Japan – Sister City to the City of Newport News since 1982
- WHAT:** A citizen delegation of up to 20 members consisting of a) 10 Newport News area students in grades 8-12 as of the 2018-19 academic year and, b) 10 adult delegates including 2 tasked as chaperons.
- GOAL:** Sister Cities Newport News conducts “Reciprocal Exchange Programs” that operate at minimal expense and take advantage of the hospitality and long-standing relationships established by our “sistered” communities. Delegation members will stay with host families arranged by our partner organization in Japan - NIEFA (Neyagawa Exchange and Friendship Association). Direct "People-to-People" contact is the mission of the program. Through these contacts, we build peace, international understanding and foster community and business relationships.

ESTIMATED COST:

- \$2,100* – Round-trip airfare (paid directly to travel agent)
- \$ 150 – SCNN travel confirmation fee
- \$ 200 – misc. expenses
- \$2,450 – TOTAL**

*actual cost of the flight in November 2016 was \$1,427

Youth Travel Eligibility:

1. Must be in grades 8-12 for the 2018-19 academic school year (homeschooled children welcome).
2. Must provide **at the time of application** a copy of a current U.S. passport (good for 6 months after the travel dates) or proof that a U.S. passport has been applied for.
3. Must submit a completed “Youth Delegate Application” available at www.sistercities-nn.com
4. Must agree to items 4-13 below.

Adult Travel Eligibility:

1. Must be at least 18 years of age.
2. Must submit a completed “Citizen Diplomat Interest Form” / www.sistercities-nn.com
3. Must provide **at the time of application** a copy of a current passport (good for 6 months after the travel dates). If not traveling with a US passport, restrictions and additional expenses may apply.
4. Must be available for travel November 16 to 25, 2018 (no partial stays permitted)
5. Must be flexible and possess an adventurous spirit.
6. Must agree to adhere to the itinerary established by SCNN and the host city. *
7. Must agree to be home-stayed by a host family.
8. Must provide medical insurance coverage information.
9. Must sign a release of liability waiver and authorizing for medical emergency treatment.
10. Must commit to participating with Sister Cities by hosting an international delegate.
11. Must be a member of Sister Cities of Newport News (youth membership \$10 / adults \$25).
12. Must pay a nonrefundable \$150 travel confirmation fee if selected to travel.
13. Must agree to pay the cost of airfare within 48 hours of flight booking via credit card.

How are delegates selected?

The Neyagawa Committee reserves the right to select delegates for exchange based on the applications received, the goals of each exchange and the mission of SCNN. Travel preference will be given to those who have previously hosted with Sister Cities. SCNN desires high-caliber delegates who will be good representatives of our schools, our city, and our nation. The selection committee seeks delegates who exhibit the following characteristics:

- * Sister City Volunteerism
- * Friendliness
- * Open-mindedness
- * Interest in World Affairs
- * Consideration for others
- * Maturity / Adaptability
- * Trustworthiness
- * Community / School Involvement

Failure to exhibit the necessary decorum and respect to the hosting city could result in removal from the exchange and exclusion from future exchanges

Exchange Timetable (subject to change)

September 10	Deadline for Applications
September 12	Committee Meeting to Review and Select Delegates
September 13	Announce Delegation Members
September 19	Delegation Meeting #1- \$150 Travel Conformation Fee Due
September 24	SCNN Books Airfare – delegates purchase individually with travel agent chosen by SCNN. (Delegates consider their personal need for travel insurance.)
October 1	Email NIEFA names of delegates with profiles for host matching
October 17	Delegation Meeting #2
November 9	Delegation Meeting #3 (dinner)
November 16	Depart USA / Arrive in Japan November 17
November 25	Depart Japan / Arrive in USA
December 6	Delegation Report at SCNN Annual Meeting
December 11	Delegation presents gifts & brief report to NN City Council

WHAT IS A SISTER CITY?

“Sistering” is a process that officially links citizens and municipalities with foreign communities through formal "Sister City" agreements. These agreements are fostered by grass-roots, citizen efforts and then ratified by a City Council, or its equivalent. The process of sistering cities was developed so that relationships would be grounded in long-term community partnerships. Sister Cities International is the nation’s foremost citizen diplomacy movement with more than 2,300 communities participating in 130 countries. Sister Cities of Newport News is a dues paying member of SCI.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.