



Application for

Mito, Japan

Student Exchange Program

Summer 2020

ANAHEIM-MITO SISTER CITY STUDENT EXCHANGE APPLICATION

Background

The student exchange between Anaheim and Mito, Japan began in 1984. Since then, a group of Anaheim high school students has traveled to Mito to experience the city's history, culture, and people each year. Many students have found this to be a life changing experience:

“This trip was amazing. I'm glad that I was able to participate in this program, which very few get to say they've done. Thank you to everybody who worked behind the scenes to make this possible from the chaperones, to the people at the Mito International Center, to the host families, and more. I love the host family that I was with. Nothing bad comes to mind when I think of this trip. Mito is such a beautiful place with beautiful land, scenery, and people.”

-Steven Trinh, 2016 Mito Student Ambassador

About the Exchange

Up to six high school students from the City of Anaheim will be selected by the Anaheim Sister City Commission to visit Mito, Japan for **two weeks from late June through mid-July in 2020**. These students will travel with an Anaheim chaperone and will stay with host families in Mito. The City of Mito plans the itinerary for the trip with a schedule that includes visits to schools, meeting the Mayor of Mito and participating in numerous cultural events. *Please note, that speaking Japanese is not a requirement of the Anaheim students.*

Visit the Anaheim Sister City Commission website for more information, videos, and photographs from past exchanges at www.anaheim.net/sistercity.

Application Requirements:

- Applications are due by 5:00 pm on **Monday, December 30, 2019**.
- Students must reside in the City of Anaheim and be in grades 9-11 for the 2019-2020 academic year.
- Must be a U.S. citizen and have a valid passport or be able to obtain a valid passport by **Tuesday, March 31, 2020**.
- Must be available to attend the group meeting on **Tuesday, January 14, 2020** from 6:00 pm –7:00 pm and interviews on the evening of **Tuesday, January 21, 2020** individual time TBD

If selected to be an Ambassador, students must:

- Contribute \$1,000 to subsidize travel and travel related expenses by **Thursday, February 27, 2020**. Note that the Commission may be able to provide assistance with the travel fee if the student is unable to contribute the entire amount and/or provide fundraising opportunities for the student to participate in.
- Assist in the creation of a memory book following the trip that will be distributed to the Anaheim City Council, Anaheim Sister City Commission, and Mito International Association.
- Attend all student orientations with a parent or legal guardian in May and June 2020 in preparation for the trip.
- Volunteer during the Inbound Student Exchange of Mito Students coming to Anaheim in late July or early August 2020 and are strongly encouraged to serve as a host family for students visiting from Mito, Japan.

2020 Mito Exchange Program Application

Application Instructions

- Complete the following application with the necessary signatures.
- Obtain one letter of recommendation from a school administrator (principal, counselor, teacher, club advisor, or coach)
- Include at least one color photo of yourself
- Application, essay, letters of recommendation, and the photo in **ONE PDF** file are due on **Monday, December 30, 2019**. Only completed applications will be considered.
- Please submit your completed and scanned application PDF file only to sistercity@anaheim.net by 5:00 pm on **Monday December 30, 2019**. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Please type or print the following information. If you are selected as a Mito Student Ambassador, this information will be used to match you with an appropriate host family in Mito, Japan. All information must be completely filled out. Incomplete applications will not be given consideration.

Personal Information

Full
Name:

Last

First

Middle

DOB:

MM/DD/YYYY

Sex:

M

F

Address:

Street Address

Apartment/Unit #

City

State

ZIP Code

Phone:

Best phone number to reach you

Email:

Best email to reach you

Do you have a passport that is valid for 2020?

YES

NO

If no: Will you be able to obtain one by March 2020?

YES

NO

Do you speak any foreign languages?

YES

NO

If yes, which language(s)?

Education and Extracurricular Activities

High School

Current Grade Level: Freshman Sophomore Junior

Do you currently work? YES NO If yes, where?

Do you play a musical instrument? YES NO If yes, which one?

What school activities are you involved in?

How do you spend your leisure time/recreational time?

What community activities are you involved in?

List any special interest, talents, skills, or hobbies not described above:

Family and Health Information

Please list the names of each of your family members, their relationship to you, and their ages. If selected, this information will better assist us in identifying a host family for you.

Full Name:	Relationship:	Age:
Full Name:	Relationship:	Age:
Full Name:	Relationship:	Age:
Full Name:	Relationship:	Age:
Full Name:	Relationship:	Age:
Full Name:	Relationship:	Age:
Full Name:	Relationship:	Age:
Full Name:	Relationship:	Age:

Do you currently take any medications? YES NO If yes, please explain:

Do you have any medical problems, including allergies that **could interfere** with participation in this program?

YES NO If yes, please explain:

Are you allergic or have any fear of dogs and/or cats?

YES NO

Miscellaneous Information

Have you ever visited a foreign country before?

YES NO

If yes, where and how long did you visit for?

How did you hear about the Anaheim-Mito Student Exchange Program?

Supplemental

- *In 300 words or less, please share what you hope to gain from the Mito Exchange Program. Please include information on why you applied and what impact this opportunity may have on your life. Please include your completed essay on a separate page (or below) and attach it to this application. It is preferred that the essay be typed and double spaced.*
- *Obtain one letter of recommendation from a school administrator (principal, counselor, teacher, club advisor, or coach)*
- *Include at least one color photo of yourself*

Disclaimer and Signature

In submitting this application, we certify that the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of our knowledge. We also understand the obligations outlined on this application packet and will comply with the best of our ability.

Student Signature:

Printed Name:

Signature:

Date:

Parent Signature:

Printed Name:

Signature:

Date:

If you have any questions about the application or the Exchange Program, please contact sistercity@anaheim.net