

DEADLINE TO APPLY
MAY 7 at 4pm

explore

SHIMONOSEKI, JAPAN

Are you interested in travelling abroad?

Will you be 14 or 15 years old in August 2019?

Will you attend Pittsburg High School in Fall 2019?

Are you interested in learning about new cultures?



The City of Pittsburg, in partnership with the Pittsburg Unified School District, is hosting the student exchange trip to Shimonoseki, Japan. This trip will take place during the month of August 2018 and includes a PUSD student delegation of 5 students age 14-15 years of age at the time of the trip. Minimum eligibility qualifications are below, and should be reviewed prior to submitting your application.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1. At the time of application, student must be enrolled in eighth or ninth grade in the Pittsburg Unified School District.
2. Student must be a full-time resident of the city of Pittsburg, California.
3. Student must be mature enough to benefit from the experience and be a credible student ambassador for the City of Pittsburg, Pittsburg Unified School District, and the United States of America.
4. Student must be in good academic standing and display exemplary citizenship at his/her school.
5. Student must be interested in learning about Japanese customs, culture, and language. This trip is a life-changing cultural experience.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, STOP BY YOUR PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE AND PICK UP AN APPLICATION. DEADLINE TO APPLY MAY 1st.

2019 Sister City Trip Cover Letter

The City of Pittsburg, in partnership with the Pittsburg Unified School District, is hosting a student exchange trip to Shimonoseki, Japan in August 2019.

The 2019 trip will include a student delegation of 5 Pittsburg Unified School District students age 14-15 years of age at the time of the trip who reside in Pittsburg, California. Interested students should carefully review all sections of this application to see if they are eligible. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. At the time of application, student must be enrolled in eighth or ninth grade **in the Pittsburg Unified School District.**
2. Student must be a **full-time resident** of the city of Pittsburg, California.
3. Student must be mature enough to benefit from the experience and be a credible student ambassador for the City of Pittsburg, Pittsburg Unified School District, and the United States of America.
4. Student must be in good academic standing and display exemplary citizenship at his/her school.
5. Student must be interested in learning about Japanese customs, culture, and language. This trip is a life-changing cultural experience.

EXPECTATIONS OF SELECTED APPLICANT

1. Student **and** his/her parents are required to attend the 3 mandatory meetings leading up to the trip.
2. Student is expected to participate in activities when student delegation from Shimonoseki, Japan visits Pittsburg tentatively scheduled for the end of August 2019.
3. Student is expected to be open to other cultures, food, and activities.
4. Punctuality is very important in foreign countries and student must be sensitive to this and other customs.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

1. Student shall provide his/her own spending money during the trip.
2. Students are required to provide gifts for their host families, examples will be provided at follow up meetings.
3. Student must have, obtain, or show proof of processing of a valid passport by June 1, 2019. If a visa or other travel documentation is also required, student is responsible for obtaining such visa or other travel documentation. **If student fails to meet this deadline, they will not be allowed on the trip.**

COMPLETE APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN PERSON OR BY MAIL AS FOLLOWS:

Sister City Selection Committee
c/o City of Pittsburg – Economic Development Department
65 Civic Avenue – 2nd Floor
Pittsburg, CA 94565

****Postmarked on or before May 1, 2019 by 4pm***

DO NOT RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO YOUR SCHOOL OFFICE AS THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

APPLICATION DEADLINE
May 1, 2019 at 4pm

SISTER CITY STUDENT APPLICATION

Submit the following in addition to this form postmarked or hand-delivered on or before May 1, 2019:

1. Completed Student Application (this document) with signature.
 2. A one-page typed, signed letter from the applicant stating why he/she wants to participate in this program and how he/she expects to benefit from it.
 3. A one-page typed, signed letter from the applicant's parent(s)/guardian stating why they recommend their child for this program and how they will support their child's participation in this program.
 4. One recommendation form (attached), completed and mailed in by a **teacher or PUSD staff**.
 5. One recommendation form (attached), completed and mailed in by a **community person who is not a relative**.
- *The applicant is to provide a stamped envelope to those completing the recommendation forms addressed to:*

Sister City Selection Committee
c/o City of Pittsburg – Economic Development Department
65 Civic Avenue – 2nd Floor
Pittsburg, CA 94565

****Must be postmarked on or before May 1, 2019***

DO NOT RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO YOUR SCHOOL OFFICE AS THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

STUDENT INFORMATION-To be Completed by the Student

Provide your legal name as it appears on your passport or birth certificate.

First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____

Homes address (street/city/zip) _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Circle one: Male Female

Birthday ____ / ____ / ____ Age at time of travel _____ (Travel set for August 2019)

Pre-Existing Health Conditions _____

Name of School Currently Attending: _____

Name of School District in August 2019: _____

Are you a U.S. Citizen YES NO If you are a naturalized citizen, what date did you become a citizen? YES NO

Do you have a USA passport? YES NO Passport # _____ Passport Expiration: _____

Student MUST have a passport to travel. If selected, passport application MUST be filed by June 1, 2019

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

To be completed by parent/guardian

FATHER/GUARDIAN 1 Please *circle* which applies

Full Name _____

Home Address _____

Primary Phone _____ Secondary Phone _____

Email Address _____

MOTHER/GUARDIAN 2 Please *circle* which applies

Full Name _____

Home Address _____

Primary Phone _____ Secondary Phone _____

Email Address _____

LIST ALL THE MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD

Name	Relationship	Age	Name	Relationship	Age
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

AGREEMENTS AND AUTHORIZATION

I _____ understand that if chosen, I must abide by all rules of responsible conduct expected of me while living with a host family and visiting a foreign country as a student ambassador for the City of Pittsburg. I further understand that I must be a PUSD student and resident of Pittsburg, California to apply and be considered for this program.

_____ Signature of Student Applicant _____ Date

My son/daughter has my permission to **apply** for and, **if selected**, participate in the City of Pittsburg's 2019 Sister City Trip to Shimonoseki, Japan. I (we) have read and understand the attached sheet explaining the program and our responsibilities. I understand that this trip is reserved for residents of Pittsburg, California and I acknowledge that we are residents. As the applicant's parent and/or guardian, and in the event my son/daughter is selected for the student exchange program, I hereby authorize the travelling City of Pittsburg staff, Pittsburg Unified School District staff, and host family in Shimonoseki, Japan to act for me in an emergency or accident or illness.

_____ Signature of Parent of Student Applicant _____ Date

Student Recommendation Form for Sister City Trip - **COMMUNITY**

To Whom It May Concern:

This is an evaluation form for (student's name) _____, who is applying for the City of Pittsburg Sister City Exchange Program sponsored by the City of Pittsburg and Pittsburg Unified School District. The exchange involves a 6-Day stay in one of our Sister Cities of which some of those days will be spent staying with host families.

When completing this form, please remember the young person you are evaluating is asking to represent the City of Pittsburg in a foreign country. The ability to be a good representative often relies on a student's ability to compromise, to accept the decisions of a group and to be respectful in situations that contradict American culture. Please keep in mind that the committee is interested in more than whether the student demonstrates leadership or assertiveness.

We also ask you to speak to the student's ability to be part of a team and to accept group decisions and adult authority, even if they disagree. It would also be helpful to know how the student responds to stress and how accepting they are of other young people who may have different likes or dislikes.

The selection committee is very dependent of your willingness to be straightforward with your opinions. The strength of the student's application and interview will also be important. Please place your recommendation in a sealed envelope and return to the student, who will submit along with their application. Thank you in advance for your time.

YOUR FULL NAME: _____

RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLEASE CIRCLE the best word that best represents your opinion.

This student is flexible and tried to adjust his/her expectations and behavior as the situation warrants.

Never Sometimes Often Almost always Always Not Sure

This student is considerate of others, is respectful of adults and peers, and displays general good manners.

Never Sometimes Often Almost always Always Not Sure

This student has displayed "intellectual curiosity," exhibiting an eagerness to learn about new people and places.

Never Sometimes Often Almost always Always Not Sure

This student is genuinely concerned about others and sensitive to different communication styles.

Never Sometimes Often Almost always Always Not Sure

This student is able to reach out to peers who may have different interests, likes, or dislikes.

Never Sometimes Often Almost always Always Not Sure

Student Name: _____

Your Name: _____

The following questions play an important role in the selection process. Please use additional paper as needed. These recommendations will remain confidential and will not be shared with the students or their parents.

Would you consider taking this student with you on a family vacation? Why or Why Not?

Why are you recommending this student for this international exchange?

Please add any further information about this student that you feel will be helpful to the committee.

What, if any, are your reservations in recommending this student to the exchange program?

PLEASE PLACE COMPLETED EVALUATION IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND EITHER RETURN TO STUDENT FOR SUBMISSION OR MAIL TO KOLETTE SIMONTON, CITY OF PITTSBURG- SISTER CITY, 65 CIVIC AVENUE, PITTSBURG, CA 94565 BY **May 1, 2019.**

Student Recommendation Form for Sister City Trip - **TEACHER**

To Whom It May Concern:

This is an evaluation form for (student's name) _____, who is applying for the City of Pittsburg Sister City Exchange Program sponsored by the City of Pittsburg and Pittsburg Unified School District. The exchange involves a 6-Day stay in one of our Sister Cities of which some of those days will be spent staying with host families.

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