

Monroe International Friendship Association

(MIFA)

January 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

MIFA has sponsored a three-week student exchange with Hofu City, Japan, Monroe's Sister City for 25 years. We are proud to have been exchanging students since 1992 and to provide this unique educational and cultural opportunity to the high school students of Monroe County. The City of Monroe and the Mayor's office have been active supporters of this program since its inception. We believe that a program like this is very important for high school students to have opportunities to understand other cultures while keeping great relationships with other countries.

The details of the program are as follows:

This year we will choose three to five students from Monroe County to send to Hofu, Japan. Those students will tentatively leave for Japan on July 8, 2018, and return on July 31, 2018. Attached is the schedule of application and interview deadlines. Mandatory attendance of students and their parents and/or guardian is required at three informational meetings. The student's financial responsibility will be around \$2,300.00 (cost of airline ticket) plus passport fees and miscellaneous gifts for host families. MIFA, in conjunction with corporate sponsors, will take care of the balance of the expense. During their stay in Hofu, students will live with two host families and participate in a variety of activities, including Japanese school visits, sight-seeing in Hofu and Hiroshima, Japanese tea ceremony, Kendo, Shuji (Japanese calligraphy), and much more. Students **do not** need to know how to speak Japanese.

I hope that you may know students who would be interested in and benefit from this cross-cultural experience. We are beginning the application and selection process for 2018, and would like to make this fantastic opportunity available to as many students as possible. I would be very grateful if you would announce the details of our program to your students or put in a school newspaper and encourage them to apply.

Please make the included application available to interested students. Adult MIFA members who have accompanied past exchange students and several former exchange students themselves are available to give presentations to interested students in your school. If you have any questions regarding our program, please do not hesitate to contact me at (734) 242-9618 or jksteve1@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you for your assistance in promoting this unique and worthwhile international experience for the youth of Monroe County.

Sincerely,

Kim Steve, President
Monroe International Friendship Association

The Monroe International Friendship Association



Presents:

The 2018 Japanese Exchange Program

Dates and Deadlines:

- ◇ The application must be returned by **Friday, March 2, 2018**. Essay and References should be received by us no later than Wednesday, March 7, 2018. Please send to MIFA, PO Box 332, Monroe, MI 48161. Any questions, please call Kim at 242-9618 or email jksteve1@sbcglobal.net.
- ◇ Interviews will be held at Monroe City Hall in March.
- ◇ Letters of acceptance will go out within two weeks of interview and deposit of \$500 will be required.

MIFA CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM APPLICATION

HOFU, JAPAN 2018

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY
STUDENT'S NAME AS IT APPEARS ON BIRTH CERTIFICATE

LAST:		FIRST:		MIDDLE:	
STREET ADDRESS:				HOME AREA CODE & PHONE #:	
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:	NICKNAME:	DATE OF BIRTH:	
MALE <input type="checkbox"/>	HIGH SCHOOL YOU ATTEND:		2017-2018 GRADE LEVEL:		
FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/>					
EMAIL ADDRESS:			CELL PHONE:		
FATHER OR LEGAL GUARDIAN			MOTHER OR LEGAL GUARDIAN		
LAST:			LAST:		
FIRST:			FIRST:		
STREET ADDRESS:			STREET ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:	CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
HOME AREA CODE & TELEPHONE #:			HOME AREA CODE & TELEPHONE #:		
CELL AREA CODE & TELEPHONE #:			CELL AREA CODE & TELEPHONE #:		
LIST HOBBIES AND INTERESTS (INCLUDING SPORTS and MUSIC) IN WHICH YOU PARTICIPATE, IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE TO YOU:					

The deadline for application is March 2, 2018.

Application should be mailed to:

Monroe International Friendship Association, P.O. Box 332, Monroe, MI 48161

RECOMMENDATION FOR THE HOFU CULTURAL EXCHANGE STUDENT

(Minimum of three Recommendations are required, two of which are to be from your high school)

Dear Reference:

In the selection process of a student for the Hofu Cultural Exchange Program, we are looking for mature young people who will be good representatives of Monroe County and their school. This recommendation will help us in finding the best possible candidates for this program. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate your cooperation by completing this questionnaire or submitting a letter of recommendation. **Please place this completed form/recommendation letter in an envelope and sign the seal.** You can return it to the student or mail it ASAP to: MIFA, P.O. Box 332, Monroe, MI 48161.

Please type or print in black ink.

Student's Name _____

Your Name _____ Your Position _____

How do you know this student? _____

How long have you known the student? _____

May we contact you for further information? Yes No Phone # _____

Recommendations:

Thank you for your cooperation.

SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

(Add an additional sheet if necessary)

MIFA CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

HOFU, JAPAN 2018

STUDENT ESSAY

Directions:

Your essay is the most important part of your application. Make your essay as friendly and personal as possible.

The selection committee wants to know:

- Why do you want to participate in this Cultural Exchange?
- Why do you want to be an exchange student?
- Why do you want to go Japan?
- What do you expect to gain?
- What skills do you have to help you represent Monroe?
- What do you hope to learn about Japanese culture and what do you plan to share with the host families about American culture?

The essay should be typed, or neatly written in ink. Attach the essay page(s) to this application.

I would like to apply for this program and if selected agree to abide by the rules of the organization.

Signature of Student Applicant

Date

My child has my permission to apply for this student exchange program. I understand a \$500 deposit will be required within 2 weeks of notification of acceptance into program.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date