



**sister
cities**
Lima, Ohio

You're invited to attend the
Lima Sister Cities Association's

**Informational Meeting for Students
& Parents**

regarding the

**Educational Youth Home-
Stay in Japan, June 2018**

*Students in grades 9, 10, & 11 eligible

*Scholarships available

**When: Sunday, October 1, 2017
2-4 p.m.**

**Where: Immanuel United Methodist Church
699 Sunnydale St., Elida, Ohio**

***Come meet members of the LSCA and area high school students
who traveled to Japan in 2016, ask questions, and learn about the
opportunity to go to Japan next summer!**

For more information, contact LSCA President Diana Neeley at 419-230-3650
or LSCA Japan Committee Co-Chair Keiko Hahn at (419)225-3816 or

keikoh@woh.rr.com, or Ardath Sunderland at 419-235-0894 or abs2020@twc.com

Lima Sister Cities Association, P.O. Box 5505, Lima, Ohio 45802-5505 • 419/228-5462 • Fax 419/221-5199

About the Lima Sister Cities Association (LSCA)

The Lima Sister Cities Association was formed in 1995 to establish Sister City relationships with one or more foreign cities. We have developed a solid, intimate friendship with the city of Harima-cho, Japan. The friendship has grown from an Official Delegation sent to pave the way, to Business Delegations, Adult Cultural Home-stays, to the Assistant English Teacher Program that sends a Lima-area adult to teach in Harima-cho schools for one year, to the Educational Youth Home-stays. In addition, Harima-cho sends delegations, adult home-stays, and youth home-stays to Lima bi-annually.

The purposes of the LSCA are as follows:

*To introduce the Lima community to the people, cultures, and economy of comparable foreign cities.

*To facilitate the development of extensive personal relationships between a cross-section of the Lima social and economic community with its Sister Cities.

*To develop programs and activities that will disseminate information about the Sister Cities throughout Lima as well as to encourage the discussion and learning about our Sister Cities across the full range of public, private, and business institutions.

Contact information:

Ardath Sunderland, LSCA Secretary
419-339-2701
abs2020@twc.com

Diana Neeley, LSCA President
419- 230-3650
ilove2bstampin@gmail.com

Jeff Bucher, LSCA Vice – President
419-642-3122
jeffb@wcoil.com

About the Educational Youth Home-Stay

The Youth Home-stays began in 2001 when the Lima Sister Cities Association sent the first group of eight Lima-area high school students to share American culture with Harima-cho junior high students. The Japanese junior high school curriculum includes the study of English. Unfortunately, these Japanese students do not get much opportunity to interact with native English speakers. The Harima-cho International Friendship Association requested a Youth Home-stay exchange to provide an amazing global cultural opportunity for both Japanese and American students. The 2001 visit was a great success. The Youth Home-stay exchanges were repeated in 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016 as Lima again sent groups of area high school students to Harima-cho, Japan. We will be offering the rare opportunity for a Youth Exchange again in June 2018.

All Youth Home-stay delegations include adult chaperones. The students are placed in Japanese homes and stay with families during the exchange. Each Japanese family applies and is reviewed by the Harima-cho International Friendship Association (HIFA) before being selected as a host family. Our children's safety is the top priority of the LSCA as well as the HIFA.

Prior to the trip, the student delegates and their parents will be required to participate in several group orientations to acclimate them to the Japanese culture and customs. The students will experience all phases of Japanese life during their visit. They will participate in Japanese traditions, attend Japanese schools, stay in a Japanese home, and share American culture with their new Japanese friends. Student delegates will be expected to actively participate with LSCA cultural and fundraising events prior to and after the trip. Upon their return to Lima, the Youth Exchange delegates will be expected to write and speak about their experiences for school and community events.

The 2018 Lima Sister Cities Youth Exchange will be June 13 – June 19, 2018. The LSCA will make all necessary travel arrangements, provide chaperones, and schedule several mandatory orientations to equip our 2018 youth representatives and their parents with the knowledge to ensure a safe, successful educational exchange. Please review all of this information with your son or daughter and discuss it as a family. This opportunity truly involves the entire family, as it is a big decision that raises safety concerns. The LSCA promises that all safety procedures will be taken, and we are proud of our past successful youth visits. **We invite interested students and their parents to attend an informational meeting about the 2018 Youth Home-stay at 2:00 on Sunday October 1, 2018 at Immanuel United Methodist Church in Elida.**

Complete this application packet and return it to:
Lima Sister Cities Youth Exchange
Diana Neeley
Elida Road Tire Service (drop box available)
4240 Elida Road
Lima, OH 45807

Applications must be received by November 1, 2017.

If you have any questions, contact Diana Neeley at 419-230-3650 or ilove2bstampin@gmail.com or Jeff Bucher at 419-642-3122 or jeffb@wcoil.com or Ardath Sunderland at 419-339-2701 or abs2020@twc.com.

Lima Sister Cities Association

Educational Youth Home-stay Application

Name: _____

Address:

Home Phone: _____

Student Cell Phone: _____

Student Email: _____

Age/Birth Date: _____

2017-2018 Grade Level: _____

School attended: _____

Current Grade Point Average (GPA): _____

Family Information:

Mother's name:

Address:

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:**

Email:

Father's name:

Address:

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:**

Email:

Are your parents or grandparents members of the Lima Sister Cities Association? _____

Please attach a 2017-2018 school photo at the top of page 3.

Please attach answers to the following 5 questions:

1. Why are you interested in becoming a 2018 Youth Exchange delegate?
2. What is one aspect of your school, one aspect of your family, and one aspect of your community that you would like to share with Japanese students and the home-stay families?
3. Upon return from Japan, how will you share your experiences with Lima Sister Cities Association, your school, and your community?
4. Please tell your story! (Likes, dislikes, sports, hobbies, goals, dreams, community service, family, etc.)
5. In a paragraph, why should you be chosen to represent the LSCA, your school, and our community?

Additional Questions:

1. If you are selected to be a youth delegate going to Harima-cho, Japan, are you willing to speak to community groups and organizations about your experiences after returning?
___ Yes ___ No
2. Do you understand that to be a youth delegate you and one of your primary guardians must attend several mandatory orientation meetings, beginning in January 2018?
___ Yes ___ No
3. If you are selected as a youth delegate, this application will be considered an “absolute commitment.” The requirement of a \$200 deposit plus an LSCA family membership fee of \$30 (a two-year membership) must be paid by January , 2018. Do you understand this responsibility? ___ Yes ___ No
4. If you are selected as a youth delegate, you are agreeing to follow LSCA chaperones’ directions and judgements as well as LSCA and HIFA directives and guidelines. You will be expected to follow Japanese laws. If you disobey a chaperone or don’t follow LSCA/HIFA guidelines, you may be sent home immediately at your family’s expense. Do you understand this? ___ Yes ___ No

Personal References:

1. Name: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____ Position: _____
2. Name: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____ Position: _____
3. Name: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____ Position: _____

Please include a letter of recommendation from your high school counselor or administrator, verifying that you meet the criteria listed for this activity. This letter should include information about your educational performance and attitude in social settings. The letter must be signed and dated.

Return application to:

Lima Sister Cities Youth Exchange

Diana Neeley

Elida Road Tire Service (drop box available)

4240 Elida Road

Lima, OH 45807

Applications must be received by November 1 , 2017.

Permission for Medical Treatment

I give permission for my child (first and last name) _____ to participate in the LSCA Youth Home-stay from June 13 to June 19, 2018. I understand my child will travel from Lima, Ohio, USA to Harima-cho, Japan. I agree to release the Lima Sister Cities Association, Harima-cho International Friendship Association, and the associations' volunteers from liability relating to this function.

I also verify that my child has medical insurance and that all bills will be paid by us and then reimbursed by our medical insurance program.

Parent signature

Date

Phone Number

Please provide any information needed for the following:

1. Medical considerations (for example, asthma, diabetes, etc.)
2. Current prescriptions or OTC medications taken and dosage
3. Special dietary needs and/or food allergies

Medical Insurance Information

Insurance Company: _____

Address: _____

Policy number: _____ Phone: _____

***** Is your child covered by your family insurance for Overseas Travel? ___ Yes ___ No**

***** This is a Japanese requirement.*****

Please provide two emergency contacts:

Name _____ Relation _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Relation _____ Phone _____

In event that my child experiences a minor medical condition, I give permission for the following to be given: ___ aspirin ___ Tylenol ___ ibuprofen ___ Benadryl

In the event of a medical emergency and all attempts to notify the persons above have been made, I hereby authorize LSCA and HIFA volunteers and staff to provide emergency medical care. If further care is needed, I give permission to be transported to a medical facility. I hereby release the LSCA and the organizers of the LSCA Youth Home-stay from any and all liability from losses, claims, causes of action, cost damages, and obligations (financial or otherwise) arising from any and all acts and unforeseen contingencies that result in injury or damage to property while participating in this event. I further understand that LSCA will not be held responsible for the student's negligence, including, but not limited to, horseplay, gross misconduct, and rule noncompliance.

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Parent/ Guardian

Date

LSCA Educational Youth Home-stay Responsibility Agreement

NOTE: This educational opportunity, organized by the Lima Sister Cities Association, requires that youth selected through the application process be responsible for all travel expenses, personal spending money, and a 2-year LSCA family membership (\$30). The cost of the round-trip airline ticket will be approximately \$2000.

The LSCA will provide the following:

- *All travel arrangements, including to and from the airport**
- *Home-stay accommodations with a Harima-cho host family**
- *Harima-cho host family profile for each representative**
- *Adult chaperones**
- *Proposed tour agenda before departure**
- *Solid, well structured orientations**
- *The best preparations to ensure a safe and successful Youth Exchange**

We, the undersigned, realize that this program requires me/us (student and parents), if student is chosen as a representative, to provide for and agree to the following:

- *Student must have a valid passport, cost incurred by the participant**
- *Proof of Overseas Insurance, as required by Japan**
- *All travel expenses, personal spending money, and gifts for the host family**

Student representatives and at least one parent or guardian must attend all orientation meetings. Upon return, the student may be asked to speak to community groups, school staff, and/or student body. The student may be asked to share his or her experiences through photos, journals, letters to their school newspaper, and/or video presentations.

*****By signing this application, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the complete application as well as consent to its submission by my child.**

Parent/ Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

*****By signing this application, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the completed application and agree to abide by the Youth Exchange tour rules.**

Student signature

Date

Assistance with Youth Delegate Trip Expenses

By far, the largest expense incurred for being a youth delegate to Harimo-cho, Japan is the cost of the roundtrip airline fare. The main portion of the trip is a 13 hour flight between the US and Japan. Flight arrangements are usually finalized a few months before departure.

Lima Sister Cities Association has a history of assisting youth delegates with part of their airfare expenses. Youth delegates can earn reimbursement for a portion of their airfare expense through participation of LSCA activities prior to and after visiting Japan. **Based upon how many LSCA activities a delegate has been involved in, a rebate or reimbursement check will be issued to the student/family at the end of 2018.** The following list of LSCA activities is not limited to, but include:

Fundraiser gift wrapping at Lima Mall in December 2017 for \$ 100.00 rebate amount
Participating in ALL LSCA orientation meetings for \$ 100.00 rebate amount
Walkathon in May 2018 for \$ 100.00 rebate amount
Hosting a Japanese delegate for their August trip to Lima for \$ 100.00 rebate amount
Participating in Japanese delegation's farewell party in Lima for \$ 100.00 rebate amount
Rhodes State International Day August 2018 for \$100.00 rebate amount
Speaking to a local service club or school convocation event for \$100.00 rebate amount
Work at Lima Japanese Garden Clean Up event for \$100.00 rebate amount
Work at other community events (that are yet unplanned) that LSCA may be involved in for \$100.00 rebate amount

Lima youth delegates can earn up to a maximum \$500.00 reimbursement/rebate for their airfare with money given at the end of 2018.

