

Livermore-Yotsukaido Sister City Organization

Student Ambassador Program 2010

Dear Applicant:

Every year a group of eighth grade students from the Livermore middle schools are selected to participate in a unique student exchange with our sister city of Yotsukaido, Japan through our LYSCO Student Ambassador program.

This is the time of year when we ask for interested students to submit their application for this wonderful opportunity.

Yotsukaido, Japan is similar in size to Livermore, California, and is located one hour east of Tokyo. The Japanese families of our sister city are eager to share their culture, educational system, and leisure activities with Livermore students. If chosen, you will be housed with a Yotsukaido family, and will experience many fabulous cultural and environmental differences. You will attend a middle school for 2 or 3 days during your stay.

You are to attend a mandatory meeting on **Tuesday, March 9th at 7:00pm**, East Avenue Middle School Library to learn more about this program. Check with your school for the meeting details.

Requirements for the Ambassador program are:

1. The ambassador must complete and return the application by **4/07/10**.
2. Two teachers must complete and return recommendation forms by **4/7/10**.
3. The ambassador must have at least a 3.0 grade point average with no failures.
4. The ambassador must participate in an interview with LYSCO's Exchange Student Committee members.
5. The ambassador's family must be willing to host a Japanese exchange student in March of the following year (2011) for a minimum of 7 days.
6. The ambassador's family must provide or arrange for transportation for the exchange student to all the Livermore exchange student events.
7. The ambassador's family must become members of LYSCO. (\$15)
8. The ambassador must be willing to meet with other ambassadors prior to their trip to learn about Japanese culture, language and to perform a presentation.
9. The ambassador's parent(s) must be willing to participate in the program.
10. Be an outstanding, responsible, representative of Livermore, California and the United States of America!

Application for Livermore / Yotsukaido Sister City Student Ambassador Program

(Applicant must complete form. All answers must be neatly handwritten.)

Part I --- Personal and Family Information

Applicant Name _____
(last) (first) (middle)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Student email _____

Date of Birth _____ School _____ Current Grade _____

Citizenship: _____

Parent / Guardian Information:

Who do you live with? _____

Parent/Guardian Name Daytime Phone Parent email

Parent Address, if different from applicants:

Parent/Guardian Name Daytime Phone Parent email

Parent Address, if different from applicants

Best Phone Number for contacting Parent: _____

Siblings:

Name Age

Name Age

Name Age

Best Contact Email _____

**Part II -- Short Answer (To be completed by applicant. No assistance is allowed!
(Must be handwritten and in ink. Use extra paper if needed)**

1. Why do you want to be an ambassador? What do you expect to gain from this experience?
2. Describe the activities you enjoy with your family / friends / alone.
3. What are your responsibilities and / or chores at home?
4. List your extracurricular activities both at school and in the community.

5. Describe your family and how you get along with the different members. Describe two of your best friends and tell why you are friends with them. What do you enjoy doing with them? How often do you get to see them?

6. Why do you think you should be chosen to be a LYSCO Student Ambassador to Japan?

7. Describe any travel experiences and hosting / exchange experiences that you have had.

I agree to confidentially disclose any allergies or special needs I may have upon my selection. I understand that I must return this application with a copy of my first semester grades (2009-2010 school year) by **Wednesday, April 7, 2010**. I must also request recommendations, via the forms provided, from two teachers to be returned by the teacher on or before **Wednesday, April 7, 2010**. We agree to abide by the selection process and decision of the LYSCO Exchange Program committee.

By signing below, I acknowledge I, _____ (student name) completed this application on my own. I received no assistance in answering questions 1 – 7, Part II.

Student signature

Date: _____

By signing below, I _____ (parent name) acknowledge my student completed questions 1 – 7, Part II on his / her own.

Parent Signature

Date: _____

Financial obligations include:

1. Airfare and medical / trip insurance approximately \$1400.00.
2. Bus fare to and from San Francisco Airport. Parents are not allowed to transport students.
3. Gifts, as chosen by the student ambassador, for Japanese host families.
4. Passport (must be valid for at least 6 months post travel time) renewal or purchase.
5. Two extra passport photos.
6. \$100 Administration fee paid to LYSCO plus LYSCO membership dues at \$15 per family.

To apply to become a Student Ambassador for Livermore during October / November 2010, you must provide and arrange for the following documents to be completed and submitted by **April 7th, 2010**.

1. Complete the attached application found on the website at www.lysco.org. It must be signed by both applicant and parent / guardian, and mailed or hand delivered by **April 7, 2010** to:

LYSCO
P.O. BOX 170
Livermore CA, 94551

2. Provide two current 2010 core, math or science teachers with a Teacher Evaluation form to be completed and sent through the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School Intra-District mail to Linda Smith, Mendenhall Middle School. This is a confidential document and must be returned by the teacher. In the case of a private school or Home school, students should provide their teachers with a stamped, addressed envelope to LYSCO (address above) with the Teacher Evaluation form. The teacher can then fill out the form and mail it.

We will begin notifying applicants of their preliminary selection and to set up interviews in May.

Thank you for your interest in this fantastic and exciting program,

Bruce Wolfe, President
Keith Jess, Vice President/Student Program Coordinator
Lucy Urrutia, Treasure
Cybelle Beauliu, Secretary
Linda Smith, LVJUSD Teacher
Trevor Malone, Student Representative
Ashley Jess, Student Representative

Dear 7th Grade Core Teachers:

The Livermore Yotsukaido Sister City Organization (LYSCO) sponsors an exchange program with our sister city, Yotsukaido, Japan every year. This October/November twenty of our students will travel to Japan, and next spring (2010), twenty Japanese middle school students will visit our schools in Livermore.

Your classroom is the primary place where students will learn about this opportunity.

Students entering 8th grade in the fall (current 7th grade students) are encouraged to apply. Those traveling to Japan will stay with host families, attend middle school while in Japan, and tour the surrounding area.

This program is sponsored by LYSCO. However, the school district has treated this as an enrichment fieldtrip, and no ADA funds should be lost due to children traveling on this trip.

Please take the time to announce the program to your students. Pass out fliers to those interested. Additional fliers can be picked up at the front office. Because not all students will be interested in this program, only a handful of fliers are being delivered to every class. They can also obtain a flier by going to the LYSCO website at www.lysco.org.

Key points to remember:

- 1 Livermore students with a 3.0 average and no F's may apply.
- 2 About 20 students will be selected.
- 3 Mandatory information meeting will be at **East Ave Middle School Library** on **March 9th at 7:00pm**.
- 4 Cost is about \$1400 for the trip, including airfare.
- 5 Students from each Livermore middle school are encouraged to apply.

For more information, contact Keith Jess at (510) 501-8652, or tvgc@pacbell.net

Teacher Recommendation

Livermore Yotsukaido Sister City Organization Student Ambassador Program

As part of the application process to participate in a one-week exchange with Livermore's sister city in Yotsukaido, Japan, each applicant has been asked for two recommendations from their current year teachers. Answers on this form do not necessarily limit participation in this program. This form will help paint a picture of the students ability to be a positive ambassador of Livermore when visiting Japan and staying with Japanese students and their families.

Student Name: _____

Date Recommendation letter given to teacher: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Email _____

Subject Taught: _____ How long have you known student _____

Use a scale of 1-4, 1=Below Expectations, 2= Meets Expectations,3= Above Expectations and 4 = Exceeds Expectations

Score	1	2	3	4
a. Interacts with classmates				
b. Behavior In class				
c. Participates in class				
d. Helps other students				
e. Has self initiative/motivated				
f. Acts respectful				
g. Pays attention in class				
h. Completes assignments on time				
i. Pays attention and follows direction				

Would you recommend this student as an ambassador? () Yes () No

Please explain why you think this student should or should not be an ambassador.

Any additional comments or concerns?

Please return the completed forms to:

LVJUSD: Deliver to Linda Smith at Mendenhall Middle School by Wednesday April 7th, 2010

Non-LVJUSD: Mail to LYSCO PO BOX 170, Livermore, CA 94551 by Wednesday April 7th, 2010

PACKING LIST FOR YOTSUKAIDO TRIP STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Below is a suggested packing list for student ambassadors going to Yotsukaido, Japan. Please remember to label things that can easily be lost, misplaced or difficult to identify. That includes backpacks, cameras, jackets, and anything else you think needs labeling.

Gift ideas for your host families follows the packing list.

School Attire:

Boys: Long pants (Dockers, no BLUE jeans), nice shirts (polo's, collared), new pair of tennis shoes to take with you to school (never worn outside)

Girls: Long pants (no BLUE jeans) or dress/skirt (but **not** a short one), new pair of tennis shoes to take with you to school (never worn outside)

Reception Party Attire:

Same as School Attire (but you don't need the extra shoes) or nicer

Regular Attire: (clothes must be Livermore school appropriate)

Boys: Jeans or shorts, shirts, sweatshirt/light jacket, tennis shoes/walking shoes

Girls: Jeans or shorts, shirts, sweatshirt/light jacket, tennis shoes/walking shoes

Personal Items:

Slippers, toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush/comb, deodorant, daily medications, etc and as appropriate (do not carry these on the plane)

Other Items:

Underclothes, socks, pajamas, bathing suit, small umbrella or poncho, small backpack or fanny pack, Japanese-English dictionary, camera and film, book/deck of cards/etc for plane trip, international phone card (if need), small flashlight, gift(s) for host family, school homework (make copies of textbook pages rather than taking the textbook, when possible), wallet or some way to carry cash

Keep in mind as you pack:

- 1 Students are responsible for carrying ALL their own luggage through the airport, and in and out of vehicles (buses, cars)
- 2 Students are responsible for carrying personal items (money, camera, extra sweater, etc) as we sightsee in Tokyo, attend school, and other outings
- 3 Yotsukaido students wear formal uniforms to school
- 4 Students are representing Livermore, California and the United States – so look nice (**if you are not sure if it is appropriate or not, leave it at home**)
- 5 Weather in Yotsukaido is similar to Livermore but expect some rain
- 6 Do not count on the host family to launder any clothes

- 1 Shoes are NOT worn inside homes. Japanese students have clean (new) shoes for school that have not been worn outside.
- 2 This is a general list – think about what is best for you. Try not to over pack.

GIFT IDEAS (These do not need to be expensive. Try to support our Livermore shops, as this is a city-sponsored program.)

- 2 Livermore magnets and other mementos, Livermore note cards
- 3 Small photo albums
- 4 Garden gloves for host families who garden
- 5 Photo books of Livermore or the Bay Area
- 6 Coffee
- 7 Unusual kitchen items
- 8 Baseball caps, deflated soccer balls (from LYSL)
- 9 Livermore T-shirts
- 10 See's candy