



Sister City Exchange Program FAQs

1. How much will the trip cost?

- The trip will be between \$3,000-\$3,500 which covers the cost of the plane ticket. Once the final number of students apply and the plane tickets can be issued is when the final cost will be announced. Other costs include first time passports for those who need them will cost \$210 per person. Students should not need more than around \$200 for extra spending money as food, travel, and housing while in Japan is all covered. Optional travel insurance can cost an additional amount as well.

2. How do I get a Passport?

- If you do not already have a passport please visit: travel.state.gov for step by step instructions.
- 3450 South St, Lafayette 47905 is a post office where an appointment for processing your passport can be made.
- Passport photos can be taken at a Walgreen's or CVS Pharmacy prior to the appointment at the post office to save time.

3. How long does it take to receive your passport once it arrives?

- 6-8 weeks is the typical time once application is complete.
- 2-3 weeks with an expedited fee of \$60.

4. What forms of payments are accepted for the trip?

- Checks only.

5. Who do I make the checks out to?

- Greater Lafayette Commerce

6. What kind of forms of money can be taken to Japan?

- Cash which will be exchanged for Yen at customs upon arrival.
- Prepaid visa card with international expenses approved.
- Normal Credit or Debit Card with international expenses approved through your bank.

7. Is there Travel Insurance?

- Yes, it will cost anywhere from \$25-\$200 depending on plan choice and amount one chooses to spend.

8. Is travel insurance or medical insurance required?

- No, but it is highly recommended to have one or the other, if not both.

9. Where will I be staying when in Ota city, Japan?

- With host families selected by the Sister City Exchange Program.

10. Is the ability to speak Japanese required?

- No

11. What gift do we need to bring for the host family?

- Something simple. Can be as simple as a picture of your family or even
- something you make for them while you are there.

12. Are there scholarship opportunities?

- We do not have designated opportunities, but we encourage students to
- write letters to the following organizations:
 - Lions Club of Greater Lafayette
 - Rotary club of Lafayette
 - Indiana Chamber of Commerce
 - The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette
 - The Eagles
- Once the group is finalized, we will look into possibilities of partnering with local restaurants to do a benefit night or a car wash to help pay for the trip for everyone.

13. When are the mandatory Team Meetings?

- April 16th from 6-7:30 pm at Greater Lafayette Commerce
- June 4th from 6-7:30 pm at Greater Lafayette Commerce