

Cupertino-Toyokawa Sister Cities Student Delegation Program

*A Cupertino-Toyokawa Sister Cities Organization program
in partnership with the Cupertino Union School District
and the City of Cupertino.*



History of the Student Delegation Program

Amidst the ruins and devastation of World War II, Yoshio Yamamoto, Mayor of Toyokawa, Japan, sought to establish a peaceful future of international understanding between Japan and the rest of the world. His vision became a reality with the signing of a Sister City relationship between Toyokawa, Japan, and Cupertino, California, on December 19, 1978; Cupertino City Council member Dan O'Keefe visited Toyokawa to sign a declaration officially establishing the relationship.

An important element to Mayor Yamamoto's vision was the education of generations to come, leading to the establishment of a student exchange program. In September 1979, the first annual student delegation of six junior high students from Toyokawa visited Cupertino. Cupertino's first delegation of eight junior high school students visited Toyokawa in 1983. The student exchange program has continued for the last thirty-eight years.



The Student Delegation Program Today

Every year, Cupertino-Toyokawa Sister Cities Organization selects and prepares 14 Cupertino Union School District (CUSD) middle school students and two chaperones to visit Toyokawa, Japan, at the end of June. Our middle school students stay with families in Toyokawa, visit a junior high school, and experience a trip to Kyoto. In return, 16 junior high school students and three chaperones from Toyokawa visit Cupertino in September, staying with the families of the Cupertino student delegates. Students attend one of our middle schools while chaperones visit elementary and middle schools. Both also enjoy events sponsored by the Cupertino-Toyokawa Sister Cities Organization, CUSD, and the City of Cupertino.

Student Delegate Application Process/Requirements

1. Parent and prospective 7th or 8th grade student delegate **must** attend the Student Delegation Information Meeting held in January.
2. Student delegate **must** have a valid US passport, with an expiration date after the end of the trip to Japan. (See travel.state.gov for more passport details.)
3. Complete an online application:
 - a. Short essay (100-200 words): *What personal characteristic do you possess that would qualify you as a student ambassador to Toyokawa?*
 - b. Reference letters from two current teachers (one of which **must** be a teacher of a **core-subject**: Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, or Science). Teachers **must** submit the letters online through the CUSD intranet.
4. Delegate applicant and parents attend a half-hour-long delegate selection interview held in February.

Responsibilities of Student Delegate and Family Upon Acceptance into Program

Preparation Responsibilities

- Student delegate and parents attend Orientation Meetings, a series of 4 to 6 ninety-minute meetings, held February through October.
- Student delegate attends Language and Cultural classes, 10 two-hour sessions held at the delegates' homes from February through June.
- Student delegate attends 8 to 10 additional meetings to prepare for presentation in Toyokawa.
- **Support Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival (CBF), fundraisers, and special events as required.**
 - Both delegate and parents are required to provide community service at the CBF held in April. They **must be available the entire weekend** of the Festival.
 - All delegates are to attend the Delegation Introduction and Presentation at the CBF on Saturday.

Responsibilities for Visit to Toyokawa, Japan

- Delegate **must** fly to and from Japan with the group/delegation (**NO exceptions**).
- Parents are to take the delegate to and from the airport.
- Student delegate and parents are to provide gifts for all members of the delegate's host family in Toyokawa (information will be provided prior to departure).
- Abide by Delegation Behavior and Dress Code, representing Cupertino in a respectful, courteous manner, while acting as a Sister City delegate in Japan and in Cupertino.
- Delegate must write a trip memory journal to be included in a memory book that will later be given to Toyokawa host families, appropriate CUSD staff, City of Cupertino, & both Sister Cities Organizations.

Responsibilities for the Delegates' Family while Hosting Toyokawa Delegates

*The Toyokawa delegates will arrive in late September. Families **must** have a flexible work schedule to accommodate transportation, entertainment, and Sister City social commitments of your guests. **Flexibility** is important for a rewarding exchange!*

- Host or co-host two Toyokawa delegates or chaperones in your home for up to six days.
- Meet the Toyokawa delegates at the Welcome Reception at Cupertino City Hall on a weekday afternoon.
- Provide meals for the Toyokawa delegates that you are hosting.
- Provide carpooling to assist in transporting the Toyokawa delegates to & from their activities.
- Attend the group barbecue held on Friday.
- Attend the Farewell Ceremony for the Toyokawa delegates at Cupertino Community Hall on a weekday morning.



Responsibilities After Visiting Toyokawa & After Hosting Toyokawa Delegates

- Give a short presentation to the Cupertino-Toyokawa Sister Cities Organization, the City of Cupertino, and the Cupertino Union School District.

Costs of Student Delegation Program

Parents are responsible for all costs incurred for the trip to Toyokawa, Japan, and when acting as host families.

Contact Information

Visit our **website**: www.cupertinotoyokawa.org

Find us on  Cupertino-Toyokawa Sister Cities

 Follow @Cupertino_CBF

Questions? **Email** us: delegates.cupertinotoyokawa@gmail.com