



Key Notes from the Sister City Presentation, January 14, 2019

Policy from Mayor & Council's office: *"To provide an amazing cross culture program that explores the traditions, history, language and present day geography of both countries. It is to help form a closer bond between the Canadian and Japanese communities as both have such amazing history and diverse backgrounds each can learn from".*

- Each year, 10 youth residing full time in Whistler participate in the exchange
- Applicants must complete & submit two application forms (Participant & Home Stay) & participate in an interview. One parent must participate in a portion of the interview
- Student selection will be based on: participation in school, community involvement (sports, employment, volunteerism, arts/culture), personal independence, eagerness to represent Whistler as an ambassador & having an interest in the program
- Accepted students & families must be available during Karuizawa's entire visit, Friday, March 15, - Thursday, March 21, 2019
- Students & families must sign & adhere to a formal contract. If contract is broken, suspension from the program is confirmed & any funds already paid by the RMOW must be reimbursed immediately
- Whistler visits Karuizawa, mid-late October for eight days
- What is expected: sharing your community & your home-life, attending & participating in planned activities during Karuizawa's stay, Participation in Japanese language & cultural lessons is a must; lessons take place in September & October
- Post-trip evaluation will be held in November along with a slide show & presentation to Mayor & Council, school principals, family & friends
- Home stay portion: offer your home to TWO students for 3 nights, assistance with driving to/from planned activities may be requested by families, 1 Family Day will take place & at least, one parent must participate, meals with the family members are expected each evening as well as Interaction in the home, separate bedrooms are not required – however, each student must have some form of bed (foamie's are ok)
- Home stay costs: Whistler families are responsible for food, any entertainment & activities above the planned activities (Family Day), transportation to/from activities & home related costs (washing, heating, etc)
- Police Information Checks are required for each home stay parent
- Costs: flight to/from YVR/NRT, \$1,300 (estimated), *RMOW will pay 50% of each air fare*, RMOW covers: transportation to/from Whistler/Vancouver & to/from Narita/Karuizawa. Family costs include: passport, spending monies, additional medical & travel insurance (additional insurance is not mandatory but suggested), language & cultural lessons
- **Key Dates to note:** **Application deadline:** January 24, **Interviews start:** January 30, **Selection process:** by February 22, **Karuizawa arrives:** Friday, March 15, **Booking Flights to Karuizawa:** towards the end of April (payment due for family's portion of flight @ that time)

Still have questions: contact Stephanie, Program Coordinator, Sister City Exchange Program, 604-935-8375 or snicoll-russell@whistler.ca

