



Sister City Exchange Program Policies

The purpose of the Sister City Exchange Program is to provide an amazing cross-cultural 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 and diverse backgrounds each can learn from. The continuation of the program requires success of those participating in this program.

Successful exchanges require keen motivation and a sustained commitment by participating students and families. While there will certainly be moments of excitement and joy, there may also be moments of confusion and frustration. Applicants should be prepared to commit to the exchange, regardless of the difficulties encountered.

Once selected, a strict Participatory Contract must be signed and followed by families and the participating Whistler youth. Not abiding to the contract may result in termination & possibly reimbursing the RMOW for outstanding monies owed.

Participants are to always act in an ambassador-style manner.

The (50%) purchased fee for the flight will be due prior to April 30, 2024. Remaining expenses, if any, are due one month prior to departure to Karuizawa, Japan.

Only suitable photographs & photographs approved by program participants can be shared.

All exchange students are to be provided with either their own private room or a shared room with the other exchange student. Exchange students must be provided with their own bed/cot.

In almost all situations Whistler youth are paired in a home in Karuizawa. If there are an uneven number of students, the students may be placed in groups of 3 or by themselves.

A phone number and home address for all students, their families, and the chaperones emergency contact information (for both visiting and hosting chaperones) shall be provided to visiting students prior to their arrival.

Police Information Checks – parents participating in the homestay program are required to complete & submit PIC to the RMOW.

Parents – drinking alcohol in your home while hosting youth from a foreign country must be kept to a minimum, where impairment and judgment is always in good standing.

Any form of inappropriate behavior by a homestay family member will be dealt with quickly, efficiently, and discreetly for the benefit of the students. Depending on the severity of the situation, police may be called.

Use of drugs or other illegal substances by the Whistler youth during the program in Whistler or Karuizawa will result in the immediate termination.

Parents and students participating in the exchange program will receive information through e-mail, please check your email at least once a week.

Students participating in the exchange program are required to create & deliver a Group Presentation upon return from Karuizawa, Japan.

If anyone within the family participating in the exchange program are involved in any form of abnormal behavior or conduct which does not reflect the programs policies, the family may no longer participate in the present or future Sister City Exchange Programs.

Questions, please contact:

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