

Host Family Handbook

v.6 (July 30, 2018)

(Work In Progress/Information Subject to Change)



Follow JASSW and the Summit Online:

Website: <http://jassw.org> & <https://jassw.info/Grassroots2018>

Facebook (JASSW): <https://www.facebook.com/JASSWOrg>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JASSWOrg/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/japanamericasocietyofwa/>

Table of Contents

Introduction to the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington.....	<u>2</u>
Summit Overview.....	<u>4</u>
Summit Schedule.....	<u>5</u>
Bus Schedules to/from Local Sessions.....	<u>7</u>
What it means to be a host family?.....	<u>9</u>
How to Upload Photos to Community Album.....	<u>11</u>
Hosting Tips.....	<u>12</u>
Useful Japanese Phrases.....	<u>16</u>
Common Confusing English Phrases.....	<u>18</u>
Local Key Persons Directory.....	<u>19</u>
Testimonials.....	<u>20</u>
Host Family Information Sheet.....	<u>21</u>
Sponsors.....	<u>23</u>

Introduction to The Japan-America Society of the State of Washington

The Society is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1923 by leaders from Seattle's business, academic, and diplomatic communities. Our mission is to promote mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of Japan and Washington State by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information.

Our programs bring together people who are interested in U.S.-Japan exchange, business, culture, and education. Membership includes prominent U.S. and Japanese companies, as well as interested individuals.

Since 1994, our "Japan in the Schools" program has provided over 100 classes per year in Washington with free lessons on Japanese culture and language, reaching over 3,000 children annually. Our "America in the Schools" program aims to do the same in Japanese elementary schools.



Japan in the Schools

Cultivating a sense of cultural awareness in children to foreign customs and value systems is one key to future peace in the world. Japan in the Schools (JIS) brings a suitcase full of small everyday items to classrooms across Washington State to help introduce Japanese culture.

Japan in the Schools is a signature program of JASSW. Since its inception in 1994, its programs have been extremely well received and have served more than 60,000 students in the Puget Sound area. This steady and outstanding effort was recognized by the Mitsubishi Corporation and the Center of Global Partnership, both of which gave JASSW significant grants in 2009, affirming the quality of JIS programming and its value to the community.

This free program has two distinct parts: Japan in a Suitcase (JIS) for elementary, middle, and high school classes who want to learn about Japanese customs and history: and Japanese Language and Culture Visits (JLCV) - roleplaying immersion presentations for middle / high school Japanese classes.

America in the Schools

America in the Schools (AIS) is designed to promote sensitivity and respect for cultural diversity by educating elementary school students in Japan about the daily life, language and culture of America. Many Japanese hear about the U.S. through the media and movies that may not always be representative of everyday life. News headlines involving violence and racially biased crime can create an unappealing image of the U.S. for those with no other context of understanding. As a consequence, children can form very limited and inaccurate views of America that can result in reduced interest in studying in the U.S. when they reach college age. By bringing American life to Japanese students at an early stage in their academic career, a resilient foundation can be cast that will promote awareness as well as encouragement for further English language and American culture studies—the youth are the future of the U.S.-Japan bond on all levels.

The Japan-America Society of the State of Washington wishes to thank the United-States Japan Foundation for their generous grant, without which this program would not have been possible.



Summit Overview

The Japan-America Grassroots Summit is an annual gathering of Japanese and American citizens, held alternately in Japan and the United States. Each year an average of 150 people travel across the Pacific to take part. The Summit aims to strengthen the peaceful relationship between the two countries by fostering friendships at the grassroots level.

From September 18-24, 2018, the 28th Japan-America Grassroots Summit will take place in Washington State. Opening and closing in Seattle, the week-long Summit will span the scope of the Pacific Northwest’s natural beauty, rich culture, as well as business and technological achievements. Residents of 14 cities will open their homes and hearts to the Japanese visitors for a three-night local homestay program. The host cities are:

Auburn/Kent	Olympia	Tacoma
Bellevue	Port Townsend	Vashon Island
Ellensburg/Kittitas County	Renton	Mount Vernon High School
Lakewood	Seattle	Tyee Middle School
Moses Lake	Sequim	

The Summit honors one of the first friendships between an American and a Japanese – Captain William H. Whitfield, a whaler, and John Manjiro Nakahama, a young fisherman and the first Japanese citizen to be educated in America. Their lifelong friendship and unique bond began in 1841 and continues through their descendants to the present day.

Following the arrival of Commodore Matthew C. Perry to Japan in 1853, Manjiro’s knowledge of America facilitated the opening of his home country to trade with the western world. Manjiro taught English, navigation, ship-building and American ideas, such as democracy, to young Japanese samurai who led Japan to modernize and join the developed world.

The 28th Japan-America Grassroots Summit is organized by the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington and the John Manjiro Whitfield Commemorative Center for International Exchange. It is presented in cooperation with the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle, host cities, and community organizations.

Summit Schedule

Tuesday, September 18 – Monday, September 24, 2018

Date	Time	Activity
Tuesday 09/18/2018	Morning 4:00-5:00 pm	Participants arrive at Sea-Tac Airport Orientation Walking Tours around Seattle Hotel check-in at Westin Seattle [overnight at Westin Seattle]
Wednesday 09/19/2018	9:00 am-2:00 pm 2:30 pm 3:30 pm 4:00 pm	Seattle Tours (with extra tour fee) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japanese-American History Tour • Boeing Factory Tour • Twin Peaks, Wine, and Beer Tour • Seattle Business Tour • Underground & Safeco Field Tour (All tours are tentative) Opening Ceremony Participants depart Westin Seattle lobby for Pier Registration Opens outside Argosy Cruises at Pier 55 Argosy boarding time Opening Ceremony begins Argosy Cruise sets sail for Blake Island [overnight at Westin Seattle]
Thursday 09/20/2018	Morning 11:30 am-2:00 pm Afternoon/Evening	Depart Westin Seattle for Local Sessions (see page 7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus#1: Bellevue, Ellensburg, Moses Lake • Bus#2: Vashon Island, Port Townsend, Sequim • Bus#3: Renton, Auburn, Tacoma, Lakewood, Olympia • Bus#4: Tyee MS, Mount Vernon HS • Westin Seattle pick-up: Seattle (All buses are tentative) Arrive at local session pick-up locations Local Session – Itinerary Day 1 [Home-stay]

Local Session Buses – September 20, 2018

Bus #1 – Eastbound (4H)

Time	Bus Stop
9:00 am	Depart Westin Seattle
9:20-9:30 am	Bellevue (20 min from Westin) Bellevue City Hall at 450 110 th Ave NE
11:10-11:20 am	Ellensburg CWU Starbucks (908 E 10th Ave, Ellensburg, WA 98926)
12:30-12:40 pm	Moses Lake (1 hr 11 min from Ellensburg)

Bus #2 – Westbound (4H)

Time	Bus Stop
9:20 am	Depart Westin Seattle
9:45-9:55 am	Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal (24 min from Westin)
10:20 am	Ferry Departs Fauntleroy
10:40-10:50 am	Ferry Arrives Vashon Island (Ferry Dock, Vashon, WA 98070)
11:00 am	Ferry arrive Arrives Southworth
12:00-12:10 pm	Port Townsend and Sequim 7 Cedars Casino (270756 Hwy 101, Sequim, WA 98382) (1 hr 18 min from Southworth)

Bus #3 – Southbound (3H)

Time	Bus Stop
9:40 am	Depart Westin Seattle
10:00-10:10 am	Renton (20 min from Westin) Sam's Club Parking Lot (901 S Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057)
10:35-10:45 am	Auburn/Kent (22 min from Renton) Auburn Community and Event Center
11:10-11:30 am	Tacoma (19 min from Auburn) + Bathroom Break Tacoma City Hall (747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402)
11:50-12:00 pm	Lakewood (20 min from Tacoma) Lakewood City Hall (6000 Main St SW, Lakewood, WA 98499)
12:30-12:40 pm	Olympia (28 min from Tacoma) Winged Victory Monument Circle on State Capitol Campus (302 Sid Snyder Ave SW, Olympia, WA 98501)

Bus #4 – Northbound (2H)

Time	Bus Stop
8:00 am	Depart Westin Seattle
8:30-8:45 am	Tyee Middle School (20 min from Westin) (13630 SE Allen Rd, Bellevue 98006)
9:55-10:05 am	Mount Vernon High School (1 hr 10 min from Tyee) (314 N 9th St, Mt Vernon 98273)

Local Session Buses – September 23, 2018

Bus #1 – Eastbound (3H)

Time	Bus Stop
12:45 pm	Port Townsend and Sequim Depart 7 Cedars Casino (270756 Hwy 101, Sequim, WA 98382)
3:00 pm	Hyatt Regency Lake Washington (2 hr 17 min from 7 Cedars Casino)

Bus #2 – Westbound (4H)

Time	Bus Stop
11:50 pm	Depart Moses Lake
1:05-1:15 pm	Ellensburg (1 hr 12 min from Moses Lake)
3:00 pm	Hyatt Regency Lake Washington (1 hr 44 min from Ellensburg)

Bus #3 – Northbound (3H)

Time	Bus Stop
12:50-1:00 pm	Olympia
1:30-1:40 pm	Lakewood (29 min from Olympia)
2:00-2:10 pm	Tacoma (20 min from Lakewood)
2:45 pm	Hyatt Regency Lake Washington (35 min from Tacoma)

Bus #4 – Southbound (2H)

Time	Bus Stop
1:10 pm	Mount Vernon High School
2:45 pm	Hyatt Regency Lake Washington (1 hr 33 min from MVHS)

What it means to be a local session?

1. Appoint a **Key Person** to be the main local coordinator and liaison to the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington (JASSW) and the Center for International Exchange (CIE). Once this key person is identified, please submit their contact information to grassroots2018@jassw.org.
2. Provide information, including photos, for summit brochures/website etc.
 - a. Two photos of the city (over 1MB in size)
 - b. One headshot of the key person (over 1MB in size)
 - c. A brief city description (approximately 60 words in third person)
 - d. A brief self-introduction of the key person (approximately 60 words in first person)
3. **Transportation between guest hotels and local sessions** will be provided to ALL local sessions on Thursday, September 20, 2018 and to local sessions more than 30 miles from the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington in Renton, WA, where the Grassroots Summit Closing Ceremony will take place, on September 23, 2018. Transportation to the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington from local sessions less than 60 miles away is tentative and host families from those local sessions may be asked to drop-off participants at the hotel. Local sessions should establish a pick-up/drop-off location with JASSW, where the buses and host families can drop-off/pick-up guests.
4. Plan and organize **two days of local session tours**, such as outings or events that are specific to the local community (draft outline due January 15). Work with your local community officials to plan events hopefully hosted by the city and in which many people from the city can attend. For example, a rural town might show the workings of a local ranch or farm, a rodeo team or a football team. A lakeside community might organize a day of boating or fishing. Depending on distance from Seattle, local sessions may also be able to take the Seattle visitors to sites or events in those cities or elsewhere in Washington State. Please send the basic itinerary details grassroots2018@jassw.org.
 - a. The **expenses** of local tours, such as transportation and admission costs, are the responsibility of the local session. However, JASSW and CIE will provide each local session with \$50 per Japanese participant to help cover these costs.
 - b. **Transportation** used for local tours is up to the discretion of the local session. In the past, some local sessions have done local fundraising to provide a bus for guests, but the use of public transportation is also acceptable. Transportation expenses should be covered by the city, but may utilize the \$50 per person provided by JASSW and CIE.

Local sessions should establish a gathering point where host families can pick-up and drop-off their homestay guests for local programming.

- c. **Lunch** should be provided to the participants during the local tours on Thursday, September 20 and Friday, September 21. Local sessions may use the \$50 per person provided by JASSW and CIE to help cover these costs.
 - d. **Host families** should also be welcome to attend local tours, but local sessions are not expected to cover their expenses.
5. Recruit **10 host families**. See the following section “What it means to be a host family” for information on host family expectations. JASSW will provide local sessions with recruiting materials by January 15 and will assist in host family and volunteer outreach.

Interested host families should fill out a Host Family information sheet (see page 22 or link [here](#)) and send this form to the Japan-America Society at grassroots2018@jassw.org, (206) 374-0175 (fax), or mail it to:

3010 77th Ave SE, Suite 102
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Local Sessions may also direct interested host families to register for the event online at <http://jassw.org> under upcoming events.

6. Recruit the necessary number of **volunteers** for planned local itineraries (due June 15). We recommend first reaching out to host families to act as volunteers. If the local session needs assistance in finding bilingual volunteers, please reach out to JASSW at grassroots2018@jassw.org.
7. **OPTIONAL**: In the past, many local sessions have provided their guests with a **welcome reception** with the local community on the first night, September 20. This includes local sponsors, host families, volunteers, and local session organizers. We understand this can be a strain on the time and resources of various local sessions, so it is not a requirement.

What it means to be a host family?

1. Provide **3 nights of lodging** (September 20-23) in their homes for the Japanese guests. Host families should be able to provide basic amenities, including clean bedding, access to laundry, towels, soap/shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, and a hairdryer.
2. Provide guests with **meals** together with the family. Please see the basic chart for a breakdown of meals provided:

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Thursday		X	O
Friday	O	X	O
Saturday	O	**	O
Sunday	O	**	

O Provided by host family

X Provided as part of local session programming

** Guests are prepared to pay their share if eaten outside the home (see #4 and #6)

3. Provide **transportation** for the guests during their stay (September 20-23, 2018). This includes transportation:
 - a. From the designated pick-up location within each local session on September 20.
 - b. To/From the designated drop-off/pick-up locations for the local tours on September 20 and 21. This location will be decided by the local session key persons.
 - c. To the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington in Renton, WA for the Grassroots Summit Closing Ceremony on September 23, 2018.

Host families that are part of a local session more than 30 miles from the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington will be able to drop-off guests at a designated bus pick-up point in or near their local session. Host families in local sessions under 30 miles from the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington may be asked to drop-off guests at the hotel.

4. Plan and provide activities for guests on the designated **host family day**, Saturday, September 22, 2018. This can be something simple, such as taking the guest to a child's soccer game, eating lunch at your favorite restaurant, or visiting a nearby park. We hope that you will share your everyday life and favorite places with your guest. If these activities include a cost that you would like your guest to pay, please be sure to inform them of the cost ahead of time and ask them if they are willing to pay it.

On this day, guests are prepared to pay their share of meals eaten outside the home, however, if lunch is eaten at home, please provide lunch to the guests as well.

5. If host family members are available, they are welcome to attend or assist with **local tours**. However, host family attendees may be expected to cover their own costs.
6. Two representatives from each host family will receive a **complimentary ticket to the Grassroots Summit Closing Ceremony** on September 23, 2018 and an overnight parking voucher for the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington. If more than one family member would like to attend, they are welcome to register at jassw.org at a later date.

Dinner will be provided to all Closing Ceremony attendees. Lunch should be made available to Japanese guests on that day. Guests are prepared to pay their share of meals eaten outside the home, such as if the host family goes to the Hyatt early and decides to eat lunch around the hotel or in Seattle on the way. Otherwise, guests should be fed before being dropped off at the hotel or designated bus pick-up location.

7. **Take photographs** with your guest on local tours, at home, or at the closing ceremony, and share them with JASSW (see page 12).
8. Share and exchange information about each other's culture. Experiencing everyday life in someone's home in a foreign country is the purpose of this program. Keep schedules as routine as possible, while including guests in family activities, such as walks, grocery shopping, sporting or school events, etc.

How to share photos with JASSW

Please share photos with JASSW social media using #grassroots2018. On Facebook, you may also simply tag our Grassroots Summit page @grassroots2018.

Example:



**Please note that @grassroots2018 can only be used for Facebook and will tag the Grassroots Summit 2018 Facebook page.*

We may also upload your pictures online to a One Drive folder linked [here](#).

This link will be sent out to all local sessions and host families by email prior to the Summit. Anyone with this link will be able to upload pictures to the folder. Please find your corresponding local sessions folder, and upload your pictures there.

Hosting Tips

Remember, your Japanese guest would like to stay with a host family to learn about our wonderful and diverse culture. You need not worry about recreating their country's environment. The visitor is here to learn about American family life and culture. Plan to include them in your daily life – grocery shopping, church, meetings, etc.

A. Communication

Communication is very important to a successful hosting experience for both your guest and your family!

a) Expression

When you first meet your Japanese guest, they may be exhausted after a long flight or feeling shy. It may take them a little while to warm up. You may find that your guest does not express emotions or feelings verbally or physically in a way that is familiar. In Japan, expressing feelings is not as encouraged by society. In fact, it is considered mature and polite not to show too many feelings. Host families should expect some reserve on the part of their Japanese guests.

b) Being clear

When you introduce your family, clarify what the guest should call each person. Adults in Japan do not use first names unless they are very close. However, they may expect more casual forms of address because of their ideas about America.

Several host cities plan to have written time schedules for hosts and guests. Whether your local team does this or not, try to make sure that both your family and your guests know what the day's schedule will be, to avoid confusion. It is common in Japan to arrive a few minutes early, and "on time" is late. So prepare for your guest's desire to follow the schedule strictly.

c) Body language, personal space, gestures

1. Be aware that most Japanese are not used to physical contact. Do not expect bear hugs or cheek/air kisses, at least initially. A handshake is best for your initial meeting. Expect that the responding handshake may not be as strong as a typical American handshake and the guest may bow at the same time.
2. Some Japanese gestures may be confusing. For example, the Japanese beckon another person by moving the hand up-and-down with the palm facing down (see image). Western hosts may not realize they are being beckoned and confuse this with the American gesture for "Go away." Although this gesture (*temaneki*) is used by both men and women and all age groups, it is considered impolite to beckon an elder or someone in a higher position this way.



Expect to encounter additional differences in gestures and communication styles.

3. Japanese guests may or may not make eye contact. A lowered gaze, especially from a younger person to an elder, is considered respectful.
4. You may know that older Japanese women cover their mouths when they laugh. It is considered modest for women not to show their teeth.

d) Language

Take time to talk with your guest. Don't worry about language barriers!

1. Most guests speak some English; some will speak it very well. Almost all guests will bring an electronic translator or a dictionary for occasional help. You may also want to keep a Japanese-English dictionary handy.
2. Speak slowly and clearly, but not louder. Use simple, short sentences and avoid slang or idioms. Be ready to repeat words or sentences, or to rephrase an idea using alternate words.
3. You can communicate by gestures, written words, and spoken language. Your guests' reading and writing skills in English will probably be better than their listening comprehension or conversation skills. Nonverbal language and a friendly face go a long way.
4. In Japan, people often try to avoid direct verbal confrontation. To come out and say, "No," seems confrontational and rude. On the other hand, if your guest says "yes" too often, chances are there has been little understanding. The Japanese say, "Yes," very often in their conversations. It does not necessarily mean they are agreeing with you. It simply means that they are paying attention to what you are saying.

B. Household

a) General tour of the house

Give your guest a "house tour" upon arrival to your home. Include sleeping arrangements, where to hang and put away clothes, instructions for dirty laundry, where the light switches are, etc.

b) Household items/appliances

Explain how things work in your home. If you have a fancy guest bed with lots of decorative pillows, please show the guest where to put them when it is time for bed. Show your guest how to use the shower. Bathing in Japan is quite different from what we are used to. Make sure your guest understands that the shower curtain must be inside the tub. Inform them if there is a limited hot water supply. Show them their towels and washcloths. Introduce your household appliances (such as the TV, microwave, hot water dispensers, etc.), demonstrating how they work and any safety precautions.

c) House rules

Explain your house rules to your guest. Many Japanese people are told that Westerners do not take their shoes off inside the house. If your household does not wear shoes inside the house, you should mention it. Many Japanese are unfamiliar with Americans going barefoot or in socks

inside the house. Your guest may choose to wear slippers inside. Let them know what is okay in your household.

If you have a pet, explain how to handle it -- for example, no picking it up, no human food, is it allowed on furniture or not, etc. Since most Japanese people keep dogs outside, they may not be aware of toxic or harmful substances to your pet around the house like chocolate or raisins. Explain your family's customs about snacking. If applicable, tell your guest that it is OK to open the refrigerator or pantry and have snacks. (In Japan, it is considered extremely rude to open someone else's refrigerator or to help yourself to food from their kitchen.) They may feel hungry in the middle of the night because of the time difference.

C. General Advice

a) Gifts

Gift-giving plays an important part in Japanese life and you are likely to receive some kind of gift from your guest. It may be advisable to be prepared with a few small welcome or farewell gifts to return the favor. (Items should be easy to pack.) However, hosts should not feel obliged to buy expensive gifts for your guests, even if they bring expensive gifts. It is the spirit of the gift that is important and not what you paid for it. Whatever "**omiyage**" (souvenir) your local group can offer, if anything, will be just fine.

b) Jet lag

Japan is 16 hours ahead of Washington State -- your guest may get drowsy during the daytime. You may let them have some rest, but it would be better for them not to take a long nap. The best way to get over jet lag is to be up during daylight and have meals at regular mealtimes.

c) Adjustment

Allow your guest time to adjust and get over their initial culture shock, nervousness, and new surroundings!

d) Food

Many kinds of American foods are available in Japan. Your guest most likely will eat American food. However, they tend to eat more fruits, vegetables and grains. American sweets are typically too sweet for Japanese people. If you dine out, Italian, seafood, or Chinese might be a safe choice. Because meat is very expensive in Japan, many Japanese visitors enjoy trying a steakhouse or home grilling. For snacks, fruit, pretzels, Ritz or Goldfish crackers, popcorn, or nuts may be good. Microwave popcorn is not very common in Japan, so Japanese people will often enjoy the experience of it.

e) Personal time

It is important for your guest to have some free time for personal needs, such as reading, relaxing or just being alone. At the same time, guests should be encouraged to spend time joining in the activities of the host family and not staying in their room all the time.

f) Activities

The Summit homestay period is three short days and most local sessions have planned a number of activities. During free time with hosts, a few planned activities of interest for your family and your guest may be appreciated. However, in past years, guests have reported that they most enjoy the 'daily routine' of host families, including trips to school, youth sports events, supermarkets, church services, etc. Try to gauge the interest level of your guests. While enthusiastic, they may also become tired and would enjoy relaxing with you at home. Or, they might have an insatiable appetite for Pacific Northwest cuisine! This judgment is up to you, their host.

Extra Resources

Google Translate: <http://translate.google.com/#ja/en/>

jisho.org: <http://jisho.org>

International Call: 011-81-Area Code (exp. 0)-Number

Ex) 03-123-4567→011-81-3-123-4567

If your guest is paying by credit card-

Softbank Telecom: 1-800-381-0080

KDDI: 1-877-533-0081

Useful Japanese Phrases

Vowel Pronunciation Guide:

a: “aw,” as in avocado

i: “ee,” as in pizza

u: “oo,” as in uno

e: “eh,” as in bend

o: “oh,” as in soda

Where you see two vowels together just pronounce each in turn. E.g. ai= a + i sounds like the English word “eye”.

The consonant g is always hard, as in “Game,” not as in “Georgia.”

Japanese is broken up into syllables, each ending in a vowel (with the exception of “n”). Pronounce each sound in turn and afford the same amount of time to each.

Thank you

arigato / ありがとう

You're welcome

dō itashimashite / どういたしまして

Good morning

ohayō / おはよう

Good afternoon/Hello

konnichi wa / こんにちは

Good evening

konban wa / こんばんは

Good night

oyasumi nasai / おやすみなさい

Nice to meet you (for the first time)

hajimemashite / はじめまして

My name is ____.

(Watashi no namae wa) ____ desu /

(わたしのなまえは) ____です

Please call me ____.

____ *to, yonde kudasai* / ____とよんでください

What is your name?

onamae wa nan desu ka? /

おなまえは、なんですか

Nice to meet you.

yoroshiku onegaishimasu /

よろしくおねがいします

Do you like ____?

____ *ga suki desu ka?* / ____がすきですか

Are you tired?

tsukarete imasu ka? / つかれていますか

Would you like something to eat?

nani ka tabemasu ka? / なにか、たべますか

Would you like something to drink?

nani ka nomimasu ka? / なにか、のみますか

Do you have any laundry to be washed?

sentakumono wa arimasu ka? / せんたくものは、ありますか

Feel free to use whatever you need.

nandemo jiyuu ni tsukatte kudasai / なんでも、じゆうにつかってください。

It's okay to wear your shoes (in the house).

(le dewa) kutsu wo haitamamade iidesu / (いえでは)くつを、はいたままでいいです

Please take off your shoes (inside the house).

(le no nakadewa) kutsu wo nuide kudasai / (いえのなかでは)くつを、ぬいでください

It's okay to not wear house slippers.

Surippa wa, hakanakutemo ii desu / スリッパは、はかなくてもいいです。

*Your guests might think that at an American home, if they are not wearing shoes, they have to use slippers.

Please take whatever you like from the pantry/fridge.

Tana/reizoko kara sukinamono wo totte kudasai /

たな / れいぞうこから、すきなものをとってください。

Common Confusing English Phrases

<i>What you say:</i>	<i>Japanese guest may think, hear, or respond:</i>	<i>Why:</i>
“Help yourself.”	Do it yourself. We will not help you.	This is an idiom that the Japanese people may not learn in school. In Japanese, “help” is the same word as “rescue,” so it sounds like you are telling them to overcome hardship by themselves.
“Aren’t you hungry?”	“Yes, I’m not hungry at all.”	“YES” = I agree, that I am not hungry. (No I am not). “NO” = I disagree that I am not hungry. (Yes, I am hungry). *It is better to avoid negative sentence questions.
“I’m leaving now. Are you coming with us?”	“I’m going.”	The Japanese use “going” when they are talking about leaving one place to arrive at another. “I am going to that place with you.” = “Yes, I am coming with you.”
“It’s a quarter to ten.”	“Is it 10:15?” “Do you need ten quarters?”	It’s clearer to say “It’s 9:45,” instead of “It’s ___ to/after ___.” Also, the idea of a “quarter” is not commonly used in Japan. They will most likely think a “quarter” is a coin.
“What time does your plane leave?”	“It leaves at 21:30.”	Military time is commonly used in Japan, especially for timetables.

Testimonials

Josephine Hoyne

Seattle, WA

My family was a host family for international students from 1993 to 2008. One of the first people we hosted, when I was only three-years old, was a nineteen-year-old Japanese man named Fumiaki. He originally only planned to stay with us as part of a three-day program similar to the Japan-America Grassroots Summit. We kept in contact for a few years. Fumiaki eventually decided to return to Seattle for school and we ended up hosting him for another three years!

After Fumiaki returned to Japan, my brother and I made trips to Japan to stay with him. Before Fumiaki married his wonderful wife Risa, he brought her to Seattle to introduce her to us first. I lived in Japan for four years, and during that time Fumiaki and Risa were always ready to welcome me into their home. I often describe Fumiaki as an older brother figure. I am so happy my family opened our doors to home stay guests in my childhood. A single three-day home stay experience in Seattle turned into a lifelong friendship that I am eternally grateful to have.



(Left to right) Barry (Josephine's father), Josephine, Fumiaki, Risa, and fellow home stay guest, Yoko, in Enoshima, Japan.

Melissa Clauson

Seattle, WA

We absolutely loved hosting a student from the Japan American Society and wouldn't change our experience for anything. We were absolutely blown away with the activities that JASSW arranged for the students. This included trips to Microsoft, Boeing, Starbucks and the Mariners. We admired how JASSW encourage the students to take public transportation. As a family, we enjoyed the opportunity of making a new friend from a different country and learning about his life and his culture. The experience was amazing for my kids and I know the Japanese students really enjoyed learning about an American family. Although he spoke very little English and we spoke very little Japanese somehow we were able to communicate just fine! What a delightful opportunity for all parties involved I only wish it would have lasted longer.



Thank you, Tom, Melissa, Dylan, Gracie and Max Clauson.

Local Key Persons Directory

Local Session	Key Person	Position	Email	Phone
Auburn/Kent	Lorraine Chachere	Tourism Coordinator, City of Auburn	lchachere@auburnwa.gov	253-876-1978
Bellevue	Gregg Schrader	Building Official/Division Director, City of Bellevue Developmental Services Department	gschrader@bellevuewa.gov	425-452-6451
Ellensburg/ Kittitas County	Paul Jewell	District 1 County Commissioner, Kittitas County Board of Commissioners	Please contact Julie Kjorsvik	
	(Julie Kjorsvik)	Clerk of the Board, Kittitas County Board of Commissioners Office	julie.kjorsvik@co.kittitas.wa.us	509-962-7508
Lakewood	Becky Newton	Economic Development Manager, City of Lakewood	Bnewton@cityoflakewood.us	253-983-7738
Moses Lake	Deb Lanshaw	Owner of Langshaw Investments	deb.langshaw@gmail.com	509-989-1307
Olympia	Allen Miller	President, Olympia Kato Sister Cities Association Owner, Law Offices of Allen T. Miller	allen@atmlawoffice.com	360-754-9156
Port Townsend	David Timmons	City Manager, City of Port Townsend	dtimmons@cityofpt.us	360-379-5043
Renton	Chris Johnson	President, Renton Nishiwaki Sister Cities Committee	chris5255@gmail.com	425-381-7069
	Roger Richert	Past President, Renton Nishiwaki Sister Cities Committee	Please contact Chris Johnson or the JASSW Office	
Seattle	Ben Erickson	President, Seattle-Kobe Sister City Association	president@seattlekobe.org	206-617-2594
Sequim	Charlie Bush	City Manager, City of Sequim	cbush@sequimwa.gov	360-681-3440
Tacoma	Debbie Bingham	Program Development Specialist, City of Tacoma, Department of Community and Economic Development	debbie.bingham@cityoftacoma.org	253-591-5117
Vashon Island	Rita Brogan	Communications Consultant, PRR	rbrogan@prrbiz.com	
	Akiko Leonard		lhakiko@gmail.com	
Mount Vernon High School	Nate Shepherd	English and AVID, Mount Vernon HS	nshepherd@mvsd320.org	360-428-6100 ext 41146
Tyee Middle School	Cheryl Lee	Language Arts, Tyee Middle School	leech@bsd405.org	425-200-4232 (please leave a message)

Sponsors

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER

Achilles USA
Port of Seattle

Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP
FUJIFILM SonoSite, Inc.
Uwajimaya, Inc.