

2019 5th Grade Cultural Exchange Trip to Japan
Chaperone Information
Sponsored by Oya No Kai, Inc.
Expected travel dates: mid-June, 2019 – end of June, 2019

Job Description:

A chaperone's job is to ensure the safety of all students, enforce the behavior expectations, and to assist the trip directors when necessary. As a chaperone, you will be responsible for a small group of 4-6 students. You may also be in charge of other children while travelling and in hotel stays. Even though you are assigned to a small group, each chaperone is responsible for all the students on the trip. Your group might change. The most important trait is to be flexible!

Financial responsibility:

Chaperones are responsible for the entire cost of their trip. Chaperones and their children are ineligible for scholarships. All participants are required to purchase travel insurance and gifts for your host family. The estimated cost is \$3,200. Deposits of \$700 are due on November, January, March, April and if necessary a final deposit in May.

Time responsibility:

Being a chaperone is a large time commitment. Chaperones are expected to attend all training meetings (there will be a minimum of 5), mandatory parent meetings, and cultural series meetings. We also request that chaperones help with the performance practices. Chaperones will be required to schedule two outings with their chaperone groups. You will also need to conduct phone interviews with all the parents of the students in your group.

Qualities of a Good Chaperone:

- A positive attitude
- Ability to be flexible
- Ability to work with limited choices and constant change, much of which will be out of your control
- Cross cultural sensitivity
- Team playing skills
- Accept and respect the Trip Director's authority
- Ability to follow and enforce trip rules and expectations
- Enjoy the children! Have a good sense of humor and a lot of patience
- Good problem solving skills
- Willingness to participate in the trip preparations (chaperone meetings, cultural series meetings, and performance rehearsals)
- Be prepared while on the trip: medical supplies, money handling, travel documents
- Help students DO for themselves, but stand by to encourage them
- Respect decision making authority

FAQ

- ***Can I chaperone my own child?*** Unfortunately (or fortunately) chaperones will not be allowed to chaperone their own students. The expectation we have for all students is for them to be independent travellers and learners. We have found that having parents chaperone their own children creates a number of problems not just for the chaperone and child but for the other students in the chaperones group. This includes chaperone groupings and stays in the hotel rooms.
- ***Will I be travelling on the same trip as my child?*** Yes! We understand that one of the main reasons parents like to chaperone is to witness their child's experience in Japan. Sending children with chaperones also helps on the planning side.
- ***I am worried about my child going to Japan. Am I likely candidate to chaperone?*** All parents are concerned about their children travelling. Unfortunately, if your primary reason for chaperoning is to be available for your child, you will not be an ideal chaperone. We want to make sure that the chaperones selected will be there to care for all the students in their group.
- ***Are there scholarships available for chaperones?*** No. Chaperones are responsible for all of their travel costs. Student's of chaperones are also ineligible to apply for OyaNoKai scholarships.
- ***What are the lodging arrangements?*** In most cases chaperones will be paired in homestays for both the Kobe and Fukuno trips. You may be paired with one of the teachers. Sapporo chaperones will be single homestays. When staying in hotels, you will be staying with children that may not be in your chaperone group. Students and chaperones will be separated by gender in the rooms.
- ***Do I need to need to speak Japanese to be selected?*** No. It would be impossible to find enough parents each year to be chaperones if we had a language requirement. Although it isn't a requirement, we do look at language proficiency as one of the qualities that make a strong applicant. If selected, we strongly encourage chaperones to start studying some basic phrases and terms ASAP. This will make for a richer experience for everyone.
- ***Is drinking alcohol permitted?*** Japan has a very lively drinking culture. This is a great way to bond with others in the group and our hosts in Japan. It is forbidden to drink while students are present. When you are with your host family, drinking is permitted but we strongly encourage you to use your best judgement. We will be covering drinking culture in a later chaperone training.
- ***Will I be able to extend my stay in Japan?*** There is no guarantee that you will be allowed to stay in Japan after the conclusion of the trip. We have allowed this in the past but recently we have had issue with too many chaperones opting to extend. This will be dependent on the number of students returning with the group.

Application Process:

Applications will be emailed and also available online. We will only be accepting electronic submission of applications. Chaperones will need to fill out a variety of questions and provide a personal statement. A committee of volunteers, in consultation with the trip administration and the OyaNoKai board will make a final decision of chaperones.

The chaperone selection committee may ask to schedule an interview.

Important dates:

October 15th- Applications are due with a \$250 deposit made on the app. *If you are not selected, the money can be transferred to your student's account.*

November 15th- Chaperone will be notified by this date. \$700 Deposit due immediately

January 15th- Second deposit due \$700