



**2017**

**SISTER CITY  
STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM  
APPLICATION**

The City Of Seward, Alaska  
&  
The Seward International Friendship Association (SIFA)



## STUDENT AGREEMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am interested in applying to become a student exchange participant. I am aware of the time commitment which I will be required to make to the 2017 Exchange Program if selected. Although the exact dates of the program will not be known until around May 2017, I will be available for participation in the program from mid-July 2017 until my departure for Japan in early August.

If selected as an exchange student, I agree to:

- Attend the mandatory orientation session, and failure to attend could result in loss of my position as an exchange student.
- Review any materials provided by SIFA to familiarize myself with Japan and the area I will be visiting.
- Obtain a passport no later than June 1, 2017.
- Participate in scheduled activities sponsored by the City of Seward and SIFA during the time when the Japanese students are visiting Seward.
- Learn basic Japanese vocabulary of approximately twenty (20) words or phrases of greeting, courtesy, general conversation, etc.
- Represent the City of Seward in an exemplary manner throughout my involvement in the program.
- Provide the SIFA historian with at least five (5) photographs of my experiences in Japan or the Seward area, labeled with names and events, within two months of my return.
- Present at least one (1) oral report after my return at a time and place to be announced.
- Write a joint article with the other exchange students for publication within a month of my return.
- Help set up a display of Japanese memorabilia at the high school.
- Participate in future activities to promote the exchange program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Applicant) (Date)



## PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT & CONSENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as the parent/guardian am aware that my child has applied for participation in the 2017 Student Exchange Program with Obihiro, Japan. I realize that there are financial obligations in the matter of travel and gifts that will be borne by the family of the student. I realize that I/we will be required to participate in the program during the time when Japanese students are visiting Seward. I also agree to assist the Sister City Coordinator and SIFA in their efforts to plan/coordinate/chaperone activities and home stays.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent or Guardian) (Date)

### COST & EXPENSES:

Upon selection, the student and his or her family may choose from two funding plans:

1. The student and his/her family may choose to **not participate** in fundraising activities supported by SIFA and will cover all expenses.
2. The student and his/her family may choose to **participate** in fundraising activities. The funds raised by these students, with the support of SIFA, will be divided equally among the participants of each fundraising activity. Prior to any fund raising event, the students will reach an agreement on an acceptable distribution of funds and present it to the SIFA Executive Board for approval.

The student and her/his family are required to cover all travel and personal expenses. ***However, even if the student/family is unsure about their ability to cover the costs, all students are encouraged to apply.*** SIFA will help, as much as possible, to defray costs associated with the exchange by providing fundraising guidance and support opportunities to the student.

The student/family should prepare to have enough funds available by June 1<sup>st</sup> for the airfare purchase, and the student can continue to fundraise right up until departure time for additional spending money.



## **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- All students attending high school in the Seward/Moose Pass area are eligible to apply as an exchange student and/or participate in the local exchange program activities. Up to four (4) students may be selected.
- The Sister City Coordinator is responsible for coordinating travel and purchasing tickets.
- Applicants will be interviewed by the Sister City Coordinator and SIFA representative(s), and selections will be made within two weeks of the interviews.
- The Sister City Coordinator is available to answer any questions or concerns about the program. Contact the City Clerk's office at (907) 224-4046.
- After selection is made, the Sister City Coordinator and a member of SIFA will hold a mandatory student/parent orientation to help start planning for this exciting adventure.

## **STUDENT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Signed Student Agreement
2. Signed Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement & Consent
3. Student resume containing the following information:
  - Name
  - Mailing Address
  - Physical Address
  - Phone Numbers – Home & Cell
  - Email Address
  - Date of Birth
  - Grade Entering in the Fall of 2017
  - Special Interests
  - Extracurricular Activities
  - Honors & Awards Received, if applicable
  - Community Activity Involvement
  - Past Involvement with any Exchange Program
  - Parent(s) Name(s) & Contact Info
4. Short narrative (typed, double spaced, 250-500 words) explaining why you would like to participate in the program. Tell something about yourself and why you feel that you should be selected to represent your community as an exchange student. Explain how you would promote your state to the Japanese students.
5. Two letters of reference from a teacher or another adult.



## **STUDENT APPLICANT SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Personality, Attitude, and Enthusiasm
- Familiarity with Japan and its culture
- Knowledge of Alaska, and especially Seward
- Content and Form of Resume
- Content and Form of Narrative
- Poise/Composure under pressure
- General Appearance (Neatness)
- Availability to participate in the entire program
- Knowledge of the Japanese language is desirable, but not required

**APPLICATIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE  
COUNSELING OFFICE AT SEWARD HIGH  
SCHOOL OR THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**