

## **HOST FAMILY PROGRAM INFORMATION**

In our Sausalito-sponsored program, both Japanese and American (Marin County) students and families learn about life in their respective countries and make life-long connections and friends. This cultural and educational exchange between our two cities has been active since 1988.

In the 'even'-numbered years (for example: 2016, 2018, 2020), the City of Sausalito and host families from throughout Marin County host a delegation of teenagers between the ages of 14 through 17 from Sakaide, Japan for 10 days. The students arrive in the last week of July and stay for ten days. They participate in our scheduled activities during the day and enjoy an American summer lifestyle with their host families on most evenings.

### **Are you interested in becoming a Host Family?**

Become a part of our Sister City Program by participating as a Host Parent. You will be enriched by the cultural experience, and forever changed.

Anyone with a spare or shared bedroom in Marin County can be a host family. Having other teenagers or young children in the home is always a plus, although not required. Japanese language skills are not necessary as the Japanese students generally have some grasp of English.

### **Responsibilities of Host Families**

The primary responsibilities of a host family are as follows:

- Providing breakfast for the student daily.
- Providing dinner on the evenings set aside for host family time.
- Providing transportation to and from Sausalito City Hall (Sausalito Parks and Recreation) each day between 8:00 am and 8:30 am and then between 5:00 pm and 5:30 pm.
- Participating in program activities that are required for host families such as the welcome and farewell parties and others that are voluntary.
- Participate in a pot luck hosted by all the host families.
- Plan at least one full-day experience that defines our Bay Area life with your host student.
- Provide interest in, open communication with, and support to your student.
- Include your student in your lives and everyday experiences.

- Provide a small welcome gift upon arrival and a gift for the student's family upon departure.

The rest is up to you. If the past is any indicator, your student will become a part of your family forever and you will always cherish the memory of this experience.

## Next Steps

Those interested in serving as a host family, please complete and submit the **Host Family Application Form** and review **the Application Process**.

For additional inquiries contact Carole Garcia at 415-497-5620 or E.V. Gilbreath at 415-332-2282.

**When asked “Would you consider hosting a student again?,” past Marin Host Parents said:**

- We would love to host again. It was a wonderful experience!
- We loved meeting all the students.
- It's our second time to host and we will definitely consider hosting again. It is a privilege to be able to give lasting memories to impressionable young adults. Hopefully they will cherish and learn from the experience, we certainly did.