



**LONG BEACH-YOKKAICHI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION**

**TRIO CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

**JULY 22-AUGUST 11, 2009**



See <http://www.longbeach-yokkaichi.org>  
for the 2009 Trio Program application form and guidelines.

# **LONG BEACH - YOKKAICHI SISTER CITY** **STUDENT - TEACHER CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

## **BACKGROUND**

### **The Long Beach – Yokkaichi Sister City Association**

The Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association, a nonprofit organization comprised of members of various civic groups and the Long Beach community at large, entertains foreign visitors and maintains ongoing cultural and professional exchanges. The City of Long Beach does not sponsor the organization, but does provide support services and resources.

This group, composed of representatives of several civic groups, has as its goal the development of programs fostering the formation of closer relationships with our "sister city," Yokkaichi, Japan.

### **Yokkaichi, Japan**

Yokkaichi is a bustling, 650 year old Japanese seaport city located on the Ise Bay on the southern shore of Honshu, 25 miles southwest of Nagoya and approximately 300 miles south of Tokyo. Osaka, site of "Expo 70," is in the vicinity.

Home to approximately 378,000 persons, Yokkaichi is Japan's sixth largest harbor and its most important petro-chemical center, and became Long Beach's "sister city" after an exchange of good will missions in 1960 and 1963.

Although half-a-world apart, the east-west cities of Long Beach and Yokkaichi show some striking similarities and common interests. Both are situated in storied and historic regions of the world, both are fast-growing cities with modern and expanding ports, and both are major world petroleum centers. Both face the Pacific Ocean and are shipping points for rich agricultural regions and both are situated on plains, which are flanked by mountains.

### **Trio Program**

The Association established the Trio Program in 1964 in the hope of realizing a better understanding and appreciation of cultural differences and similarities after visiting Japan. The program is a three-week exchange designed to foster long-lasting friendships between citizens of Long Beach, California (U.S.A.) and Yokkaichi, Japan through a reciprocal family living experience. Created for both educators working and/or teaching in the Long Beach area as well as students attending schools in the Long Beach Unified School District, this program will select two students and one teacher to travel to Yokkaichi, Japan. Reciprocal three-week home stays are arranged with the student and teacher counterparts in both cities. Long Beach students go to Yokkaichi, Japan during the summer 2009 break. Yokkaichi students visit Long Beach students for three weeks in July/August 2010.

## **Long Beach Trio Representatives**

The Association will send to Japan this summer for a three-week cultural visit two students who live and/or attend school in the City of Long Beach as representatives of the City of Long Beach. The Association will also select one teacher to accompany the students. This delegation of three Long Beach ambassadors will travel as a group and follow an itinerary to be developed by officials of Yokkaichi. The Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association will pay all expenses for transportation from Long Beach to Yokkaichi and back to Long Beach. The Host City, Yokkaichi, or the Japanese host families, will provide transportation, food and lodging in Japan.

## **Obligations and Responsibilities**

Goodwill ambassador applicants will be asked to attend a personal interview by the Association. Upon selection, they are expected to attend a reception, a reporting presentation at the Association's board meeting, and meeting with Commissioners/Mayor. Dates and locations will be sent directly to the applicants.

Good-will ambassadors are responsible to carry out the Missions of the Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association, fostering rapport between the cities through the exchange of cultural, civic, educational, commercial and industrial activities and relationships. When they return from this exchange, they are expected to continue good-will cultural exchange mission in their schools, community, and the city by participating in activities associated with the Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association.

## **ALL REPRESENTATIVES MUST BE ELIGIBLE FOR A UNITED STATES PASSPORT.**

Students and the teacher should plan to pay for their own incidental expenses: e.g., souvenirs, film, gifts, etc. A maximum of \$500 should be adequate for this purpose.

## **PASSPORTS**

Students and teacher should have passports at the time of application submission or secure passports before confirmation of the selection by the Sister City Association. The selection confirmation cannot be made without passports in hand.

## **INSURANCE**

Insurance is not available to cover teachers and students who are selected by the Sister City Association to represent the City of Long Beach in Yokkaichi, Japan. The students and teacher are advised to provide their own personal all-inclusive insurance coverage.

## **Eligibility**

All Ambassadors will meet the following requirements:

1. Be a citizen of the United States.

2. Submit a written statement, "Why I would be an effective representative of Long Beach to Yokkaichi, Japan." The statement must be original and should be double spaced and typed on 8 1/2 x 11 letter size with one-inch margins and 12-point font. The length should be approximately 1,000 words (1-2 pages). Applicant must submit one original and five copies.
3. Possess a record of good citizenship in school and the community.
4. Have participated in school and community activities.
5. Be in good health and free of major food restrictions.
6. Possess personal qualities and abilities similar to the following:
  - Interest in being "an official ambassador of goodwill from Long Beach."
  - Friendliness - an "outgoing" attitude - loyalty to American ideals.
  - Sincerity - courtesy - enthusiasm.
  - Good humor - modesty - thoughtfulness.
  - Respect for the customs, traditions, language and culture of other peoples.
  - Interest in acquiring a beginning knowledge of the Japanese language.
  - Ability to communicate effectively in oral and written English.
  - Ability to relate to people of varying rank, wealth and culture.
  - Ability to adapt to differences in food, climate, sleeping and living conditions in homes of Japanese hosts.

Students should meet these additional requirements:

1. Be a member of the tenth or eleventh grade class in the spring semester.
2. Have a "non-adjusted overall" 3.0 ("B") or better grade point average from the ninth grade through the first semester of the current school year.
3. Be a resident of the City of Long Beach and/or a student in Long Beach Unified School District.
4. Have filed an application including parental approval.

### **Application and Selection of Representatives**

All teachers in the Long Beach School District and all high school students living/attending school in the City of Long Beach are invited to participate.

From the applications submitted, the Sister City Association will select two students and one teacher to represent the City of Long Beach in this exchange program. The Association's selection is made at its discretion.

All references, application forms and supporting data should be received by the Sister City Association no later than **March 13, 2009.**

Letters of applications should be emailed to [vaughnship1@juno.com](mailto:vaughnship1@juno.com) to confirm intent to apply and 5 copies each of application and supporting documents should be mailed to

Long Beach - Yokkaichi Sister City Association  
Attn. Michael E. Vaughn  
1198 Pacific Coast Hwy D347, Seal Beach, CA 90740

## **Information regarding Interviews**

Interviews will be held **Saturday, April 18 and/or 19, 2009.**

Names of those selected will be announced shortly **after May 9, 2009.**

## **Travel Plan**

1. The 2009 three-week exchange program will take place from **July 22, 2009 (Departure) to August 11, 2009 (Return).**
2. During the three-week stay in Japan, educators attend local festivals, tour local schools, visit cultural sights, engage in discussions and participate in “home stay” activities. Detailed information will be provided at a later date.
3. A smoke-free environment as in California cannot be expected in Japan. In addition, no special accommodations can be made for special dietary requirements based on religion or allergies.
4. Rooms are usually very small by U.S. standards.
5. There are few occasions when you are required to walk a fair distance including climbing up and down stairs.
6. “Free time” expenses are the responsibility of the participant. Transportation, meals and accommodations will be paid for by the Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association as outlined above.
7. Participants may not bring along family, friends or pets.

If there are questions about the program, please feel free to contact

Michael E. Vaughn, President

Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association

1198 Pacific Coast Hwy D347, Seal Beach, CA 90740

Tel: 562-592-9350 Fax: 562-684-4459 E-Mail: [vaughnship1@juno.com](mailto:vaughnship1@juno.com)

See <http://www.longbeach-yokkaichi.org> for the 2009 Trio Program application form and guidelines.