



EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY  
JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER **ESGVJCC**

## 2025 STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM SISTER CITIES OF WEST COVINA AND OHTAWARA

### INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in the 2025 Student Exchange Program between the City of West Covina and its sister city Ohtawara, Japan. This is an exciting and memorable program that we are sure you and your student will benefit from tremendously.

**Application Process:** Every student who would like to participate in the Student Exchange Program is asked to complete a short application (available through the ESGVJCC website [esgvjcc.org](http://esgvjcc.org)). This application will give the exchange program committee the necessary information needed to begin planning for the program. A \$200 non-refundable deposit is due upon selection for the 2025 Student Exchange Program.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Student Exchange Program is to provide our students with the opportunity to learn about the Japanese culture first-hand. It is an educational trip, not a vacation.

**Requirements:** The student must be between the ages of 12-18 by the start of the trip. In order to gain the full experience of the program, each family is required to host one or two Japanese students in August 2026. The student must attend 4 of the 6 scheduled mandatory meetings prior to the trip.

Meeting Dates:

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| 1. Sunday, March 30 <sup>th</sup> at 3pm | 4. Sunday, May 18 <sup>th</sup> at 3pm  |
| 2. Sunday, April 13 <sup>th</sup> at 1pm | 5. Sunday, June 1 <sup>st</sup> at 3pm  |
| 3. Saturday, May 10 <sup>th</sup> at 1pm | 6. Sunday, June 8 <sup>th</sup> at 11am |

**Trip Dates:** Our students go to Japan in June 22-July 1, 2025 and the students from Ohtawara will visit West Covina in the beginning of August 2026. These dates are subject to change; final dates will be available at the beginning of the year.

**Housing in Japan:** While in Japan, our students will homestay with a host family in Ohtawara. This allows our students to experience the Japanese culture first-hand and experience life in Japan.

**Hosting Japanese students:** We require each family that sends a student to Japan to host one or two Japanese students in August 2026 when the Ohtawara students visit West Covina. This is a great experience for the family that really allows the entire family to get involved.

**Cost:** The cost for the 2025 Student Exchange Program will be approximately \$2,500 per student for ESGVJCC Members (must be in good standing for past 2 years) and \$3,000 for Non-members. This covers airfare, transportation in Japan, housing, food, and other expenses. The only additional cost will be the students' personal spending money for souvenirs while in Japan. Students and families will be given the opportunity to fundraise to help reduce the cost per person. There is an optional payment plan so that the full cost of the trip does not have to be paid in full.

**For additional information about the 2025 Student Exchange Program, please contact Executive Director, Pearl Omiya at [pomiya@esgvjcc.org](mailto:pomiya@esgvjcc.org) or call (626) 960-2566.**

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