

Application Guidelines

During these times, exchanges between Japan and Alaska have become difficult due to the spread of COVID-19. For the purpose of energizing the sister city relationships between Japan and Alaska, and in particular to support youth activities, the Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage will carry out the "Japan-Alaska Friendship Video Campaign" to solicit a wide range of original videos from residents or cultural groups in Japan-Alaska sister cities, and to award quality prizes to excellent videos.

Submissions

(Qualification requirements)

- Must be submitted by a person or cultural organization residing in Japan or Alaska. Their city, town, or village of residence must have a track record of exchanges between Japan and Alaska.
- Must be an original work

(Note) Any citizen can participate. Students (elementary, junior high, high school or university) are highly encouraged to participate. Families or other groups are also welcome.

(Number of applications)

You can submit only one video per person or group.

Video theme and other requirements:

- The theme is "Lasting Friendship between Japan and Alaska through Sister City Relationships".
- Please submit a video between 2 and 10 minutes in length, that will enliven the exchange between Japan and Alaska.
- Videos can include just Alaskans, just Japanese people, or a mix of both.

- Please refer to the specific example (attached) when considering your submission.

Applicants may choose from these examples, or they can produce their own ideas.

Feel free to submit your video any time before the deadline!

(Support from Anchorage Travel Agencies)

- Those who submit a video featuring people from both Japan and Alaska can contact the other sister city (in Japan or Alaska) to complete the video, or they can complete it with the support of travel companies in Anchorage (A & P Tours and HAI Shirokuma Tours). Either way, each video should be shot at the creator's own expense, while the Consular Office in Anchorage will bear the expenses for support from the travel companies.

- If the applicant would like to receive support from these travel companies, please prepare a proposal (any format is OK) that specifies the outline of the video and the work to be carried out by the travel agency. Please submit it to the Consular Office (pubcul-ak@se.mofa.go.jp) by January 22, 2021. The Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage will support video production while coordinating with Alaskan sister city residents and consulting with travel agencies.

- In the case of too many support requests, the Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage and the travel companies will select a manageable number of works to support.

(How to submit finished videos)

- Please upload your work to YouTube or another social media platform, then upload the URL and screenshot of the video to public storage such as Google Drive (share the link) or Dropbox, and send it to our email address (pubcul-ak@se.mofa.go.jp). Please do not attach the video to your email directly.

- Please send the screenshot in JPG, GIF or PNG format, and make sure that it can be seen in high resolution.

- In the body of your email, please write a brief description of your video and the creator (including the creator's email address). If you have a website that introduces your work, you can paste that link instead of a YouTube link.
- If you attach a large image file or video file directly to your email, we may not be able to receive it. Please send it using a method listed above.
- Once we have confirmed your application, we will send you a confirmation email within 2 business days. If you do not receive this confirmation email, please contact pubculak@se.mofa.go.jp. Please refrain from making inquiries over the phone.

(Application Period)

Tuesday December 1, 2020 — Friday February 26, 2021

- Videos of sufficient quality will be posted on our website and Facebook page.
- (Note) The size of the Facebook cover photo is 312 pixels (vertical) x 820 pixels (horizontal). Please note that the image may be cropped to fit these dimensions.
- In March 2021, we will hold a "Judging Committee" to watch all submitted videos and select excellent works. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will receive a great prize, and three other videos will receive an excellence award. An article with specifics on the "Judging Committee" will be posted on the Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage's website after it is formed.

Precautions

- Unacceptable Videos
1. We do not accept videos that are offensive, which may contain violence, sexuality, or discrimination.
 2. Videos for commercial purposes, including promotion of companies and their products, or works that use this campaign for political and religious motives, are considered unacceptable and will not be posted on our website.

- The Consular Office will not be responsible for, and will not take part in, resolving disputes regarding claims of copyright infringement or compensation for damages, in any video entries during or after this contest.

- The contents of this campaign may be changed or terminated without notice due to circumstances.

Sample Video Topics

(If you consult with the Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage at the planning stage of your video, the Consular Office will consider providing you support (see the main text of the application guidelines))

- Reunion with a host family

A video of a reunion with a host family, many years after a sister city exchange.

At an online meeting, the video creator and the host family introduce each other, and show photos of their visit as well as letters exchanged in the following years. They talk about what has changed since when they first met, and re-discover their old relationship from Japan and Alaska.

- Exchange through hobbies

A video introducing Alaskan people who have hobbies related to Japanese culture such as anime and cosplay.

A creator listens to someone's wish, such as "I want to interact with people who have the same hobby," and the creator arranges an online exchange and virtual tours for that person.

- Introduction of popular JET participants, etc.

A video introducing Americans (Alaskans or others) such as JET participants who are becoming popular in Japan's sister cities.

The video will also introduce the relationship between the Americans and the Japanese residents, and show their roots in the area. The video may include the American family's reaction to the video itself.

- Virtual tour (sister cities)

A video that fulfills the wish of someone to see a winter event in Alaska or Japan, such as the Snow Festival or an Aurora Tour.

The video may include interviews about why the person wants to see a particular event, the warm reception of local residents during the virtual tour, and how the person enjoys the tour.

- Exchange through club activities

A video introducing club activities in sister city schools in Alaska or Japan.

It would be desirable if the video introduces online exchanges with sister city partners. The video could be completed by simultaneously shooting and editing an introduction by the clubs' student leaders, and the reaction of someone in the corresponding sister city.