

‘Japan–Alaska Sister Cities Photo + Essay Campaign’ Application Guidelines

Introduction

The Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage will put on a ‘Japan–Alaska Sister Cities Photo + Essay Campaign’ in order to promote deeper relations between Japan–Alaska sister city residents.

Eligibility

Residents from all municipalities with formal Japan–Alaska sister city relationships, including Juneau and Nishiokoppe as well as other cities/towns with regular exchanges, are eligible to participate. There are no age restrictions.

Theme and Elements of Submissions

The theme is “a heartwarming experience achieved through Japan–Alaska sister city exchange.”

Each submission must have A. 1–5 photos relating to Japan or Alaska and B. an accompanying essay between 100–1000 words. (This length is a rough guideline, not a requirement.)

A. We encourage participants to enter photos related to past or present sister city activities, but we will also accept photos that relate to personal experiences with Japanese or Alaskan people. All photos should be original. Also, if necessary, please obtain approval from other people in your photos or anyone else related to your submission.

B. Your essay should tell the experience behind your photo. Tell us what was moving, interesting, or funny!

How to Submit

Please submit one word document with your picture at the top and your essay beneath it, or you can format your submission based on the attached samples (1) – (4). Send the .doc or .docx file to inquiry-ak@se.mofa.go.jp before the campaign deadline.

Timeline

The application window opens at 12:00 am (midnight) on October 12, 2021 and will close at 12:00 pm on February 4, 2022 (Alaska time). The application window opens at 5:00 pm on October 12, 2021 and will close at 6:00 pm on February 5, 2022 (Japan time).

Judging

A panel of judges from the Japan–Alaska Sister City Forum will review each work carefully. Works will be judged on the quality of the essay rather than the quality of the photo, since participants are encouraged to submit both recent and old photos.

The panel will give out awards for the top three submissions in both the ‘adult’ category (19 and over) and ‘youth’ category (under 19).

*The judging committee will also give out a ‘Humor Award’ and a ‘Most Moving Award’ to other outstanding works, and the Consular Office staff will give out one ‘Consular Office’ award.

Prizes

The Consular Office will supply exciting prizes to the top ‘students’ and ‘adult’ finishers. The prizes have not been decided at this time, but please check the Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage’s homepage and Facebook for updates.

Inquiries

For any questions about the contest, please email inquiry-ak@se.mofa.go.jp.