

Interview with a JET participant

Q: What made you apply for the JET Program?

I have always been interested in Japanese culture and history and I knew I wanted to eventually move to Japan. I applied to the JET program for the opportunities it provided and because I think cultural exchange between countries is really important. As I studied Japanese in college, it was my goal to apply for JET and move to Japan so that I could continue growing my language skills and share Alaska's culture.



Q: What do you actually do every day as a JET at your schools?

I work at two different elementary schools. I am at one school for two days and the other school for three days. I'm lucky to have a car so I drive every day. It takes less than ten minutes to get to either school. Every day in the morning I meet with my JTE and we go over the lesson plan for that day. The lesson plans were all created ahead of time by the JTE of my main school. We talk about what I should do during the lesson and anything that might be different from the plan. And then we do the lessons all day! At one school I have class every period and at the other school it's a lot more relaxed. When I'm not in class my other responsibilities include checking assignments, working on an English Board, or finding fun games for class. At one of my schools there's actually a good amount of free time, so I study Japanese a lot as well.

Q: In your opinion, what is the most appealing part of JET?

Being a JET will appeal to a lot of different people for different reasons. But I think it's important for aspiring JETs (or at least those applying to be ALTs) to remember that working with kids and teaching should be part of the appeal. It's hard work but it's a lot of fun and really rewarding. Obviously getting to explore the amazing places in Japan and experiencing the culture is incredible, but the bulk of a JET's time is spent at school so you need to be able to enjoy it!

