



Japan Now: October 2025

Japan Now is the email newsletter of the consular office of Japan in Anchorage

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The Season for Sports in Japan

In Japan, autumn is often called “the season for sports.” As the heat of summer fades and the weather becomes cooler and more comfortable, people feel more motivated to get outside and be active. This seasonal phrase is one of several popular expressions that connect autumn with cultural activities, alongside “the season for reading” and “the season for appetite.”

The idea of autumn as a time for sports is closely tied to a national holiday called Sports Day (originally Health and Sports Day). This holiday was first established to commemorate the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympic Games held on October 10, 1964. Today, the holiday is observed on the second Monday of October and encourages people of all ages to enjoy physical activity and maintain a healthy lifestyle.



Another strong association between autumn and sports can be found in schools. Many schools in Japan hold their annual undokai (sports festival or field day) during this season. These lively events include track-and-field races, team relays, ball-toss games, tug-of-war, and sometimes large-scale group gymnastics. Families often gather to cheer on the children, and sharing homemade lunches on the school grounds is part of the fun. The Undokai not only promotes physical fitness but also builds teamwork, community spirit, and a sense of belonging.



Together, these traditions highlight how Japanese culture connects seasonal changes with daily life and values. Just as autumn is a time to appreciate books, food, and nature, it is also time to move our bodies and celebrate the joy of being active.

The application for the 40th JET program is open until Nov.14th

With over 80,000+ participants to date, the JET Program begins its 40th recruitment cycle! The JET Program is looking for people to work in one of the thousands school and governmental offices around Japan working as either an assistant language teacher (of English), a coordinator of international relations (as well as translation and interpretation), or as sports coaches. If you or anyone you know might be interested in living and working in Japan, please let them know that applications are now open until November 14th. Hundreds of Alaskans have taken part in the program, which continues to grow year by year as an essential part of the friendship between Japan and the US. Become a cultural ambassador and experience a side of Japan few ever get to see. Learn more at jetprogramusa.org or visit jetapplication.com to start your application.



Apply Now!

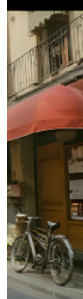
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- A photograph of a female teacher with brown hair, wearing a black top and a lanyard, sitting at a wooden desk in a classroom. She is smiling and looking towards a group of five Japanese students. The students are wearing white sailor-style school uniforms with dark blue collars and ties. They are also sitting at the desk, some looking at tablets. In the background, there is a green chalkboard and a whiteboard.
- ✓ Official Japanese government-sponsored program
 - ✓ Thousands of open positions all across Japan
 - ✓ No teaching or Japanese language exp. required

jetapplication.com



Japanese Film Festival

日本映画祭 2025



Free Movie Screenings

UAF Schaible Auditorium (Bunnell Building)

Oct. 17
5 pm

First Gentleman

Oct. 17
7 pm

OSHIN

UAA Recital Hall (ARTS 150)

Oct. 24
6:30 pm

First Gentleman

Oct. 25
11 am

Voices in the Wind

JAPAN FOUNDATION
国際交流基金



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在アンカレジ領事事務所



UAA College of
Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE
Department of Languages
Montgomery Dickson Center for Japanese Language and Culture
UAA Multicultural Student Center



UNIVERSITY OF
ALASKA
FAIRBANKS



The Japanese Film Festival in Alaska is returning for 2025, and the full film program is out
NOW! □□

All films are free of charge to watch. Please come and gain some insight into Japanese culture, customs, and traditions of Japan, alongside what is popular in Japan's society today, through film.

Chitose - Anchorage



Est.1969

Mombetsu - Fairbanks NSB



Est.1991

Teshio - Homer



Est.1984

Akita - Kenai



Est.1992

Japan - Alaska SISTER CITIES



Gero Kanayama - Ketchikan



Est.2005

Saroma - Palmer



Est.1980

Obihiro - Seward



Est.1968

Nemuro - Sitka



Est.1975

On September 11, 2025, the Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage hosted the Online Sister Cities Forum. Representatives from sister cities in Japan and Alaska attended the meeting to share updates and exchange views on sister city exchanges.

[Read More](#)

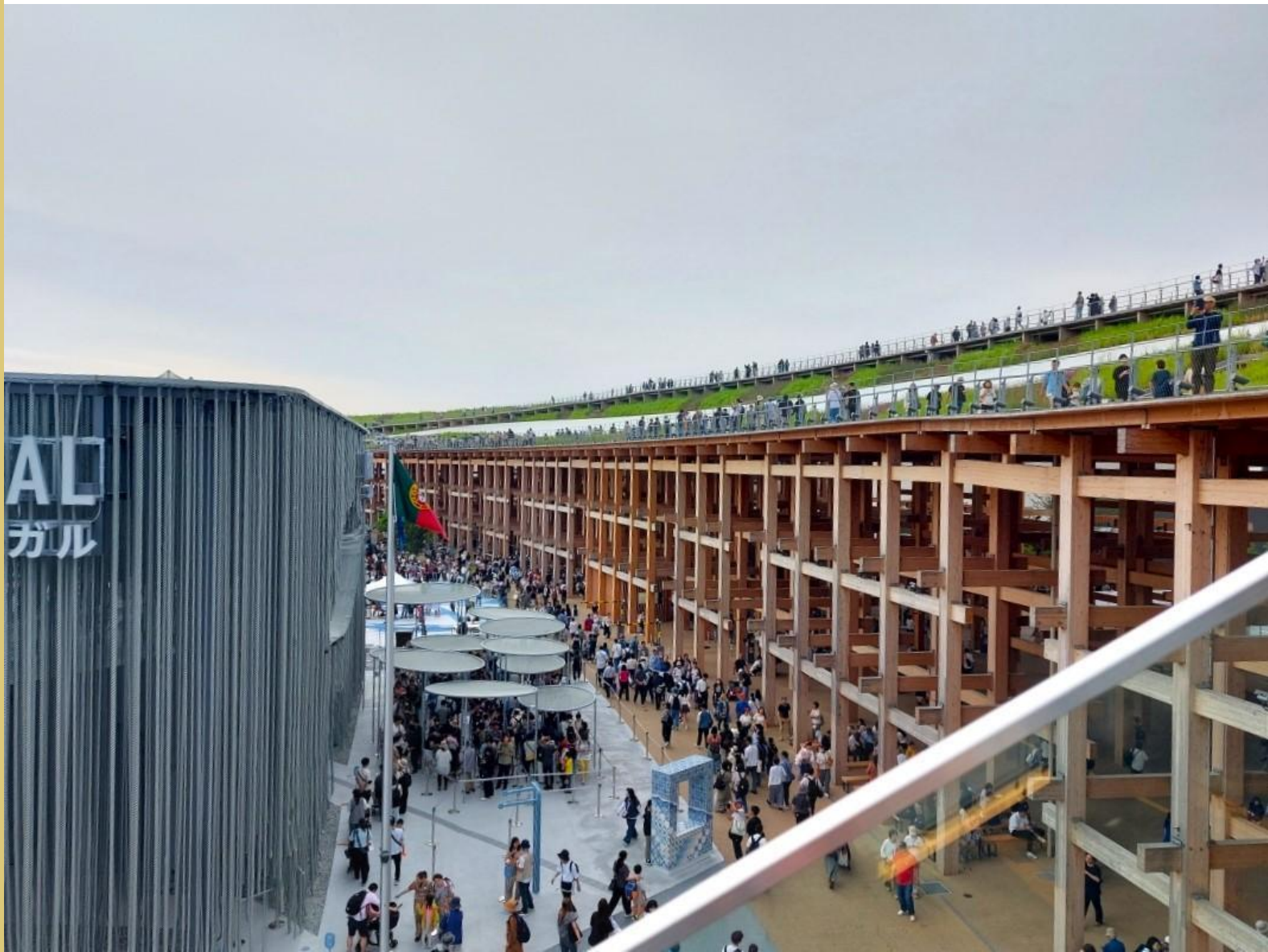
Interview with Homer Student Ambassadors that visited the Expo 2025



Expo 2025 in Osaka, Kansai, Japan, running from April 13th through October 13th, stands as a celebration of human creativity, cultural exchange, and technological

innovation. Its theme, “Designing Future Society for Our Lives,” invites visitors to imagine how societies can grow sustainably, internationally, and cooperatively in the future.

Our office recently had the chance to interview two Homer, Alaska students who were able to visit the Osaka Expo during a visit to Japan as student ambassadors within their sister city program connecting Homer, Alaska to Teshio in Hokkaido, Japan. Elayna and Finn’s reflections help bring to life what makes this Expo more than just displays — it is an immersive meeting ground of cultures, ideas, and shared futures.

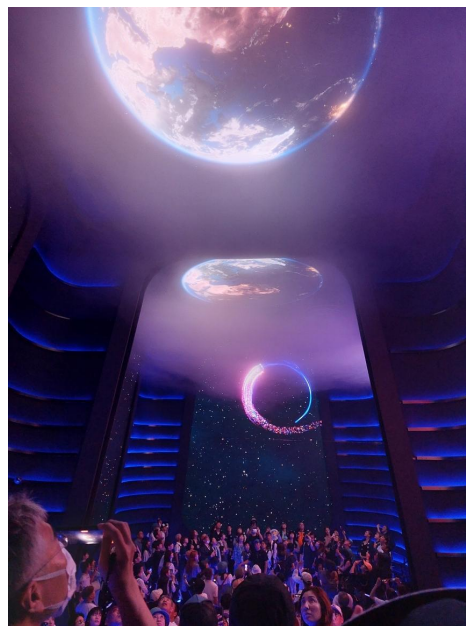


Elayna’s experience focused on the wonder of culture and diversity. Initially she noted that she “loved seeing moonrocks” when asked to consider the strongest impressions she had during the Expo, but as our conversation continued it became clear the broad range of cultures was most impactful. She recounted a Swiss pavilion full of plants, and a deer dance from Kenya that she called “beautiful.” She said her favorite part was simply walking around seeing the diversity: “You were always entertained... even while waiting in line.” She especially liked the “grand ring,” which sheltered visitors during heavy rain and allowed visitors to “see everything from above, much of which didn’t have to do with one country at all!” While considering her favorite experiences Elayna pondered on the diversity of the U.S. and broad range of cultures represented. She

fondly remembers hearing the many different languages played on the speakers of the USA pavilion stating: "World peace, it gets us a little closer to that."

Finn was most impressed by the Egyptian pavilion, where technology is being used to preserve monuments, and by an exhibit that showed a working bionic heart. He stated "Being from such a small town, seeing so many different cultures represented, it made me feel like we have more in common than not." Like Elayna, the grand ring left a strong impression on Finn and he recounts seeing that it was built "without nails in the Japanese method." The ring was constructed with Japanese cedar, cypress, and foreign pine using "Nuki joints" from a joinery technique called "Sashimono" drawing from traditional temples and shrines. Taking a particular interest in the architecture he noted how unique each exhibit was blending "traditional styles and super futuristic" designs. "All of the exhibits surprised me," he said. What was most meaningful in his words was "being able to immerse myself in different cultures, and see how big the world is."

The Osaka Expo 2025 isn't just about big displays it's about smaller moments: The performance of a dance, the reflection in a mirror display, the architecture that shelters you from rain, and the beautiful flowers nestled close to modern convenience vending machines and futuristic construction. All part of one grand exploration of international collaboration.



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