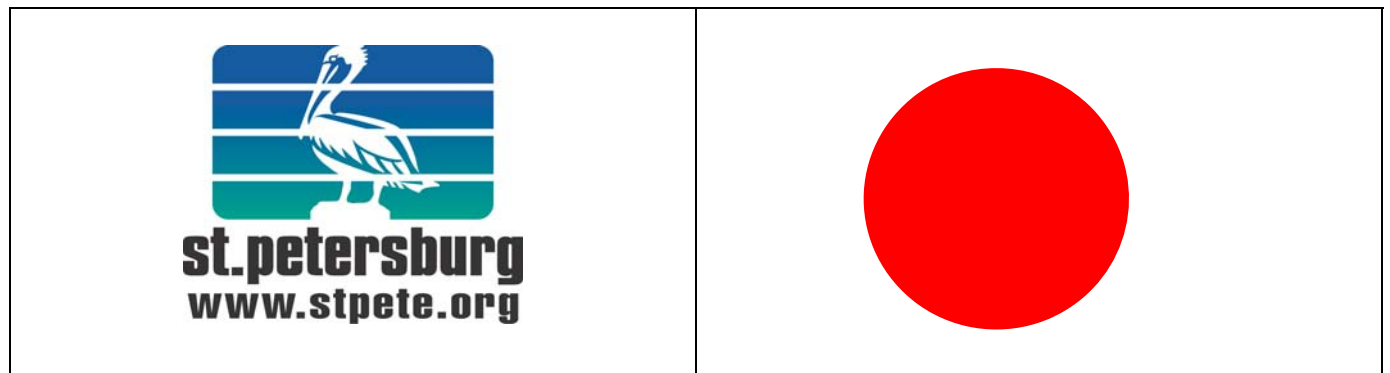

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG
OFFICE OF ARTS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

STUDENT APPLICATION 2012



STUDENT AMBASSADOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM
WITH SISTER CITY
TAKAMATSU, JAPAN



STUDENT AMBASSADOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM

About St. Petersburg and Takamatsu

St. Petersburg and Takamatsu became Sister Cities in 1961. This is among the oldest sister city relationships in the United States. The International Sister City program is based on the idea that citizen-to-citizen contacts among countries will promote better relations and peace. The City of St. Petersburg and its International Relations Committee (IRC) sponsors student ambassadors to Takamatsu in the spirit of citizen-to-citizen international relations.

About the Student Ambassador Program

Each year the IRC selects one to two (1 - 2) high school juniors who are residents of St. Petersburg, as goodwill ambassadors to Takamatsu, Japan. Selected students will spend two to three weeks in Takamatsu. Typically students are in Japan the last three weeks of July and early August but dates vary according to the school calendars of students. City staff will make travel arrangements and all international travel costs including round-trip economy airfare and travel insurance are paid by the City. Students will be hosted by families in Takamatsu. Students are expected to contribute approximately \$12 per day towards their living expenses in Japan. Ability to pay is not a criteria for student ambassadors. Students and their families concerned about costs should apply. If selected, students who demonstrate need will be assisted in financial obligations by the IRC. They will be responsible for personal living expenses while in Japan including transportation, activities arranged by host families such as visits to local attractions, meals in restaurants and miscellaneous expenses.

While in Japan students will have an official meeting with the Mayor of Takamatsu, attend high school with Japanese students, represent the city as goodwill ambassadors, and share information about our city and culture with Japanese students and others. Students will experience typical Japanese family life, culture and customs and local sights while living with host families.



Giving Back

We encourage the students to communicate back to St. Petersburg during their stay in Takamatsu for postings to the city's website; offering details of their experiences and photos during their trip.

Upon their return, students will be expected to share their experiences with other students, civic groups, city officials or others. Articles in school newspapers, interviews with local media, an appearance before IRC and City Council, are all possible means of sharing their experiences with the community and promoting the program.

This is an exchange program. Three to four (3- 4) Takamatsu teens will be in St. Petersburg in July. Families are needed to host students in their homes or help find host families. The IRC welcomes the involvement of families of applicants and ambassadors. We also encourage interested student families to apply to be a Host Family for the Takamatsu students.



How to Apply

Apply online at <http://www.stpete.org/irc/ambassadors.asp> or complete the application in this packet. Applications must be filled out completely including a current photo, and returned to St. Petersburg City Hall by end of business day, April 2, 2012.

Mailing Address: Office of Arts and International Relations International Relations Committee Attention: Elizabeth Brincklow City Hall P.O. Box 2842 St. Petersburg, FL 33731	Delivery Address: Office of Arts and International Relations International Relations Committee Attention: Elizabeth Brincklow City Hall 175 5 th St. N. St. Petersburg, FL 33701
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Ambassador Program 2012 Calendar

March to April 1	Applications submitted
April 2	Deadline to receive applications
March TBD, 5:00 pm	Information session for applicants and families at City Hall
April / June TBD	Interviews and selection at City Hall
June-July TBD	Ambassador orientation at City Hall
July TBD	Depart for Takamatsu

INTERVIEWS:

Each qualified applicant and their parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) will be interviewed by members of the International Relations Committee. Students will be asked questions about their own lives, their experiences living in St. Petersburg and asked to explain the structure and function of St. Petersburg's city government.

QUESTIONS:

For more information about the application procedure and cultural exchange program, please contact Elizabeth Brincklow, Office of the Arts and International Relations, elizabeth.brincklow@stpete.org or 727- 551-3250.



Form 8A

**STUDENT AMBASSADOR APPLICATION
FOR TAKAMATSU, JAPAN
(for High School Juniors residing in St. Petersburg)**

Student's Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Are you a St. Petersburg resident? _____ How long? _____

Parent or guardian name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening phone _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Academic Achievements

Current High school _____

Course of study _____ Grade point average _____

Dean's list or other honors (include dates) _____

What foreign languages or foreign study programs have you participated in? _____

Are you proficient in a second language? _____

Which one(s)? _____

-end-



Form 8B

Certification of Application of Student Ambassador Applicant

The applicant must be available for interviews. If selected, the student agrees to be available to present, discuss, and share his/her learning experiences upon return from the trip.

All required documents must be returned to the Office of Arts and International Relations / International Relations Committee by 5:00 pm April 2, 2012.

Student Applicant
Signature

Parent / Guardian
Signature

Date _____



Form 8C

STUDENT AND PARENTAL CONSENT FOR AUTHORIZATION TO REVIEW STUDENT RECORDS

IT IS THE APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO COMPLETE AND PROCESS THE FOLLOWING CONSENT FORM.

I hereby authorize and consent to the collection and forwarding to the International Relations Committee for the City of St. Petersburg my high school grades, honors, extra-curricular activities, and other related records.

I further understand that this information will be reviewed by authorized members of the International Relations Committee for the City of St. Petersburg in considering me for the 2012 Student Ambassador Program, and hereby consent to that review.

Student

Date

Parent / Guardian

Date



Student's Letter to Host Family(ies)

Write a letter introducing yourself to your host families. Keep in mind that this will be their first impression of you.

Incorporate your answers to the following questions, providing as much detail as possible (if you need help generating details, also consider the italicized questions in parentheses).

Specifications: Type your letter on a separate sheet (or sheets) of paper, and include your name on each. Attach your letter to this page. Maximum length: 3 pages.

1. What do you do when you have free time?
2. What do you do at your school? (How many subjects do you take? What are they? How long are the classes? What is your daily schedule during the school year? Start with when you wake-up and discuss only one typical day's schedule.) Are you able to choose courses at your school? If so, which courses did you choose, and why?
3. What are your school interests and activities? What leadership positions have you held?
4. How would you describe your home? (Do you have your own room, or do you share your room with others? Where in your house do you study? How far is your home from your school? Do you drive, ride a bus, or walk to school?)
5. How would you describe your community? (Is it in or near a major city? What is the population? industry? economy?)
6. What are your interests and accomplishments? (Are you interested in art, literature, music, sports, other activities? How did you become interested in the activity? How long have you been interested? How much time do you devote to the activity?)
7. What trips have you taken outside your country? Why did you take these trips, with whom, for how long?
8. What things do you dislike? (Do you dislike certain foods, animals, treatment by other people, etc.?)
9. What do you feel are your strong, and weak, characteristics?
10. What are your plans and ambitions for your education and career? Why?
11. What do you specifically hope to accomplish as an exchange student, both during your exchange and when you return?

-end-



Parent's Letter to Host parent(s)

Write a letter to your child's host families, incorporating your answers to the following questions.

Specifications: Type your letter on a separate sheet (or sheets) of paper, and include your child's name on each. Attach your letter to this page. Maximum length: 2 pages.

1. How is your child's relationship with you and your family? with his/her friends?
2. How does your child react to disagreement, discipline, and frustration?
3. How does your child handle challenging or difficult situations?
4. What amount of independence do you give to your child? What is your child's level of maturity?
5. What makes you proud of your child?
6. Why do you want your child to be an exchange student?

Are there any other comments you would like to share with the committee?



REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED CHECKLIST

1. Completed Student Ambassador Application form, 8A
2. Completed Certification for Student Applicant form, 8B
3. Completed Student and Parental Consent for Authorization to Review Student Records form, 8C
4. Copy of High School transcript
5. Submit an individual High School Class photograph and email a copy to elizabeth.brincklow@stpete.org
6. Attach or mail under separate cover two (2) letters of reference. One must be from a school contact such as a faculty member or principal. The other must be from an adult in the community who is not related to the applicant.
7. Submit a typed, double-spaced essay, not to exceed three (3) pages stating why you would like to participate in this program and what you hope to gain if selected. Include why you are qualified to represent the city of St. Petersburg, what you would like to share about St. Petersburg, and the benefits you've derived from living here.
8. List all honorary organizations of which you are a member.
9. List student organizations, committees, activities of which you are or have been a part in high school. Be specific, include offices held and length of time with each organization.
10. List your volunteer services and community projects while in high school. Indicate if a project was part of a school-based service club.
11. Completed Student letter to the Host Family(ies)
12. Completed Parent letter to the Host Parent(s)