



Press Release

City of Edmonds

Mayor David O. Earling

For Immediate Release: March 17, 2015

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DEADLINE EXTENDED!

Seeking Adventurous Travelers

Students gain international understanding with exchange program

(Edmonds - WA) Do you want to... explore new places? learn a new culture? try new foods? meet new people? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then we have an opportunity for you!

Every summer 15 junior high and high school students from Edmonds exchange a two week stay with junior high and high school students in Hekinan, Japan. Staying with a host family is an engaging and affordable way to visit Japan. And then you get to show off our beautiful Northwest culture to your new friends!

Open to Edmonds area students ages 14 – 18. 2015 dates are: July 20 to August 3 for Edmonds to Hekinan and August 6 to August 19 for Hekinan to Edmonds. Cost is airfare (approximately \$1700) + \$350. Deadline to apply has been extended to **Friday, April 17, 2015**.

Learn more under “Exchange Programs” at www.escc.edmondswa.gov. Questions? Email sister.city@edmondswa.gov.

Edmonds Sister City Commission

Hekinan has been our Sister City since 1988 and the exchange program has been a central component of that relationship. The exchange program is based on homestays for both the Edmonds and Hekinan students. Since cultural understanding is so central to the Sister City program, this has proven to be the most valuable activity that we undertake. Both students and chaperones have felt this program can enhance personal growth and perspectives in ways that are difficult to match in academic settings. For students of the Japanese language, it can be especially beneficial. For some students, it has helped shape their career planning and fostered lifelong friendships.