



## 2024 Japanese Virtual Host Family Experience.

### WHAT IS THE “HOST FAMILY EXPERIENCE” ABOUT?

This year we will again have a virtual outreach program where your family can easily connect virtually with a Japanese student over the course of two weekends in March. The students are seeking to grow in their understanding of the American culture and strengthen their English skills. The virtual homestay experience interactions are so valuable in helping students see Christ in action. A virtual homestay is done live on zoom or another video chat app. For each meetup we suggest a topic to help you think about what you could do, as well as help the Japanese student understand some aspect of American (Christian) life. In the past we've had the opportunity to host students in-person (and we hope to get there again), but since 2020 there have been numerous challenges that have put hosting in-person on hold temporarily and led to virtual hosting as the leading alternative.

### WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE EXPERIENCE?

Last year's virtual program was very effective in sharing the Gospel. As the Spirit led, some students heard host family's favorite Bible verses and some families had the opportunity to pray with their students. Most students heard about how Christ is the cornerstone of the host family's life and decisions. Students also naturally learned about quiet time and our daily walk with Jesus.

One of last year's virtual families noted that the key is prayer and being open to the Spirit's leading. This host mother shared with us how the Lord really helped her connect with the student when talking about struggles with believing God is real (this is something many Japanese students also struggle with). This host mother is still in regular contact with that student--sharing life, Bible verses, prayer, etc.

### HOW MANY HOST FAMILIES ARE NEEDED?

We currently have 13 Shimane University students signed up for the virtual program, but we may still have one or two students decide to join. Ideally each student would have their own family but, as necessary, we can have one family "host" two students. Even if you cannot host, your prayers for the program, other host families and the students are priceless.

We understand that schedules may not allow for full participation. On days when you cannot join, we will have your student join a different family. We also realize things (like work) can come up. If this happens, you can either reschedule with your student or we can have one family host two students for the meetup (just like when a family keeps a student for the day during the in-person program).

After you've been assigned a student, we will then email you a short homestay application that the student completed. This will help you get to know your student and start to pray for them. This presents information such as their experiences, hobbies, college major, family and other interests. It will also give us time to talk with you and other families after matching in more detail (individually or as a group).

### [HOW DO I SIGN UP OR GET MORE INFORMATION?](#)

Ready to join? Questions? Contact Dennis Kiggins at: [DKiggins@CCCDaytona.org](mailto:DKiggins@CCCDaytona.org)

## Suggested Meetups

We have suggested 6 activities with times/dates. There is also an optional 7<sup>th</sup> session. We made this suggested schedule just to make coordination between you and the student(s) easier, but you can change the activities and meeting times. We do suggest you join the first meetup, during which you could coordinate the other meeting times/days and how to meet (Zoom, Instagram or Messenger video, etc.).

When we are meeting as a large group, we will use Scott's Zoom account and each family/student can go into a breakout room to chat, have their tour, etc.

### **First Meetup**

#### **Thursday, March 7**

**7:30 PM Eastern (9:30 AM Japan) Suggested time: 30-60 minutes**

All group Zoom

Topic: Meet, get to know student. Make sure you introduce your pet(s) if you have them.

If you have time, give your student a tour of the inside of your house. Japanese houses don't have tank water heaters. It is all inline. Rather than having central heat/air conditioning, Japanese homes are heated/cooled room by room and only when being used, so when they leave the house or room for an extended period of time, the heat/A/C is turned off. So, you may want to show students these things and explain them.

Reason for the activity: This is a comfortable way to begin to build a relationship with the student.

#### ~~Friday, March 8~~

There is **NO** group meetup on this day because from 6:30-7:00 PM Eastern time, students will join the dinner before an outreach Bible study. If you would like to meet the students privately this evening, feel free to set up a time after 7 pm Eastern.

## Second Meetup

**Saturday, March 9**

**8:00 AM Eastern (10:00 PM Japan) Suggested time: 20-60 minutes**

All group Zoom

Topic: Tour of the outside of your house, walking tour of your neighborhood

NOTE: Families should tell the student what time they will join the next meetup before leaving today.

Ideas for outside your house include things like your mailbox, your front and back yard, and your garage since most Japanese homes don't have a garage. If you have a lawn mower, show it to them.

After this tour of the outside of your house, take a walk around your neighborhood, going slowly so students can ask questions about the things they are seeing. If you see someone mowing a lawn during your neighborhood walking tour, feel free to point it out.

Reason for the activity: Continue to develop relationships and show students you care about them before starting more serious discussions. Also, during an in-person homestay experience, students see the neighborhoods as they drive through them, and they learn so many things by seeing this aspect of real life.

## Third Meetup

**Sunday, March 10**

**Daylight savings time begins Sunday, March 10!**

**Any time between 8 and 8:45 AM Eastern (between 9 and 9:45 PM Japan)**

Suggested time: 10-30 minutes

All group Zoom (Carmella/Scott in Zoom entire 45 minutes)

Topic: Typical Sunday morning for your family

NOTES: 1. Families should tell the student what time they will join the next meetup before leaving today.

2. Carmella and Scott will broadcast the outside of a church and hopefully the first part of a church service from 8:45 AM Eastern.

Video chat as you prepare to go to church. Possibly have a passenger "zoom" part of your drive.

You may want to continue to be connected or reconnect to show students the greeters, the sanctuary, the coffee and tea (and also any food like bread or donuts) that people can take and explain whether this is free or an optional donation and why (for example, to help members take home bread without singling them out, to stop food loss if the food came from a restaurant/shop that otherwise would have thrown it away), etc.

If the Spirit leads and if your church has a live online service, offer to share that link with your student so they can choose to watch more of what is happening at the church and the service.

Reason for the activity: We want students to see you getting ready for church and understand its importance in your lives and family. Help students understand church is something for the entire family. This also helps students see your typical morning.

### **Optional Meeting**

#### **You and your student arrange the time**

Feel free to reconnect with your student after church (but you don't have to). Ask students what they thought of church, explain things that you think might have been complicated and answer any questions.

### **Fourth Meetup**

#### **Thursday, March 14**

**7:30 - 8:30 PM Eastern (8:30 and 9:30 AM Japan) Feel free to join late/leave early**

All group Zoom Topic: Students share Japan, their Japanese life, etc.

NOTE: Families should tell the student what time they will join the next meetup before finishing today.

When the time is closer, we will email a schedule so you can choose the topics/sessions you would like to join.

#### General Schedule

7:30-7:40

7:40-8:00

8:00-8:20

Final wrap-up for the evening

Introductions, chatting Session 1

Session 2:

Students have prepared informal "presentations" about their lives (for example, how they spend New Year's Eve) and Japan (for example, New Year's food). Although they will have PowerPoints with photos, we hope this will be more of a time to chat, with the slides serving as a way for everyone to understand and engage with the topic.

Reason for the activity: A lot of Japanese life has Shintoism and Buddhism embedded in it. Through these discussions, you will get to know your student better. These discussions may also spark spiritual discussions directly or indirectly after this meetup.

### **Fifth Meetup**

#### **Friday, March 15**

**Any time between 7:00 - 8:00 PM Eastern (between 8:00 and 9:00 AM Japan) Suggested time: 15-60 minutes**

All group Zoom (Carmella/Scott in Zoom entire 60 minutes)

Topic: Walk through a grocery store, outlet mall, Target, Walmart, or similar place  
NOTE: Feel free to change this activity if you cannot or do not want to walk through a store.

If you go to the mall, show them the stores, restaurants, outdoor setting, etc. If you go to a store, show them the variety of goods, prices, etc. Make sure you show them the Easter decorations, cross, Easter chocolate, etc.

Reason for the activity: Students really enjoyed this last year, and families took the opportunity to gently bring up Easter.

### **Saturday, March 16**

There is no group meetup on Saturday morning, March 16, because we will broadcast back from a farmer's market.

### **Final Group Meetup**

#### **Sunday, March 17**

**7:30 PM Eastern (8:30 AM Japan) Suggested time: 30 minutes**

All group Zoom Topic: Saying our good-byes and thank you's, all group picture

Reason for the activity: This is an opportunity for everyone to say good-bye to their student(s) and thank them for their willingness to be your guests. If you haven't exchanged social media information to stay in contact but would like to, you can do this now.

### **Additional Optional Activities**

Feel free to create "extra" optional interactions but feel no obligation to do this. A few ideas include:

- Showing them your/a child's sporting event
- Taking them to your work
- Having them participate (with you) in part of a wedding, baby shower, etc.
- "Cooking" a meal together
- "Eating" a meal together so students see you praying before the meal, see what your family discusses during the meal (include the student in your conversation as much as possible)
- Ordering fast food, Starbucks, etc. in the restaurant or drive through

The biggest challenge for adding activities during the middle of the day in the US is the time difference. Some students don't want to get up early or stay up late, so you may want to discuss this with them. Students may also be worried about talking loudly and bothering others, like family members or apartment neighbors (Japanese apartment walls are really thin! Carmella can hear her neighbor snoring!).

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