



# KCC Newsletter

May, 2025

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Exchange Programs with  
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

## The 16th Youth Delegation to Chengde City – Now Recruiting!

Delegation Period: Thursday, August 21 – Tuesday, August 26 (6 days)

Number of Delegates: 8 (Residents or students living or studying in Kashiwa City, born between April 2, 2003 and April 1, 2010)

Cost: Approximately 150,000 yen

How to Apply: You can download the application form from the KIRA website or use the documents distributed at the information session. Then, submit it by email, post, or in person to the KCC Office between Monday, June 2, and Saturday, June 28.

Please visit our website for more details.

## The 16th Youth Delegation to Chengde City – Information Session

**D** Sunday, June 1, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (Reception starts at 11:30 a.m.)

**P** Palette Kashiwa, Room D

**C** Explanation about the 16th Youth Delegation to Chengde City (eligibility, application method, schedule, etc.)  
Application documents will be distributed at this session. Applicants must attend. Anyone interested is also welcome. A separate session for those interested in hosting students from Chengde will follow in the same venue from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## Now Recruiting Host Families for High School Students from Chengde, China!

We are looking for host families to welcome 8 high school students from Chengde, Kashiwa's friendship city in China. Why not enjoy international exchange with your whole family?

Homestay Period: Tuesday, August 5 – Saturday, August 9 (5 days)

Number of Host Families Needed: 8 families

Eligibility (All of the following conditions must be met):

Be able to provide transportation to/ from designated locations in Kashiwa.

Be able to cover costs such as meals during the stay.

How to Apply: By Saturday, June 28, email your completed application form to [boshu-1@kira-kira.jp](mailto:boshu-1@kira-kira.jp) with the subject line "Chengde – H F Application."

Application form can be downloaded from the website.



Students from Chengde City in 2024

## Host Families Needed for Torrance Youth Delegation

Period: First Group: Wednesday, July 9 – Saturday, July 19

Second Group: Sunday, July 20 – Tuesday, July 29

Eligibility: 16 families meeting the following conditions:

Be able to provide transportation to/ from designated locations.  
(mainly Kashiwa City Hall)

Be able to cover the cost of hosting.

How to Apply: Apply via the QR code on the website by Saturday.



Student from Torrance in 2024

## Please Help Support Earthquake Relief for Myanmar

A donation box has been set up at the KCC office. We appreciate your warm support.

<Request> Make sure to include the event name, your name and phone number when you apply by email.

Personal information obtained by the Association will be handled strictly in accordance with the "Act on the Protection of Personal Information." (KCC)

**D**Date & Time **P**Place **F**Fee **N**Number of applicants **L**Lecturer **C**Contents **A**Application **R**Reservation.

## Report and Appreciation for the California Wildfire Relief Fundraising

Thank you very much for your warm support and generous contributions.

[Donation Amount] Donation Box at the KCC Office: ¥53,966,  
 Torrance Committee Contributions: ¥144,050,  
 Total: ¥198,016

On Thursday, March 20, we handed over the donations to Mr. Jon Kaji, a City Council Member from Torrance during his visit to Japan. In addition, the Kashiwa Lions Club kindly donated ¥100,000.



On the far right is Mr. Kaji and next to him is Chairman Kosuge.



## Announcement

### Online International Exchange Salon

### How to Use AI Conveniently

- D** Thursday, May 15, 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Instructor: Mr. Brandon Matsumoto
- Participation: Online via Zoom
- F** Free
- N** First 30 applicants
- C** Learn easy ways to use AI and important points to remember.
- R** Sign up at the KCC office or email boshu-1@kira-kira.jp by Wednesday, May 14. A participation URL will be sent to applicants on the day.



## International Exchange through Calligraphy Experience

Let's learn the basic brush strokes and try writing some characters on colored paper. Why don't you enjoy making your own unique works. Beginners and those unfamiliar with Japanese are very welcome!

**D** Wednesday, May 21, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**P** Palette Kashiwa, Multipurpose Space A

Instructor: Ms. Senka Tsubouchi

Eligibility: Residents of Kashiwa or nearby areas,

**N** First 15 applicants

**F** ¥800

What to Bring: Clothes you don't mind getting dirty, or an apron.

**R** Sign up at the KCC office or email boshu-1@kira-kira.jp.



## Hawaiian Cooking Class

**D** Sunday, May 25, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**P** Chuo Kominkan Cooking Studio

Menu: Hawaiian Poke Bowl, Papaya Kimchi Salad, Coconut Konjac Dessert

Instructor: Ms. Rei Kitahashi

**F** ¥1,500

**N** First 25 applicants. No cancellations on the day.

**R** Sign up at the KCC office or email boshu-1@kira-kira.jp.



Hawaiian Poke Bowl

## My Number Card Information Session for Foreign Residents

**D** Thursday, June 5, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa Room F

**R** No application required. Free of charge

### Cross-cultural Teatime

### Growing up in Croatia

Explore the nature, culture, and daily life in Croatia!

**D** Saturday, June 7, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa Rooms B & C

**C** Discover Croatia's rich landscapes and local gourmet specialties. Learn about life in towns where ancient Roman ruins remain. The session will end with a fun quiz! Why not experience the charm of Croatia?

Instructor: Ms. Anamaria Hell (Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, University of Tokyo)

The lecture will be given in English with interpretation.

**N** 50 people

**F** ¥400

**R** Sign up at the KCC office or email boshu-1@kira-kira.jp.



Ms. Anamaria Hell

## Upcoming Events (from June onward)

Bus Tour (June 21)

Torrance Youth Visit to Kashiwa (July 9 – 29)

Kashiwa International Exchange Week (June 23 – 28)

Chengde Youth Visit to Kashiwa (August 5 – 9)



## Have the Courage to Step Out Into a Whole New World!

Yuu Manabe, 2018 Camden Student Delegate

**The reason I applied to be a Camden delegate** - My mother brought me a brochure for Camden Student application. I loved the city of Kashiwa and was interested in visiting its friendship city as a representative of the city. The fact that I could go overseas with an adult leader was also reassuring.

**My first overseas experience** - I had been on a trip to Saipan with my family, but the Camden trip was my first overseas experience by myself, away from my family.

**How my experience in Camden has affected my life since then** - First, I no longer experience hesitation in foreign countries. When I talk with my university friends, some of them say foreign countries are scary and it is hard to go there and understand things. However, because of my Camden experience, I want to learn more about things outside Japan and am more active. Before my current stay in France, I studied abroad for a short time and spent a week in Uganda as a tourist, where I experienced firsthand the local lifestyle and education. I think I am less hesitant about jumping into an unknown world. Secondly, I think I am more open to different values. Being exposed to global standards makes me think about both sides of matters in my daily life.

**About my current life** - I am attending a university in Paris through my Japanese university's exchange program. I am mainly studying French now. My French university offers the opportunity to study foreign languages from all over the world, and the Japanese department is the largest among them, with about 600 students studying Japanese there as a whole. I belong to a volleyball group at the university and we meet several times a week. After the group activity, some of the members go to volleyball courts in various places to play against people we have never met before. This is a great way to make friends outside of the university. Also, being in France makes it easier for me to visit neighboring countries, and I enjoy traveling a little further during school vacations. I plan to stay in France until July this year.

Camden was rich in nature and a relaxing place, but in Paris I feel the hustle and bustle of city life like in Tokyo. People here have diverse ethnic origins, so I feel the cultural differences more when I talk with them. People here are tolerant of differences and free in their own ways. Although problems sometimes occur because of the freedom, I enjoy learning new perspectives and values by talking with many French people. Paris may have an image of being a city of frequent pickpocketing, but that is only true in some of the tourist areas and dangerous neighborhoods. The residential areas of the locals are relatively safe and comfortable.

**What I hope for younger students** - I think it is important to try anything. For those who have never been abroad, a foreign country may seem like an unknown world that makes you feel overwhelmed. But once you take the first step, it is actually not as scary as you thought it would be. I believe that repeated experiences that make you think differently will broaden your horizons, so I think you should try things you are not familiar with.



In front of Galleries Lafayette



In Colmar near Strasbourg

### International Exchange Tidbits

#### Why Are There So Many People Named "Nguyen" in Vietnam?

Over 30% of the Vietnamese population, or more than one in three people, have the surname "Nguyen." This is because "Nguyen" was the name of Vietnam's last imperial dynasty.

A typical Vietnamese name consists of a family name, a middle name, and a given name — in that order. In Japan, where people are usually called by their surname, it may feel like many people share the same name. However, in Vietnam, people generally call each other by their given names, even upon first meeting, so confusion rarely occurs.

Just like in Japan, where kanji characters give meaning to names, Vietnamese names also carry meaning. For example, the name "Ai" in "Dang Thi Ai" means "love." That said, modern Vietnamese naming trends often follow what's popular at the time, and parents may not always choose names for their meaning.

In Vietnam, husbands and wives keep their surnames, and children typically take the father's surname. To create names that sound good, mothers' surnames are sometimes used as middle names. As a result, long names have become more common in recent years.

# May Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sun	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II; Chukyu kara Manabu Nihongo</i>
Sun	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II</i>
In-person Classes (Shonan Shakai Fukushi Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - noon	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I(2 classes) Primary II</i>
Sun	10:00 a.m. - noon	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I(3 classes)</i>
Japanese Kashiwa/Kashiwanoha Classes		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 34-)</i>
Wed	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 4-)</i>
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation Elementary
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 31-)</i>
In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa)		
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Hiragana, Katakana; <i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 10-/Unit 20-), Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 30-)</i>
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary & Intermediate
Fri	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 4-)</i>
Sat	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Hiragana, Katakana; <i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 9-/Unit 21-)</i>
In-person Classes (Thu: Kashiwanoha Service Corner, Sat: Kenmin Plaza)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary (first half/second half)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Hiragana, Katakana
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Intermediate

## Free Legal Advice and Administrative Procedure Support for Foreign Residents

To foreign residents. Are you in need of help? Lawyers and administrative procedure specialists are available for consultation. You can ask for specialists' advice on issues such as family or partner violence, divorce, visa procedures, and problems at work. Reservation necessary

**D** Wednesday, May 28, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa MTR A **R** the KCC Office

## <Announcements from Other Organizations>

● Members Wanted! Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA)

Would you like to join us and take part in international exchange activities? Let's plan and organize various events while interacting with people from different countries! For more details, please visit our website.

## Information for Foreign Residents from Kashiwa City

### Consultation for Foreign Residents

Available in English ( Thu) , Chinese (Wed and Fri), Spanish (Mon), and Korean (2nd and 4th Tue) from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Consultation Counter for Foreign Residents (City Hall Main Office Building, 3rd floor).  
Tel: 04 - 7168 - 1033  
No reservation required.

### Email distribution service from Kashiwa City

Sign up to receive email announcement from the city, such as information on natural disasters, crimes, and fires of your area in the language of your choice. Scan the QR code and register!



### Multilingual "Koho Kashiwa," monthly official city bulletin

Scan the QR code and select your language under "Foreign Language" to read the official city bulletin, "Koho Kashiwa," selected and translated for foreign residents.

## NHK World-JAPAN's website has been renewed. Available in multiple languages.

[https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/multilingual\\_links/](https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/multilingual_links/)



Questions?  
Please contact the office of  
Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC)

Tel: 04-7157-0281 Fax: 04-7165-7321  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.  
Closed on Sundays and national holidays