

# The Red Wing-Ikata Student Exchange

This program was established in 1995 to promote cultural exchange between cities of different nations to foster strengthened economics, world peace and a greater understanding of the world issues. This annual program is aimed at high school students from the sister cities of Red Wing, MN and Ikata, Japan. Participants will travel to Japan to participate in a home stay and community events. Upon their return, they will host students and participate in our community events. Each year this takes place from mid-July to mid-August to coordinate with the Ikata festival and River City Days in Red Wing.

## An Experience to Remember

The first part of the trip: • Sightseeing in Kyoto, Hiroshima and Tokyo • In Ikata, you will stay with a host family and learn about home life in Ikata. • Participate in the local festival and cultural activities. The second part of the trip: • Host an Ikata student • Participate in RW Parade & other events • Show Ikata students hometown living in Red Wing, Minnesota

## What happens if you participate?

• Make new friends • Experience a different culture • Try new foods • Learn to communicate with limited language • Share your involvement with community and schools

## To qualify for the program:

• Student in grade 8-11 • Reside in the Red Wing school district • Be interested in foreign cultures and show enthusiasm to try new things • A willingness to participate in the 2nd half of the program • Share your experience with the program with the school, commissioners and other groups • Possess a valid passport or be able to obtain one before the program begins • Participate in fundraising to help with costs The cost does vary from year to year, however averages around \$3000 with airfare. Typically, with fundraising and grant writing, the out-of-pocket expense has been less than \$500. Some students have raised more than was needed.

**QUESTIONS?** Interested in this great opportunity? Applications are on the City of Red Wing website/Ikata Exchange Program page and are **due Friday, December 6, 2024.** They can be dropped off at 419 Bush Street, Red Wing, MN, between 7-4:30 pm Monday-Thursday or 7-11 am on Friday.

Red Wing Sister Cities Commission  
419 Bush Street Red Wing, MN 55066  
Lisa Acker – staff liaison  
651-385-5113  
[www.red-wing.org](http://www.red-wing.org)

Red Wing Sister Cities Commission  
Ikata Exchange Committee Members:

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Renee Kreye – 651-301-9624

