

The Japan-America Society of Georgia (JASG) invites students in Georgia born between **August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010** to participate in the **2021 Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC)**, a unique cultural exchange program promoting peace and understanding among kids from all over the world. The APCC is normally held in-person in Fukuoka, Japan – Atlanta's Sister City, but because of the global pandemic, this year's program will be held online through the APCC's **BRIDGE Virtual Summer Camp**.



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The Japan-America Society of Georgia is a non-profit organization, founded in 1980, with the mission to promote the mutual understanding between the people of Japan and Georgia. As Georgia's liaison office, the JASG has been given the special opportunity to participate in the *BRIDGE Virtual Summer Camp* and share the culture of Japan with **four students (two boys and two girls)** from the state of Georgia through this program.

**What is the BRIDGE Virtual Summer Camp?**

The APCC has been held every year since 1989 with the objectives of: 1) generating appreciation for the culture of other nations and regions; 2) promoting mutual understanding and friendship; and 3) nurturing international awareness in the region through young people. This year, 2021, the APCC has decided to substitute the in-person convention with the *BRIDGE Virtual Summer Camp*. **The camp will take place virtually, one weekend day a month during the months of August, September, October and November 2021.** The APCC's vision is for "each and every one of us to be global citizens of an 'OMOIYARI' (compassionate) spirit, creating a more peaceful world abounds with the smiles of children. The theme of the convention is **"We are the BRIDGE: We connect dreams around the world."** Georgia's students will join more than 300 other "Junior Ambassadors" (JAs) from around the world for a unique culture and language exchange. Georgia will also have a chaperone to facilitate between the students and the camp organizers in Japan who will supervise and assist JAs during the scheduled online camp activities.

**How can students participate as a Junior Ambassador?**

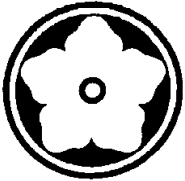
The JASG requests that any student who meets the participation criteria and eligibility requirements detailed in this letter submit an essay, no more than two pages (either handwritten or typed), on why they would make a good Junior Ambassador and representative of Georgia. The student should also submit a single drawing on an 8 ½" x 11" piece of white paper that represents the theme of the convention. In addition, the student should ask a teacher or another adult who is not the student's parent and/or guardian to submit a CONFIDENTIAL letter of recommendation. Lastly, the student should complete and submit an application form, which is available on the APCC page of the JASG's website at [www.JASGeorgia.org/APCC](http://www.JASGeorgia.org/APCC). **The deadline for submission is May 31, 2021.** Any applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

For more specific information about the APCC and for detailed information from last year's convention, please refer to the official convention web site at [www.APCC.gr.jp](http://www.APCC.gr.jp) or the JASG website at [www.JASGeorgia.org/APCC](http://www.JASGeorgia.org/APCC) for application and other document support.

*Please read the following participation criteria from the APCC, before considering whether to have your students submit their application, essay, and drawing.*

To be eligible for the convention, Junior Ambassadors must:

- 1) **have been born between August 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010;**
- 2) be fully aware of our Vision, and continue to act in an “OMOIYARI” spirit as a global citizen and contribute to the activities of BRIDGE CLUB even after the participation in the BRIDGE Virtual Summer Camp;
- 3) be willing to participate in the APCC and have a sincere interest in international exchange. Also, be curious about the Japanese way of life and culture, as well as the cultures of the other participating countries/regions;
- 4) not be of family relation to either the chaperone or liaison officer;
- 5) be of sound mind and body;
- 6) must have access to an electronic device (tablet or PC, not a mobile phone), the internet, as well as the Zoom application;
- 7) have a challenging spirit and positive attitude about participating in online meetings and actively communicate with the other participants;
- 8) be independent and mature enough to spend 1-3 hours & focus during online meetings;
- 9) be able to introduce aspects of their own culture as representatives of Georgia.



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While we are disappointed that this year’s JAs will not have the opportunity to visit Japan in-person for this year’s program, students who are selected can apply to be Peace Ambassadors and participate in a future APCC program in-person Fukuoka by staying active in the APCC Bridge Club and meet the criteria to participate.

We hope you are as excited about this opportunity as we are and hope that you will share this information with any child who may be interested and eligible to participate as a Junior Ambassador. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the JASG office at (404) 842-1400 or [Admin@JASGeorgia.org](mailto:Admin@JASGeorgia.org) and ask for our Office Administrator, Maki Murahashi.

Most sincerely,

Kazuyoshi “Yoshi” Domoto  
Executive Director