

The Japan-America Society of Georgia (JASG) is excited and pleased share with you a unique opportunity for students who were born between **August 1, 2012, and July 31, 2013 (10 and 11 year old children)**, to travel to Fukuoka, Japan for the **Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC)**.

The Japan-America Society of Georgia is a non-profit organization, founded in 1980, with the mission to promote the mutual understanding of the people of Japan and Georgia. As Georgia's liaison office, the JASG has been given the unique opportunity to participate in the *2023 Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention* and share the culture of Japan with **four students (two boys and two girls)** from Atlanta and the state of Georgia through this **fully funded** exchange program.



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What is the Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention?

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 the young people. The convention will take place from **Friday, July 12 to Tuesday, July 23, 2024** in Fukuoka, Japan. 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 four students will join more than 225 other "Junior Ambassadors" (JAs) from around the world for 10 days of culture and language exchange, home stays, sightseeing, and sporting events. Atlanta/Georgia will also send a chaperone to facilitate between the students and the convention. This person will supervise and provide assistance for the Junior Ambassadors prepare for the trip and during the entire schedule of the program.

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. The student should also submit a single drawing on an 8 ½" x 11" piece of white paper that represents the theme of the conference, "We are the BRIDGE: We Connect Dreams Around the World." In addition, please provide a reference (from a teacher or another adult who is not the student's parent and/or guardian) and ask that person to attach a letter of recommendation in an email to Admin@JASGeorgia.org with the subject, "APCC Recommendation for Student Name." 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. **The deadline for submission is Friday, February 9, 2024.** Any applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

For more specific information about the APCC and for details about the program and application materials, visit www.JASGeorgia.org/APCC. More information about the APCC and Fukuoka, Japan is also available at the official convention website at www.APCC.gr.jp.

Please read the following participation criteria from the APCC, before applying.



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To be eligible for the conference, Junior Ambassadors must:

- 1) Have been born **between August 1, 2012 and July 31, 2013** and not be a family member of the chaperone and/or staff of The Japan-America Society of Georgia
- 2) Be able to introduce aspects of their own culture as their country's representatives
- 3) Have a Challenging Spirit - and be personally willing to participate in the BRIDGE Summer Camp activities and have a sincere interest in international exchange. Junior Ambassadors should be curious about the Japanese way of life and culture and be willing to actively experience it
- 4) Be willing to try JAPANESE FOOD - as sitting around a table and enjoying meals together is an important opportunity for cultural exchange (the APCC will do its best to adhere to each participant's religious and food restrictions)
- 5) Be fully aware of the APCC Vision, continue to act with an OMOIYARI spirit as a global citizen and contribute to the activities of the ATLANTA BRIDGE CLUB (alumni group) after participating in the APCC BRIDGE Summer Camp
- 6) Be of sound mind and body and be able to bear the stress of a 2-week stay in an unfamiliar country, away from parents. Junior Ambassadors are asked to handle daily activities of living independently (basic tasks of dressing, bathing, grooming, using the toilet, eating, or getting in and out of bed)
- 7) Adhere to the **RULES** of the APCC: (a) do not leave your delegation during your journey to and from Fukuoka, or while staying in Fukuoka; (b) do not take part in activities outside those designated by the APCC office (commercial transactions, religious missions, private activities, etc.); (c) do not communicate with family and friends back home during the BRIDGE Summer Camp, including the camp and homestay; (d) do not bring more than 20,000 Japanese yen or approximately US \$200 pocket money and prepare Japanese yen BEFORE leaving your country; (e) adhere to your Host Family's rules and schedule during your stay
- 8) **Parents/Guardians of the Junior Ambassadors must** (a) be fully aware of the APCC Vision; (b) be willing to support APCC requests, such as submitting requested documents or obtaining the child's passport, etc. and should always be willing to cooperate with the JASG and APCC; (c) not accompany their child to Fukuoka; (d) not make any contact with their child during his/her stay in Japan. In case of an emergency, contact should be made through the JASG and the APCC Office; (d) be fully committed to supporting their child's participation in the APCC, help with necessary travel preparations, and adhere to the rules/regulations of the program

We hope you are as excited about this opportunity as we are and hope that you will share this information with any student who may be interested and eligible to participate as a JA. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the JASG office at (404) 842-1400 and ask for me or our Office Administrator, Maki Murahashi.

Sincerely,

Kazuyoshi "Yoshi" Domoto
Executive Director