



J • corps, Jr.

JAPANESE
CULTURAL
RESOURCE
PROGRAM

Host Teacher

Information Brochure



THE LAURASIAN
INSTITUTION



"Our J-corps, Jr. student takes an active part in my [Japanese] class - bringing things to show the students, suggesting games... She is wonderful!"
-previous J-corps, Jr. Host Teacher

The Laurasian Institution (TLI) and Japan Foundation for Intercultural Exchange (JFIE) have designed the J-corps, Jr. program to build greater cultural understanding between the American and Japanese high school communities by offering Japanese pre-collegiate students year-long placements in American schools.

By placing our students in high schools that have Japanese language curricula, J-corps, Jr. aims to enhance your school community's understanding of contemporary Japan from a teen's perspective. The student will attend one Japanese language class per day as well as share their country's traditions with the host community.

Within the host community, the J-corps, Jr. student is expected to contribute in various ways, including:

1. Acting as a live Japanese resource person in Japanese language classrooms, and assisting the teacher with lesson plans.
2. Enhancing interest in Japan among American peers by sharing about contemporary Japanese culture from a teen's perspective.
3. Assisting the Japanese teacher in creating educational resources, and leading classroom exercises/games to reinforce material.

Host schools, host families, and you, the host teacher, are all integral to the process of helping the program not only achieve the educational goals as outlined, but to help the exchange students achieve familiarity with life in the U.S. and better understand American culture.

As the Host Teacher, you will have the following responsibilities:

1. Select a Host Family for the J-corps, Jr. student.
2. Orient the Host Family and J-corps, Jr. student to the program.
3. Provide brief, monthly emails to TLI regarding the student's adjustment process, aid and progress.

In thanks for your kindly aid, the J-corps, Jr. program will provide a \$500 honorarium to the Host Teacher. While \$500 may not cover the entire yearly expense outlay of the Japanese language teacher, it is intended to reduce some of the burden.

TLI will in turn support the J-corps, Jr. student and Host Teacher by ensuring access to a bilingual staff person 24 hours/7 days a week; providing support to resolve problems or difficulties; and suggesting ways to help utilize the student's knowledge in both the classroom and community.

As the host teacher, you are an **integral** part of helping the J-corps, Jr. exchange student achieve familiarity with life in the US and develop a better understanding of American culture.



Selecting the Host Family

The selected host family is to provide a clean, safe, nutritional environment in a location within a reasonable distance to school. The parent or parents should provide supervision of the exchange student as if the student were his/her own child. Room and board are to be provided at no charge to the J-corps, Jr. student. All personal expenses are the responsibility of the exchange student. Sharing a room with a sibling of the same sex is acceptable as long as the student has his/her own bed, study desk, and closet/storage space. Furthermore, the host family should exhibit the desire and time for cultural exchange with the student. **You will most likely find the ideal host family from among your students who are studying the Japanese language.** TLI staff is available to speak with prospective families to answer questions.



Orienting the Host Family

After the host family has completed and mailed their respective forms to TLI, you as the host teacher will set up an interview time in the host family's home. You will be expected to:

- go over the expectations of the J-corps, Jr. program with the host family
- view the student's expected living area
- make sure the host family provides the student with a list of their household rules



Keeping in touch with the student and his/her family

On the day of the student's arrival, you should join the host family at the airport in order to meet the J-corps, Jr. student and make introductions. Soon thereafter, you will be expected to meet with the host family and student to share each other's expectations, review the house rules and regulations, and school schedules. If you are a teacher at the student's host school, you will most likely see the exchange student every day. Regardless, TLI expects reports of monthly contact between the host teacher and host family. You will then send an electronic report form to TLI every month on the student's progress, adjustment, and contributions to the host community. TLI staff will also stay in close contact with students and families, and will assist with any concerns that arise.



Tips from previous Host Teachers

- Try to schedule regular time (especially at the beginning of the school year) to meet with the exchange student after school to see how the student is adjusting.
- Develop a close relationship with the student so that he/she feels free to come to you with all their joys and difficulties.
- Make sure to be involved with the student's class registration. Some teachers are more flexible with the Japanese student's limited English.
- I would encourage placing the student in a higher level Japanese class during the 1st semester. The J-corps, Jr. student is usually more mature and placing her in an upper-level Japanese class during the 1st semester would have enabled her to make friends more easily and expose her to students already interested in her culture.
- Set clear expectations for the level of class involvement at the very start of the year.





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