

The 9th Support Our Kids Homestay Program

2019 CANADA / TORONTO HOMESTAY REPORT



Support Our Kids Committee



Overview

■ Program Content

Date : July 20 (Sat) ~ 31 (Wed), 2019

※May 19: 1st Orientation @ Tohoku Fukushi University

※June 23: 2nd Orientation @ Tohoku Fukushi University

※July 20-21: 3rd Orientation @ JFN CENTER / Support Our Kids Office

※July 31: Closing Ceremony @ Haneda Airport Fuji

Country : Canada (Toronto)

Participants : 9 members (age 14~16)

Content : Homestay

Mini-Summer Camp @ Ms. Chako and Mr. James's house

Earthquake Disaster Presentation

Japanese Culture (Tea) Presentation

Visit to Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre

(Learning Japanese Canadian History)

Sight-seeing (City Tour / Niagara Falls)

Visit to Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

(Presentation of Fishing Boat Flag)

Talk session with immigrants living in Toronto

(Ms. Sonam Choeden)

■ Nominal Support

Embassy of Canada to Japan

■ Support and cooperation by:

Rotary Club of Toronto Forest-Hill, ShowFlex International Inc., Shinpugijyuku, Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto, Embassy of Canada to Japan, Ms. Chako Setoyama, Mr. James Matsumoto, Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, ITO EN, Mitsubishi Shokuhin Co., Ltd., UJIE SUPER, Maiya Co.,Ltd., Maruto Co.,Ltd.

■ Program produced by:

Ms. Chako Setoyama, Mr. James Matsumoto

※June 22(Sat) SOK charity dinner party in Toronto

※We also received donations and cooperation from many individuals.

We appreciate for all of your kind supports.



Schedule / Program

カナダホームステイ 2019 スケジュール Support Our Kids Canada Homestay Program Schedule July 20th ~ July 31st

日程/DATE	午前/AM	午後/PM	夜/NIGHT TIME	宿泊先 /Accommodation
DAY 1 7/20 土	東北→東京 Travel to Tokyo	事前研修 (都内) Orientation		Tokyo
DAY 2 7/21 日	事前研修 → 成田空港 Orientation → Narita Airport	日本出発 / Flight departure to Toronto AC 006 NRT→YUL 17:30 16:45 AC 425 YUL→YYZ 19:00 20:22		ホームステイ@トロント Homestay@Toronto
DAY 3 7/22 月	英会話レッスン (+実践) / ★震災プレゼンテーション English Lesson / Earthquake Presentation			ホームステイ@トロント Homestay@Toronto
DAY 4 7/23 火	★Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital訪問(日加友好90周年記念プログラム) Visit Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital(Canada - Japan 90 Years)		スイミング、合唱 Swimming / Chorus	ホームステイ@トロント Homestay@Toronto
DAY 5 7/24 水	日系人の歴史を学ぶ心構え Preparation for visiting JCCC	★日系人ヒストリー-WWⅡ体験者とのセッション Japanese Canadian History - WWII experience talk		ホームステイ@トロント Homestay@Toronto
DAY 6 7/25 木	ナイアガラ観光 Niagara Falls Tour		英語でのテーブルマナー Table manner lesson in English	ホームステイ@トロント Homestay@Toronto
DAY 7 7/26 金	震災プレゼンテーション練習/お茶のプレゼンテーション Earthquake / Japanese Green Tea Presentation	コスモポリタンシティートロントの中に住む、 移住体験者とのセッション Talk session with a immigrant living in Toronto	★フェアウェルパーティー → ホームステイ先へ Farewell → Homestay	ホームステイ@トロント Homestay@Toronto
DAY 8 7/27 土	ホストファミリーと過ごす Day with host families			ホームステイ@トロント Homestay@Toronto
DAY 9 7/28 日	ホストファミリーと過ごす Day with host families	トロント日系福音協会訪問 Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto	ホストファミリーと過ごす Day with host families	ホームステイ@トロント Homestay@Toronto
DAY 10 7/29 月	ホストファミリーと過ごす Day with host families			ホームステイ@トロント Homestay@Toronto
DAY 11 7/30 火	空港へ / 解散式(トロントピアソン) Travel to Airport / Closing Ceremony	トロント出発 / Flight departure to Tokyo AC 001 YYZ→HND 13:40 15:40+1		機中泊 Overnight Flight
DAY 12 7/31 水	フライト/ Flight	解散式(羽田空港会議室) Closing Ceremony	東京→東北 Travel to Tohoku	

★Earthquake presentation



Orientation @ JFN CENTER

Venue : JFN CENTER 3F

Date & Time : July 20(Sat) 13:00~17:00

【Program】

- Opening Remarks
- Guest introductions
- Introductions by participants
- Home stay Program Schedule
- Presentation About Canada
- Case Studies/Risk Management
- Earthquake Disaster Presentation
- Japanese Green Tea Presentation
- Special Lecture by Mr. Grisdale Barry-Joshua
- Comments
- Group Photo



Mr. Torimura taught participants the importance of expressing gratitude and did practical preparation for the home stay. Mr. Grisdale mentioned the mind to never give up, cultural mosaic of Toronto, Canada, diversity and cross-cultural communication.

【Guests】

- Embassy of Canada
Second Secretary (Public Affairs)
Ms. Christine Callahan
(Video Message)
- Azalee Group
Dr. Koji Kurusu
Mr. Manabu Morooka
- Accessible Japan / Azalee Group
Mr. Grisdale Barry-Joshua
- Support Our Kids committee
Mr. Yukihiro Torimura



Orientation @ Support Our Kids Office

Venue : Support Our Kids Office

Date & Time : July 21 (Sun) 8:30~11:50



【Program】

- Earthquake Disaster Presentation
- Japanese Green Tea Presentation
- Goal Setting
- Advice from OB OG (Former participants)

Ms. Tomoka Oikawa(2015 Australia) talked about the way to be happiness in French which is one of the official languages in Canada, Mr. Takuya hidetake(2016 USA) mentioned team building and leadership. Ms. Mai Nishida (2017 Canada) shared her experience with messages.

We discussed how to improve the earthquake and tea presentations that had not gone well yesterday. As for the way of speaking and the contents, OG and OB provided useful advice with us.

【Tsubasa Horie(Fukushima Prefecture)】

Team Goal

【Team : Pure Sprit】

The goal of 2019 Canada home stay is to “convey”. Conveying what participants experienced through the Great East Japan Earthquake to the people who have different languages and culture. Expressing the gratitude for the supports since 2011 and the relationship between Canada. Pure heart is the key to cooperate with teammates. They conveyed their thoughts, appreciation and the experiences with honest and pure sprits.



Mini-Summer Camp①

【Cultural exchange with local students／Chorus, Swimming, Game】

Instead of the camp that every year held by Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto, Ms. Chako and Mr. James welcomed the participants to their house as a mini-camp. 10 local students and 13 counselors (in total, more than 30 volunteers) joined the program almost every day. As previous years, children enjoyed chorus, swimming and game.



【English Class/ Lunch order in a shopping mall】

Practical English lesson has started with local students. Participants tried Self Introduction and learned geography, history and famous people of Canada, difference between Japan and Canada through the game. In the evening, they visited Scarborough Town Centre and ordered lunch using English learned in the morning. Going home by bus (TTC, public transportation) was unique experience.



【Table Manners】

As Canadian traditional Christmas dinner, participants enjoyed turkey in the middle of summer. Learned how to place and use cutlery, share foods and clean up. After the dinner, participants reflected their mini-camp life and shared the memories.



Mini-Summer Camp②

【Earthquake disaster Presentation】

Prepared both visual and script slide to make audience understood the experience of the earthquake disaster. Everybody tried so hard to convey objective fact and what they lose and got and how to measure the natural disasters. Local students' support for English was so effective. In the end, the brochure about the experience was passed to audiences.



【Japanese Green Tea Presentation】

At the mini-camp, to the local students and parents, and to every guest at Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, participants made presentation in a quiz style. This year, for the first time, they served both hot and cold-brewed(water) green tea to make audience happy to be able to taste the difference.



【Visit to Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto】

On July 28th (Sun), participants visited Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto. In front of over 100 participants, they expressed gratitude for the continuous supports since 2013, and reported the experience of this year's homestay program.



Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

[Visit to Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital]

This year is 90th anniversary of Japan-Canada diplomatic relations. We joined an exchange meeting at the Spiral Garden of the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital in Toronto. In addition to activities with local children, all the participants signed their handprints on the Tai-ryo-ki flag, which is a symbol of reconstruction and gratitude for the connection between the two countries. The flag was donated to the national rugby team of Canada, and after the Rugby World Cup, it will return to Toronto. Ms. Julia Hanigsberg, Mr. Al Charron of Rugby Canada, Ms. Takako Ito, Consul General of Japan in Toronto, Rotary, Ms. Chieko Bond, local children, and Ito Some Kojo, who made the flag, we would like to express our gratitude to all of you for your great cooperation.



Left : A participant with Ms. Takako Ito, Consul General of Japan in Toronto, Mr. Al Charron of Rugby Canada
Center : Flag donation from Support Our Kids to Rugby Canada
Right : Interview scene from CTV News

News clips and articles of local media

[CTV NEWS Toronto]: <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/students-from-japan-visit-toronto-children-s-rehab-hospital-1.4520367>

[Toronto.com]: <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/9516341-toronto-hospital-welcomes-japanese-students-to-celebrate-diversity/>

[Consul General of Japan in Toronto]: https://www.toronto.ca.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/b_000402.html

[TORJA]: <http://torja.ca/support-our-kids-1909/>

[NIKKEI VOICE]: <http://nikkeivoice.ca/making-new-friends/>



Support Our Kids

Talk session with immigrants living in Toronto

【Talk session with immigrants living in Toronto】

Ms. Sonam Choeden is an immigrant from Tibet to Toronto, belonging to the rotary club which is continuously supporting SOK program. Canada is peaceful country that welcomes lots of immigrants from all over the world. She shared the hardship of her life and how to get through the tough times. As a symbol of the importance of education, a set of stationery was given to every participant.



【Message from Ms. Chako Setoyama】

Ms. Chako shared her stories as a 1st Nikkei generation. The history of Japanese Canadian society in Toronto, importance of education, how to convey the thoughts and feelings, spirits of whom got over the discrimination while and after World War II were mentioned.



【Inclusion/Accessible/Diversity in Toronto】

Based on what Mr. Gridale told at the orientation and stories of people in Toronto, every participants took a closely look at how the city deals with accessibility and diversity.



This time, I new that there are some accessible facilities in society for the first time. Everyone must think about the accessibility with or without disabilities. My perspective to think about others has changed.

【Kodai Hatakeyama(Miyagi Prefecture)】



Support Our Kids

Japanese Canadian History – WWII experience talk

【Japanese Canadian History – WWII experience talk】

At first, participants made the earthquake presentation at JCCC. Then, they listened to the explanation about the exhibition of Japanese Canadian history. Mr. Hajime Sawada who lives in Canada for more than 50 years after the war and Mr. Kio Shibatani who was actually taken into custody while WWII shared their stories with all of the members joined that day. Participants learned how to get over tough times and create the bright future of Tohoku.



Today I visit JCCC to learn about the history of Japanese Canadian and the internment of Japanese Canadian during World War II. I learned a lot about each generation of Japanese Canadian. I was shocked that Japanese were interned. It was painful for me to listen to the story that people of the same age as us had to leave their homes only with a single suitcase. "What would you bring if you must put your things in only one suitcase and go to the internment camp within 24 hours?" I may bring memorable goods with important people, not clothes. I realized that what is important for me is the people around me. From now on, I would like to listen to the speaker thinking questions to ask. I would like to express my gratitude to all supporters again for giving us precious opportunities.

【Mina Yamauchi(Miyagi Prefecture)】

At JCCC, we had time to listen to people who were actually persecuted during World War II. The person who spoke in my group was one who moved to Canada when he was young. I was able to have a valuable experience by listening to the wars he experienced in Japan and the stories he escaped from air raids, those I could not usually hear. When we offered cold-brewed tea, he said, "I want to go back to Japan early." I thought it would be a dream for me to live abroad, but when I was told that, by actually living abroad, people can realize wonderful Japanese thing again.

【Sakura Suzuki(Iwate Prefecture)】



Niagara Falls Sightseeing

【Niagara Falls Sightseeing】

Visited Niagara Falls, which is the world famous tourist spot near Toronto. It takes at least 4 hours round trip. A guide called Mr. Abu from ShowFlex told the participants interesting stories and features of wonderful nature of Canada. Enjoyed the buffet style lunch at Falls view restaurant. Group photo in front of huge flower clock was impressive. Everybody got closer and the day become one of the most memorable time during the stay.



I learned the difference between Japan and Canada from the stories told by a guide. The temperature was hot but it wasn't so damp, so I felt again that I was in a country different from Japan. I was able to go so close to falls that I couldn't open my eyes on the boat. The flower clock with a second hand we saw on our way home is rare in the world. I studied a lot about tourist spot today. 【Shoki Kamada(Iwate Prefecture)】

I was able to deepen the friendship with teammates today. I was very happy. I became to like Canada more. 【Rara Kumagai(Miyagi Prefecture)】



Farewell Party / Closing Ceremony

【Farewell Party】

More than 50 people including local students and supporters gathered at Farewell party. Participants made Earthquake presentation and shared what they learned in Canada and the gratitude for everyone. This was a very precious time to appreciate all supporters and members in SOK Toronto such as Rotary club and Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. Home stay experience has started after the party.



【Closing Ceremony@Toronto】

Host families and local friends come to Toronto Pearson International Airport to see the participants off in the early morning. Closing ceremony was held. Everyone sung a song together and was weaving hands till the last minutes for the departure.



At the airport, I was delighted that local students and host families came to see us off. I was so impressed to see them waving hands to the last. At the closing ceremony at Haneda Airport, each member reviewed and reported their learning. What I learned today is that I can make use of what I learned during my stay in Canada to grow in my future life. By just learning, it could not be used for the future, and the meaning of participating in Canada Stay would be lost. I also learned the importance of friends. We will keep in touch with 9 precious friends and support each other as the message written on Tairyoki flag. Thank you so much for meeting the 9 best members. I will continue to grow using what I have learned during my stay in Canada with confident. 【Raimu Yusa(Fukushima Prefecture)】

What I learned is about foreign cultures, especially religion. There are not so much chance to be conscious of religion in Japan, but Canada is different. They are so faithful that go to church every week, studied the Bible, prayed every day. One of the causes of various problems is religion. In the past, I had not been able to understand people causing dispute due to differences in religious values. However, I will respect them as important values that are firmly rooted in their lives, and be careful of how I interact with people. 【Kodai Hatakeyama(Miyagi Prefecture)】



Home Stay

【Life with Host Family】

After the mini-camp, participants met host families at Farewell party. Host families kindly guided the tourist spots and unique features of Toronto, Canada to the participants. Participants shared the experiences of the Earthquake with prepared materials like brochure and photos. Tea presentation was welcomed in each family.



The last thing I learned today was to think about new discoveries every day. In my case, comparing Japan with Canada, and my thoughts with Canadian thoughts. I found it important to find discoveries by comparing something. I want to discover new things every day even after returning to Japan. 【Raimu Yusa (Fukushima Prefecture)】

What I learned today was that you can change your way of thinking by being into something. I had a very fulfilling and enjoyable time. It was a lot of fun for me to go to the museum and to get on the yacht. I also enjoyed playing with the grandchildren and it helped me learning English. 【Rara Kumagai(Miyagi Prefecture)】



Closing Ceremony

Venue : Haneda Airport Meeting Room "Fuji"
Date & Time : July 31 (Wed) 16:40~17:40



Mr. Norio Ishiyama
Maruto Group Holdings



Mr. Yukihiro Torimura
Support Our Kids Committee

Through the home stay, I realized how hard it is to "convey", that is our team's goal. We got lots of advice from Ms. Chako and Mr. James. Even if our English is not good enough, the strong will to convey will change our attitude and I found there's another way to make audience understood.
【Mina Yamauchi(Miyagi Prefecture)】

What I realized the most in the last 12 days is that the sense of "Now or Never". Every day in Canada was really quick, and if you don't do what you need to do at that time, time will pass quickly. Sometimes I regret not being able to tell when I want to tell. That is why I learned that it is most important to convey my opinions and gratitude at the time I thought.
【Mayu Takekawa(Miyagi Prefecture)】

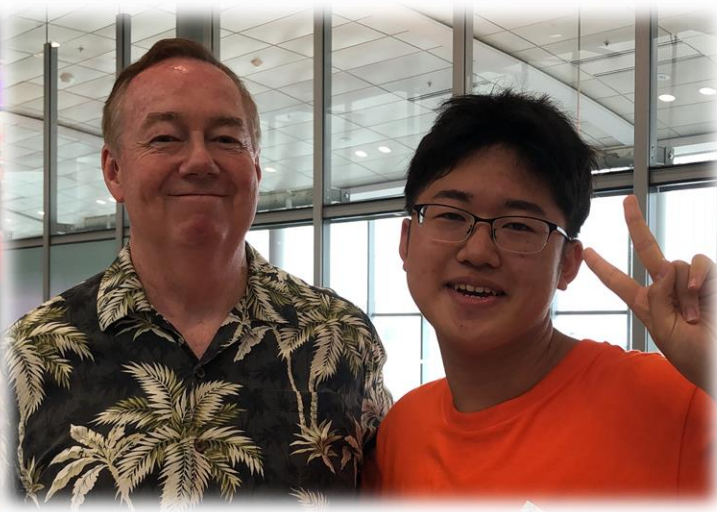
At the University of Toronto, these words were written in a room, "Improve the most important thing. Discuss new things. Debate." The host mother explained that it is required to express one's opinion firmly. I learned that talking with people is important and necessary to improve something.
【Sakura Suzuki(Iwate Prefecture)】



Voices of participants

There are many other things I have learned, but the most memorable word is “to become an Earthling”. This word was given by Mr. James Matsumoto. Regardless of country, race, age, personality, gender, etc., the kindness of the Canadian people with their smiles was one of the things that impressed me the most. I would like to be a member of the Earth group who can be kind and honest with everyone. I think the word “Earthling” is closely related to globalization. However, we must also think about the darkness of globalization. I want to be able to establish a solid position in the world and lead Japan without being swallowed by globalization. Since my perspectives got too wide, I don't know yet what will happen. I will continue to think and establish my future little by little. **【Kodai Hatakeyama(Miyagi Prefecture)】**

On March 11, 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake, one of the events that changed my life, occurred. Damage caused by the earthquake was huge. Not only did water and electricity stop, but many lives were lost by the tsunami. In the vicinity of the sea, which is ten minutes drive from my house, the tsunami turned the cars and boats upside down, the house where only the pillars were left, the bank where the signboards were bent, and the townscape had changed completely. At that time, I felt like I was far away from being able to return to my current life and bustling cityscape. Now that I have regained my original life, I wanted to participate in Support Our Kids program to tell the importance of what I knew from the experience of the earthquake disaster, and even if I lost many things, I tried new things as a result of that. I felt that I wanted to convey to foreign people the wonderful power of reconstruction that I was able to gain. I think that it was really good to make a dare challenge. My daily life in Canada was very different from Japan, and every day was a series of discoveries and fun. What I received from many supporters this time is not an object or shape, but an irreplaceable asset that will never disappear. I would like to be able to give such a thing to someone in the future. **【Koki Aota(Fukushima Prefecture)】**



SOK charity dinner party in Toronto

Venue : Ms. Chako and Mr. James's house (Toronto)

Date & Time : June 22 (Sat) 17:30~



In Toronto, the fund raise party for this year's participants was held. We really appreciate the long-term continuous support from everyone including volunteers, Ms. Chako, and Mr. James. Ms. Yuki Akiyama (Experienced homestay in 2013) and Ms. Nanami Miura (Experienced homestay in 2016) joined the preparation and the operation on the day, and made a speech to show the gratitude for over 100 guests and supporters.

SOK in Toronto

[Message from Ms. Chako Setoyama]

While praying for a better experience in Toronto, every year, I have been matching SOK students with those who provide homestay carefully reviewing the materials and information of students to look for something in common. This year, the summer camp of Japanese Gospel Church of Toronto, which we attended every year, was suspended. Thus, it was inevitable that I had to come up with a curriculum to replace the event that created great fun memories, which was not easy. However, the supports from 10 local students, 15 teachers who give detailed guidance to each child of SOK, and notably SOK OGs (former participants) Ms. Yuki Akiyama and Ms. Nanami Miura helped me a lot.

The exchange of making big catch flags in Toronto sick children rehabilitation was featured in the local TV news, and I think the students' presentation was very well. Not just learning English, hearing the story of Ms. Sonam who migrated as a refugee from Tibet and active as a Rotarian, and the history of Nikkei (Japanese Descent) who was confiscated in Canada during World War II, SOK students were able to learn valuable things together with local children.

Starting with the purchase of meals for about 35 people every day, this year was also my own challenge such as making meals. About a week in our house, waking up together with SOK students was an opportunity for me to look at them closely and precious. I am grateful for that. I have been caring about the disaster areas in Tohoku for about 10 years, and as a Nikkei living overseas, I have supported SOK's children hoping for their success in the future to my homeland Japan. Every student of SOK Canada team was wonderful enough to made me think that the future will be bright. "Please come back to Canada anytime you want, because in 2019, you got another home!"

SOK in Toronto, Chako Setoyama



Support Our Kids