

Support Our Kids Overseas Homestay Program

USA 2016 Photo Report



August 2016

Support Our Kids Committee

Support  Our Kids

Schedule

Date	AM	PM	Accommodation
Aug 5 (Fri)	Meet at Tokyo Station →Transfer to JFN Center	13:00~17:00 Pre-departure Orientation	Olympic Center
Aug 6 (Sat)	Pre-departure Orientation FLIGHT: NH6 NRT 17:05 Departure→ LAX 11:25 Arrival	Meet host families	Homestay in Long Beach, CA
Aug 7 (Sun)	Attend mass with host families	Free time with host families	Homestay in Long Beach, CA
Aug 8 (Mon)	English lesson	BBQ at Seal Beach Meet with Youth Group Disaster experience presentation	Homestay in Long Beach, CA
Aug 9 (Tue)	English lesson	Dinner with Youth Group at Seal Beach	Homestay in Long Beach, CA
Aug 10 (Wed)	English lesson	12:30-17:00 Kayak 17:00 Pool party at host family's house, disaster experience presentation to host families	Homestay in Long Beach, CA
Aug 11 (Thu)	English lesson	12:30-17:00 Sightseeing 17:00~ Free time with host families	Homestay in Long Beach, CA
Aug 12 (Fri)	10:00-12:00 Visit to Mazda North America Operations R&D, disaster experience presentation to Mazda staff	12:00-13:00 Lunch with Mazda Staff 14:00~ Transfer to Dodger Stadium 16:30~Meet supporters 19:00~ Watch PIT vs LAD match	Homestay in Long Beach, CA
Aug 13 (Sat)	Transfer to Monterey FLIGHT: UA 5018 LA 9:00 Departure→MRY 10:20 Arrival	Sightseeing in Monterey	Monterey
Aug 14 (Sun)	Transfer to Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca 1. Meet Mazda staff and race team 2. Lessons about race car engineering, hot laps 3. Watch Pre-Reunion race		Monterey
Aug 15 (Mon)	Transfer to San Jose	15:00~17:00 Visit Lynbrook High School Meet host families	Homestay in San Jose, CA
Aug 16 (Tue)	10:30~ NASA Tour	12:00~ Google Office Tour 15:00~ Stanford University Tour 17:00~ Free time with host families	Homestay in San Jose, CA
Aug 17 (Wed)	Transfer to San Francisco International Airport	San Francisco→Tokyo FLIGHT: NH7 SFO 12:40 Departure	In-flight
Aug 18 (Thu)		→NH7 NRT 15:20 Arrival 16:30-17:30 Closing ceremony at Narita Airport (Terminal 1 South Wing Room S-10)	

Los Angeles



Los Angeles Family!



With the Seal Beach Grace Community Church Youth Group

Los Angeles



Visit to Mazda North America Operations R&D in Irvine



Watching the PIT vs LAD game!



With Kenta Maeda

MAZDA Program in Monterey



Mazda Raceway
Laguna Seca

With Mr. Yojiro Terada
and Mazda767b



Cheering for Mazda
767b in the Pre-
Reunion race event!

Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca



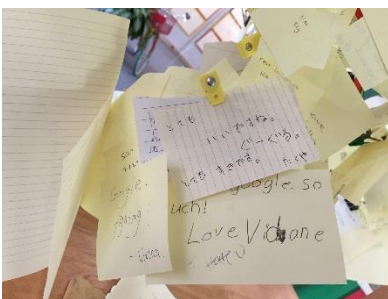
San Jose



With Lynbrook High School students



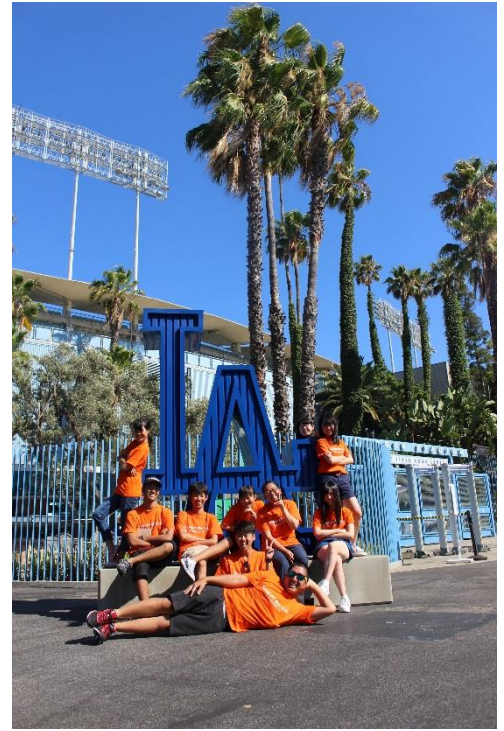
San Jose Family



NASA, Google & Stanford University tours

Letters from participants

When I received my acceptance letter to the program, I thought, "Am I good enough to participate in this program?" I didn't suffer as much as many other victims of the disaster. However, as the departure date got closer, I thought there was something I can do myself to help others. That was when I decided to be the group leader of the US2016 team. Our group name is "A Janaika -Try-", which means *"its okay, just go ahead and try"*. As I look back on our trip, we went through many challenges, as we tried to converse in a language we weren't used to speaking and had so much fun. The LA coordinator mentioned, "You barely looked at people in the eye whenever we had a conversation, but now you do with confidence in your English!". Through this and the 2 weeks I spent there, I learned the importance of communication. If you put effort in what you are trying to put across despite your language ability, they will be able to understand. And I, myself changed and became more confident because of my belief in this.



"Everyone here is not nice to you just because you are victims of the Great East Japan earthquake. They care for you because they genuinely do and have love for you". This was what I was told by our Los Angeles family, and I learned to appreciate to give and receive love. Through this program, I learned that we are supported by so many... Terada-san, Yuko-san, everyone at Mazda as a start. Without them, we wouldn't have had the precious experiences we had. I want to be a Japanese sweets "*wagashi*" chef in the future. I plan to stay focused on this as I continue to remember the support we received and live for myself and my hometown.

Our 2 week trip to America was far more valuable and memorable than I imagined. Through this program, I became more motivated to learn English and consider living abroad. Thank you for this great opportunity, I feel very lucky to have experienced this in high school. I believe we achieved our goal as we presented to the people of America our experience during the Great East Japan Earthquake. I hope to continue doing so and help out my peers who have gone through far worse experiences than I did.

