



BREA SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

HANNO, JAPAN ✦ BREA, USA ✦ LAJOS DE MORENO, MEXICO

Hanno, Japan Student Trip – 2025 (2/7/2025 through 2/17/2025) Application Packet

Thank you for your interest in the Brea Sister City Association's 2025 student homestay trip. Over 350 Brea students have stayed with Hanno families since this program's inception over 30 years ago.

Each selected student will be staying with a different Japanese host family while in Hanno, Japan. This exciting trip will include a scheduled welcome party, tours of Hanno (and possibly Tokyo) areas, meetings with city officials, junior high, high school and college students. The Sister City delegates will attend a Japanese school for a day. Students will also have a few unscheduled free days with their host family. Please visit our website at <http://www.BreaSisterCity.org> to look at previous exchange trips. Additional information is provided on the attached sheet. If you have any questions, please contact John-Michael Patino of the Brea Sister City Association. John-Michael may be reached at bsca.hannovp@gmail.com or (714) 342-6422.

The cost of this year's trip will be approximately **\$1400**. Due to fluctuations in airfare, the final cost of the trip may be more than \$1400.

Students will be responsible for making up class work missed during the five days they are out of school. Families of selected students are also expected to host a Japanese student when they visit Brea from **1/15/2025 through 1/22/2025**.

Interested students must return completed applications by **9/23/2024**. We encourage all applicants to submit their applications online at <http://www.BreaSisterCity.org>. Please be sure to address all necessary parts of the application process.

Checklist:

- _____ Student Application (Apply online)
- _____ Educator Evaluation (in a signed, sealed envelope) **(Bring to interview)**
- _____ Essay Response 1 and 2 (Included in online application)
- _____ Letter of Recommendation **(Bring to interview)**
- _____ Any other necessary explanatory notes as described in the application

(Please make a copy/print of all documents for your information/records prior to submitting them.)

Thank you again for your interest. We look forward to meeting you and your parent at the interview in October.



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Hanno, Japan Student Trip General Information – 2025

Selected students from Brea will have the opportunity to travel to Brea's sister city Hanno, Japan. The trip will last ten days and will be a great experience for those fortunate enough to go. The trip is planned for **2/7/2025 - 2/17/2025**. This trip is sponsored solely by the Brea Sister City Association. The students selected to go on this trip will be chosen by members of the Brea Sister City Association.

The following is a list of the requirements and commitments that each student and their family will be asked to fulfill:

- Each student of high school age, must reside or attend school in Brea, or have a parent who works in Brea.
- Each student must fill out an application (including several short essay responses), obtain an Educator Evaluation, and a Letter of Recommendation, and submit all components to the Brea Sister City Association by the deadline.
- Each student will be interviewed by members of the Brea Sister City Association. **(Please dress appropriately.)**
- Each student must obtain a U.S. passport. (If you are not a U.S. citizen or do not have a U.S. passport, you need to obtain a visa if necessary.)
- Each student and their parent or guardian must attend all meetings (4 meetings on weekday evenings)
- Each student and their parent or guardian must sign a Responsibility Release Form, giving chaperons authority over the student if problems occur.
- Each student participating in the exchange program will be required to host a Japanese student from **1/15/2025 through 1/22/2025**.

The cost of the trip is approximately **\$1400** plus spending money. If selected to go, you will be required to submit **\$600** cash, check or money order deposit (non-refundable) made out to the Brea Sister City Association by **11/6/2024**, with the remainder due **12/4/2024**. Online payments are now available for your convenience. Both payments must be received by the appropriate dates, or your spot may be forfeited. We will do our best to find the best airfare, but the final cost will not be known until the tickets have been purchased, usually after all money has been collected. We may request more money at that time.

Students will stay in a typical Japanese home during their trip to Hanno. Most of their expenses are covered by the City of Hanno or their host families, except for an occasional meal out and personal shopping expenses, which are the sole financial responsibility of the student. Details on how and when to convert money will be discussed at our meetings.

This trip is an enjoyable and educational experience for our students. Students and chaperones will be representing the City of Brea and will be acting as ambassadors of the United States. For this reason, we will be selective in choosing the students awarded this unique opportunity to travel to Japan. Students will be expected to act accordingly and to be responsible for their application, meeting all deadlines, attending all meetings pertaining to this trip, and participating as a host family when the students from Hanno visit **1/15/2025 - 1/22/2025**.

This application information packet may be obtained online at <http://www.BreaSisterCity.org> for your information and reference. Applications must be submitted digitally. Questions and requests should be directed to BSCA Vice President, John-Michael Patino.

Mr. Patino may be contacted at bsca.hannovp@gmail.com or (714)342-6422.



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Short Essay

Please provide typed, short essay responses to the following prompts ~~on the same sheet of paper~~ (100 – 250 words each). ~~Be sure to put your name on the paper and attach it to your application.~~

1. Why would you like to go to Hanno, Japan with the Brea Sister City Association delegation? Describe what appeals to you most about the homestay experience. Reflect on what it will be like to live as a member of a family in Hanno. Articulate what problems or challenges (other than language) you might expect to encounter and how you might deal with them.
2. Describe the qualities you have that would make you a good representative of Brea.

Letter of Recommendation

Please have an adult write you a letter of recommendation. This may be a neighbor, family friend, mentor, teacher, member of clergy or pastor. It should not be anyone related to you, i.e. not a parent, aunt, uncle, cousin, grandparent, step-parent, or guardian. Please have them include how they know you and how long they have known you in the letter. You must bring your letter of recommendation with you to the interview. If you have any questions about this part of the application, please contact John-Michael Patino by phone or email: 714-342-6422, BSCA.HannoVP@gmail.com .



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Educator Evaluation

Student Name: _____

Please give this form to an academic teacher (e.g., Language, Social Studies, Science, or Math teacher; NOT Art, Music, or PE teacher) who has taught you for at least 1 semester. Note: You may ask for a recommendation from a junior high school teacher. Request that the teacher complete, sign and return this form to you in a sealed envelope, with the teacher's signature across the seal of the envelope. Please bring this with you to the interview.

----- TO BE COMPLETED BY AN ACADEMIC TEACHER -----

1. In what context and for what length of time have you known this student?

2. Describe this student's behavior in the classroom with respect to authority, peers, class participation, group activities and individual school work.

3. Do you know of any physical or emotional difficulties this student might have which may affect his/her participation on the Hanno trip?

No: _____ Yes: _____ (If yes, you will be called by a Sister City Association representative.)

4. If you were a chaperone on this trip, would you be willing to travel with this student? Yes: _____ No: _____

5. Please check one of the following:

- I highly recommend this student
- I recommend this student
- I do not recommend this student
- I have some reservations. I would like someone from the Sister City Association to contact me.

(All remarks will be kept confidential)

Teacher Name (please print): _____ Subject taught: _____

Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____ Phone: (_____) _____