



## ADMINISTRATION

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City of Athens Sister Cities Student Ambassadors Initiative

ATHENS, TENNESSEE- October 9, 2023- The City of Athens Sister Cities Committee has announced the 2024 Isahaya, Nagasaki, Japan - Student Ambassador Initiative. Isahaya is Athens' sister city in Japan and has been sending students to Athens for the last several years during the summer. The City of Athens Student Ambassador Initiative provides students from McMinn County the ability to apply and interview for a trip to Isahaya in the spring/summer of 2024. Student applicants must be in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades and at least 15 years old, by May 1, 2024. This trip, 6 current students will be selected through the application process, using a variety of criteria, which includes, but is not limited to, grades, attendance, ability to communicate, willingness to work, ability to get along with peers, ability to interact with adults, and ability to adapt to new situations. Participants must have a current and valid passport for the trip.

The Sister City Committee is exploring and anticipating scholarship opportunities and other avenues to help defer the financial responsibility for ambassador participants. Student families, however, must be prepared to accept full financial responsibility which could be as much as \$5,000.00, including plane fare, land tour, passport fees, and spending money. We encourage everyone interested to apply, as financials will be discussed during the interview process. The application form can be found online [www.athenstn.gov](http://www.athenstn.gov) and must be completed by October 31, 2023, by midnight. No paper applications will be accepted. Questions can also be submitted online, and the answers will be posted under the FAQ section of the Sister City Page.

"I was fortunate to participate in a student trip to Japan and it was definitely a life changing experience," stated Victoria White, Chair of the Sister Cities Committee. "Representing your hometown and your country on a trip like this is something you will never forget. Over the past several years, hosting the Japanese students, we have all made new friends and opened our culture and country to them. We are excited we have been able to work with the City of Isahaya so our students may have the same experience in Japan. On behalf of the entire committee, I encourage everyone to apply for this wonderful opportunity."

For more information, please contact the Communications Coordinator at 423-744-2798.

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