

SUMMER JAPANESE HOMESTAY CHAPERONE OPPORTUNITY

The Santa Barbara Toba Sister City Organization is looking for a chaperone to host a Japanese chaperone at the end of July/early August 2007 and then accompany four junior high aged students (13 - 15) to Toba, Japan during August, 2007. The chaperone will participate in the cultural and travel preparation for the trip with the two girls and two boys who are chosen to be the student ambassadors from Santa Barbara. We are looking for someone with experience working with young people. A bonus would be some Japanese language and/or experience with Japanese culture.

During the last few days of July and the first week of August, four Japanese students and a junior high school teacher chaperone will come from Toba to stay in the homes of our four students. It would be ideal if the Toba chaperone could stay in the Santa Barbara chaperone's home, but it is not a requirement. During their eight to ten days visit here, the students' families, with the assistance of the people from the Santa Barbara Toba Sister City Organization, will cooperate to host the Japanese students. The chaperone would be expected to participate in many of these activities and have daily hosting contact with the Toba chaperone.

A few days after the Japanese students and chaperone return home, our students and chaperone will travel to Toba for eight to ten days. Toba is a seaside community similar to Santa Barbara. Many Japanese tourists visit there because it is the home of the Mikimoto Pearl Museum where pearls were first cultured. The largest aquarium in Japan is also in Toba.

The chaperone will accompany the students on the plane and supervise the transfer by bus to the train station and train trip to Toba. In Toba the chaperone will stay in a Japanese home, possible that of the Japanese teacher, and will participate in many of the student activities, plus adult activities arranged by the Toba Sister City Club. The chaperone should also make daily contact with the students in case any problems arise.

The chaperone's transportation costs will be paid for by the SB Toba Sister City Committee. As a host in Santa Barbara, the chaperone will be expected to pay for most of the Japanese teacher's entertainment. In turn, most of the chaperone's entertainment expenses in Toba will be paid by the Toba hosts.

If this opportunity interests you, please call Wendy Rockwood 687-4983 or email at wrock@cox.net. Application deadline is March 15, 2007. Arigato!