



The City of Encinitas - Sister City Program

ENCINITAS' SISTER CITY – AMAKUSA, JAPAN Approximate Trip Dates: July 23 to August 1, 2026

TRIP INCLUDES: Airfare, trip lodging and homestay throughout the trip. Students will stay with a host family while in Amakusa, Japan. (Participants will provide funds for items of a personal nature.)

- ELIGIBILITY:**
- Any current Ninth or Tenth Grader, or home-schooled student (entering Tenth or Eleventh Grade in Fall 2026)
 - Resident in the City of Encinitas
 - Valid U.S. Passport or ability to obtain one by travel date

- REQUIREMENTS:**
- 1) Submit a 500-word essay, plus the attached information sheet. You do not need to speak Japanese or be enrolled in any Japanese classes to be eligible.
 - 2) Provide two letters of recommendation (one from a school official or employer and another from a community member).
 - 3) Selected students and their families are asked to participate in Sister City functions for 12 months after their visit. Families are required to host a Sister City Program student visiting Encinitas from Amakusa the following summer.

Your name should **ONLY** appear on the information sheet, not on the essay, as essays will be assigned a number. **Your essay must be clearly typed or printed** and discuss the following topic:

“Why I Would Like to Visit Our Sister City, Amakusa, Japan, and How My Experience Can Benefit the Sister City Program and the City of Encinitas”

Selected essay finalists will be required to participate in an oral interview.

COMPLETED APPLICATION AND ESSAYS MUST BE RECEIVED BY **MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026 AT 4 PM.**
MAIL OR DROP OFF ALL MATERIALS TO:

ENCINITAS SISTER CITY SELECTION COMMITTEE
C/O PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT
505 SOUTH VULCAN AVE.
ENCINITAS, CA 92024

The Sister City Program is a national concept. Sister Cities International is a non-profit organization which fosters international cooperation and understanding through relationships between cities in the United States and other nations. The Encinitas Sister City program originated in 1987 and in October 1988 the City of Encinitas and Hondo, Japan formalized their relationship. Hondo has since become the City of Amakusa. Numerous programs have been established, including student, firefighter, nurse and teacher exchanges, artwork exchanges, email pal exchanges, cultural performances and the promotion of tourism.

