

Apply to be a Japan Ambassador

Being involved in the Winona-Misato sister city partnership is an exciting opportunity that has the power to change your life. The experience begins with the two-part application process. You will be challenged to put your best qualities on display.



Students entering 8th, 9th, or 10th grade in the fall in any school system in the Winona district are cordially invited to apply to be a Japan Ambassador. A maximum of 25 students will be selected. The application and selection process will take place May 5-29, 2024.

If selected, you will be asked to commit to an eight-month process that involves welcoming and hosting the Misato ambassadors in October 2024. Then throughout the school year there will be regularly scheduled group meetings (usually on Tuesday) to teach you about our sister city Misato, Japanese culture, language and international travel. Planning and working at fundraisers from October–March can help offset some of the groups travel costs.

The approximate per traveler cost of the trip is \$4,000.00. This estimate includes hospitality and ground costs in October, airfare and trip insurance to Japan and ground costs while in Japan. Scholarship help up to \$500 is available. Fundraising and monthly payment plans are also available. If selected, a \$1,000.00 payment is required to commit to the trip.

**Interested in learning more?
Come to one of the information sessions:
Thursday, May 2nd at 6:30PM and Saturday, May 4 at 11:00AM at
St. Martin's School at 312 E. Broadway in Winona**

Timeline:

May 2 and 4	Informational meetings
May 5-15	Phase I application window
May 20	Phase I: Applicants notified via e-mail of Phase II status
May 28	Phase II: In-person interviews at Winona City Hall @ 6:30 pm
May 29	Announcement of 2024-2025 Ambassadors
June 4	First meeting of 2024-2025 delegation. Meetings resume mid-August
June 16 th	WIFA marches in the Steamboat Days parade. Join us!
October TBD	Misato visitors arrive—you will have homestay guests for 3-4 days
October-March	Fundraisers & preparing to travel to Japan
April 2025	Winona Ambassadors fly to Tokyo and visit Misato

Find application materials and more information at <https://www.winonaifa.org/student-application-page>

Questions can be emailed to Michelle Alexander, WIFA Chair, at michellewifa@gmail.com