

BRIDGE KIDS PROGRAMS 2024

BRIDGE Summer Camp

INFORMATION TO PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF JUNIOR AMBASSADOR

<What is APCC? >

Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in Fukuoka (APCC) was created as a commemorative event of the 1989 Asian-Pacific Exposition, in celebration of Fukuoka City's 100th anniversary. This civic movement, funded by the local government, donations from corporate sponsors and our Supporters' Association has developed from a simple international exchange event into an international educational program involving a number of cities and schools marked its 35th year in 2023.

APCC aims to nurture global citizens with a spirit of OMOIYARI (respect and understanding) by providing opportunities for direct cross-cultural interaction among children from a young age, eventually achieving a world filled with joyful smiles of children. Each year, children who will shape our world in the 21st century not only gather in Fukuoka, but also scatter around the world from Fukuoka. They participate in homestays and various multicultural exchanges, where children experience firsthand differences in culture and language, as well as learning the importance of respecting and understanding each other.

In 1998, to commemorate the 10th APCC, an international network of former APCC participants, "BRIDGE CLUB" (BC), was founded. BC has branch organizations in a number of our participating countries and regions and they work to promote peace and coexistence between their members and the wider community. When the APCC marked its 20th anniversary in 2008, all the BCs came together and founded the "BRIDGE CLUB International Organization" (BCIO). BCIO has produced APCC Global BRIDGE Leaders who were expected to become the driving force to disseminate the APCC vision and strive to embody it through lively activities as OMOIYARI global citizens.

During its 30th anniversary in 2018, APCC announced a reformation plan and added new features to our two main programs, "BRIDGE Summer Camp" and "BRIDGE Challenge Trip", and provide even further support for our participants to grow. In addition, due to the global outbreak of the new coronavirus in 2020, APCC faced the challenge of not only not being able to conduct its normal operations, but also having to continue and survive for almost three years. However, APCC took full advantage of its unique resources, network and past experience to conduct various exchange programs through online platforms. This new form of international exchange experience has further enhanced our main program of face-to-face exchanges and expanded APCC's potential to include schools and educational institutions as well as remote islands and other prefectures. APCC will continue to keep building the BRIDGE of OMOIYARI towards 50 and even 100 years into the future.

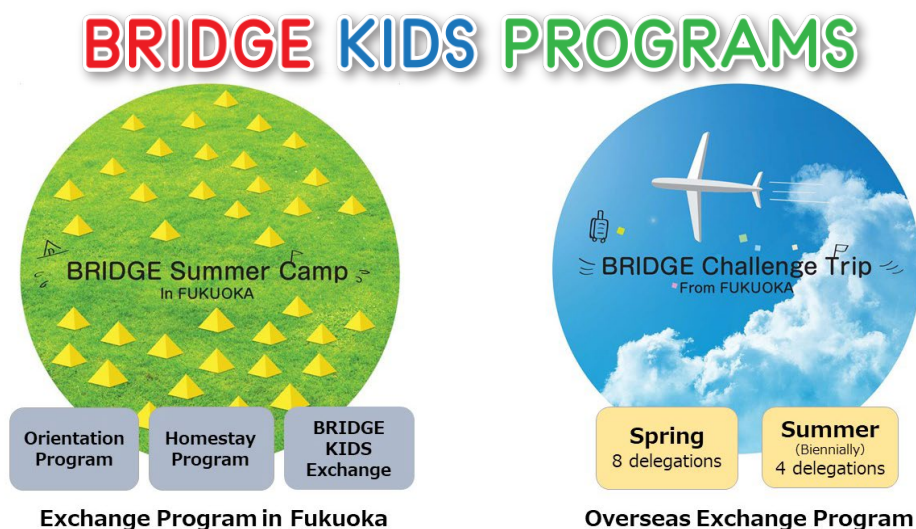
Slogan

We are the BRIDGE

APCC Vision We, as members of APCC, will become global citizens with an “OMOIYARI” spirit, creating a more peaceful world where the smiles of children abound.

< What is BRIDGE KIDS PROGRAMS? >

BRIDGE KIDS PROGRAMS is the newly-adopted name for a set of international exchange programs that NPO Asian-Pacific Children’s Convention in FUKUOKA (APCC) provides: the “BRIDGE Summer Camp” and the “BRIDGE Challenge Trip”.



BRIDGE Summer Camp is a program implemented every summer, to which over 200 eleven-year-old children from around the globe are invited. The participants in this program take part in various interactions, such as sleeping and eating together under the same roof with hundreds of foreign friends, experiencing Japanese school life, and learning the Japanese way of life at a homestay, in a dynamic intercultural environment that turns all of Fukuoka into one big campsite!

BRIDGE Challenge Trip is a program that dispatches children from Fukuoka to the countries/regions across the world during Japanese spring break and every other year during summer vacation. The children take on challenges in intercultural communication while experiencing the local lifestyle firsthand.

BRIDGE KIDS PROGRAMS are designed to help us overcome all kinds of differences in cultures, customs and generations by promoting mutual understanding through exchange and communication. BRIDGE KIDS PROGRAMS encourage us to embrace and understand those differences, and broaden our horizons. If we can connect with each other through this OMOIYARI spirit, our future will be alight with abundant smiles.

Program Schedule of BRIDGE Summer Camp

As of Feb 2024

July, 2024	Day	JAs & Chaperon	PA Program
12	Fri	Arrival → Orientation at Marine House (MH)	Arrival → Orientation at Marine House (MH)
13	Sat		
14	Sun		
15	Mon	Orientation Camp (MH)	Orientation Camp PA Program in MH
16	Tue	One day School Visit/ CSR Activity* (pm) Meet Host Families	MH → Global Arena (GA) PA Camp
17	Wed	Homestay / Attend school with host friend	PA Camp (GA)
18	Thur	Homestay / Attend school with host friend	PA Camp (GA)
19	Fri	Homestay/ We are the BRIDGE Festival 2024	We are the BRIDGE Festival 2024 (evening) Meet Host Families
20	Sat	Homestay	Homestay
21	Sun	Departure (Evening) /Homestay	Departure (Evening) /Homestay
22	Mon	Departure/ Homestay	Departure/ Homestay
23	Tue	Departure	Departure

* About 25 delegations will join "One day School Visit Program" before meeting host family. Other delegations will join CSR activities or other activities in Fukuoka

Request to the Parents or Guardians of Junior Ambassadors (JAs)

We would like parents or guardians of Junior Ambassadors to understand following points:

1. You must not accompany your child to Fukuoka.
2. To ensure the children fully immerse themselves in Japanese culture and avoid homesickness, JAs are not allowed to contact home during the program. We kindly request that you refrain from reaching out to your children while they are in Japan, and we also prohibit the use of mobile phones or any other communication devices. Additionally, we do not permit JAs to bring mobile phones or any other communication devices. This rule not only avoids potential issues such as financial responsibility in case of loss or damage but also helps the JAs focus on their mission of promoting international friendship and inter-cultural understanding.
3. In case of an emergency, parents should contact the Liaison Office in their country/region. APCC will also reach out to the liaison office in case of an emergency. Rest assured that we will take all necessary actions to ensure the safety and well-being of your child. Please trust our extensive experience in organizing this program. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.
4. JAs are not allowed to bring the pocket money beyond US\$ 200 or Credit Cards. The reason why we made this rule is because there has been a problem that some JAs have brought a large amount of money for their age or Credit Cards, and they asked their host families to take them for shopping many times during the homestay period which is not the purpose of the program. Please ensure that your child adheres to this rule before departure. If they bring more money than permitted, we will ask the Chaperon to keep the excess amount safe until they return home.
5. Please ensure that your child is capable of handling daily issues independently.
6. JA must not have not severe asthma or allergies that are difficult to control. Please understand that APCC cannot provide special care or accommodate special needs for participants with health issues, including food allergies/intolerances or developmental disorders.
7. **<Homestay>** Please understand that each JA will have a different host family and will spend almost a week with them. All host families are volunteers. And please note that not all host families are fluent in English. We would like the JAs to try to communicate with them by overcoming language barriers. Please do not try to contact the host family and your child during the homestay. It is our hope that JAs will be able to create wonderful memories with their host families on their own.
7. **<For Female JA>** In the past, we encountered some difficulties related to menstruation, where a female JA was unprepared for her first period and declined assistance from her host family. To prepare for this situation, we recommend providing menstruation training for your child, such as educating them about menstruation and ensuring they bring sanitary products from your country. This will enable them to participate freely and confidently in Japanese life, without any concerns.
8. Every year we have several delegations that have nits or head lice. APCC has to pay a lot of money to the Marine House because they have a policy that if someone is found to have head lice or nits, you will be charged for the cost of cleaning the room. Therefore, we would like parents/guardian to pay attention to this and if found on your child then please exterminate them before joining the APCC program in July.
9. Regarding PCR test prior to the departure, APCC will make a final decision in June 2024 based on the current situation of COVID-19. Please note that the expense of the PCR test and medical certificate must be borne by the participants or each Liaison Offices. APCC will not cover it.

Registration Fee:

Each participant has to pay registration fee to join the BRIDGE Summer Camp. The registration for each JA is USD 150.

*** But for self-pay delegation, registration fee for each JA is USD 500.**

Please consult with your Liaison Officer regarding the payment process of registration fee.

Snacks time in Marine house:

There is snacks time in Marine house. During snack time in the Marine house, participants are allowed to bring their own food and eat it at the designated time and place. Some JAs may need time to adjust to Japanese meals, so we recommend bringing ready-to-eat food or snacks as a dietary supplement. Please note that there may not be hot water or microwave ovens available in the Marine house.

Weather in Japan

The summer in Japan is extremely hot and humid. Please make sure that JAs will bring hats/caps to avoid a risk for heatstroke.

Expenses covered by APCC or the Host Family for the JAs:

- a. Round-trip airfare including airport tax between Fukuoka and the departure airport as designated by APCC.
***But for self-pay delegation, participants themselves or sponsor company will cover their flight cost.**
- b. Transportation within Japan as designated by APCC or the Host Family.
- c. Accommodation in Japan or abroad as designated by APCC or the Host Family.
- d. Meals during the entire stay in Fukuoka.
*Personal expenses are the responsibility of the individual.

Expenses NOT covered by APCC.

- a. Domestic transportation fees between the participants' homes and the designated airport.
- b. Expenses incurred in obtaining a passport and/or visa.
- c. Any other personal expenses, including incidentals such as communication expenses.
- d. Spending money for the JAs for personal things.

Insurance for injury and illness during the BRIDGE Summer Camp:

- a. Each participant will be covered by an insurance policy provided by APCC.
- b. Insurance will cover all injuries and illnesses incurred during their stay.
- c. The coverage will begin when the participant leaves the designated airport, and runs continuously until he/she arrives back at the airport upon completion of the APCC.
* While emergency injuries are covered, routine dental treatment and pre-existing conditions such as asthma are NOT covered by this insurance policy. Any expenses incurred or medication for pre-existing conditions will be covered by the individual, not by APCC. If the participant has medication he/she currently takes for a pre-existing condition, please have him/her bring it to Japan.

After returning from BRIDGE Summer Camp

All JAs must continue to act with an OMOIYARI spirit as a global citizen and contribute to the activities of the BRIDGE CLUB (BC) after participating in the BRIDGE Summer Camp. As their parents, please encourage and support the JAs join the BC activities.

BRIDGE CLUB (BC) / BRIDGE CLUB International Organization (BCIO) is a worldwide network of APCC alumni and their objectives are:

- To foster leaders with a global perspective who will shape the world in the future.
- To build a network of "Global Citizens" free from religious, political and economic restrictions.
- To expand this network across the world, establish a circle of friendship and work towards creating a peaceful society.

In order to achieve these goals, BCs work beyond the APCC to form a human network around the world. Each APCC participating country has a local BC, and they plan their own activities depending on local needs, such as humanitarian assistance, cultural exchange and education. BC also acts as an alumni association for former participants of APCC, enabling them to keep in touch and sustaining their friendships throughout the world.



Please refer to the BCIO website for further information; <http://www.bcio.org/>

< APCC Smile Support Project >

Raising funds to sustain APCC programs has become increasingly challenging every year, leading to financial difficulties. We sincerely appeal to all participants, their families, and friends to continue supporting us financially. We kindly request your voluntary donations to offer as many children as possible the opportunity to partake in the enriching experience of international exchange through our BRIDGE KIDS PROGRAMS. We would greatly appreciate your sincere consideration of this request.

Furthermore, we have established an online donation platform where you can contribute any amount over 1,000 yen using your credit card. Your generous contribution will not only help sustain our organization but also facilitate the implementation of cultural exchange programs. We deeply value your support and express our heartfelt gratitude.

For more details, please scan QR code or visit the link below.

【APCC Smile Support Project】 <https://apcc.gr.jp/en/support/individuals/>

APCC Smile Support Project



APCC

Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in FUKUOKA