



**Mackay Matsuura
Youth Ambassador
Program**



**Information Booklet for
Chaperones**



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Mackay Matsuura Sister City relationship was formed in 1989. Today the relationship is a cultural one, but was founded on the common interest in coal.

One of the cultural exchange programs of the sister city relationship is annual visits between Mackay and Matsuura school students.

The purpose of the visit is to strengthen our cities' ties and to expose Mackay and Matsuura students to each other's cultures.

Some of the benefits to participants in the program are:

- Exposure to a unique cultural experience
- Opportunity to learn new life skills and make new friends

The Mackay Matsuura Youth Ambassador program involves a group of years 10, 11 and 12 Mackay students visiting Japan for two weeks during the school holidays. The visit includes a 7-day home-stay in Matsuura. The students are accompanied by two adult chaperones. Mackay Regional Council offers a Scholarship to the Youth Ambassadors which provides Mackay school students with \$1000 to offset the cost of travel to Matsuura.

The Youth Ambassadors are expected to represent Mackay while travelling overseas, and are encouraged to promote the Sister Cities program in the Mackay Region and participate and assist in any associated activities.

Every year Matsuura City sends a group of Japanese students aged between 13 - 17 years accompanied by two chaperones to Mackay for approximately seven days. Mackay Regional Council arranges home-hosts and activities for the students whilst they are here.

2.0 MATSUURA

Location:

Northern part of Kyushu Island – Japan. Matsuura is a city located in Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan. Matsuura City is bordered on three sides by mountains. Matsuura Bay, which leads to the Genkai Sea, makes up the fourth side

Economy:

Matsuura is located in a primarily rural area, with several industrial companies located near the city centre including a steel works, a commercial fish market, and a regional power plant. The amount of catch at Matsuura fish market is about 89,294 tons.

Other Information:

Matsuura City amalgamated with Fukushima Town and Takashima Town on 1 January 2006

Main Religion:

Buddhism, Shinto

Other Minor Religions: Bahá'í Faith, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Ryukyuan & Sikhism.

City's Flower: Camellia



Comparison	Matsuura	Mackay
History	Traced back to 13 th century	Settled in 1862
Area	130.28 sq kms	2,897.5 sq kms
Population	27, 000	120,000 (2013)
Industries	Fishery, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Energy (Power Plant, Base of LP Gas)	Mining services and technology, Agriculture, Tourism, Marine services

3.0 CHAPERONE APPLICATION PROCESS

Mackay Regional Council, through Sister Cities Mackay, will appoint two chaperones to accompany a maximum of 10 students in years 10, 11 and 12 during the school holidays on the Youth Ambassador Program from Mackay to Matsuura. Those appointed should be fluent in speaking, reading, writing and interpreting the Japanese language.

People who are interested in being chaperones are required to complete the Chaperone Expression of Interest Application Form, which is available on the Mackay Regional Council website https://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/community/arts_and_culture/matsuura.

Applicants are required to have the following current items:

- Australian Passport
- Blue card
- First Aid Certificate

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview to progress their application.

4.0 CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES

Prior to the trip

- Be involved in the Youth Ambassador Interview process.
- Assist Students to prepare speeches for Matsuura.
- Plan the itinerary for Tokyo and Kyoto.
- Participate and lead regular cultural information sessions between chaperones and students - at least monthly, with more frequent sessions as required closer to departure.

Matters to cover include:

- Student's appropriate behaviour (Code of Conduct for Youth Ambassador Program)
- Decide on and rehearse performances for Matsuura presentation
- Advise on appropriate gifts to take
- Advise on cultural awareness - host family etiquette, etc.
- Advise re preparation of "brag book"
- Advise re preparation of thank you letters / cards for host family

During the trip

- Take responsibility for day to day supervision of the students ensuring appropriate behaviour. If there is a serious breach of behaviour, council must be notified as soon as possible. Mackay Regional Council will make a decision on the consequences in conjunction with chaperones.
- Ensure that the students adhere to the Code of Conduct.
- Ensure adherence to appropriate dress standards.
- Ensure timetables are adhered to as per the itinerary.
- Ensure the students have a thorough understanding of the day's activities and all requirements.
- Mackay Regional Council does not condone drugs and underage drinking of alcohol in any form and requires chaperones to enforce this policy. In Japan it is illegal to consume alcohol/tobacco under the age of 20.
- The chaperones are expected to be with and take equal responsibility for the tour group at all times.
- Awareness is required of each student's medical requirements and medical management plans (if supplied).
- Cover your own food and other personal expenses.

After the trip

- Provide feedback to Council, and make recommendations for future improvements, on your experience as a chaperone on the tour.

5.0 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUTH AMBASSADORS

Mackay has a scholarship program whereby a maximum of 10 students in years 10, 11 and 12 can apply for a \$1,000 scholarship to go towards travel costs for a two week cultural trip to Japan with up to 7 days spent in home-stays in Matsuura.

Students should have an interest in Japan and its culture and be in years 10, 11 or 12 at the time of travel in order to be eligible.

To apply students are required to complete an Application Form which includes:

- an endorsement from their school
- a 500 word essay of their interest in Japan
- how students consider they will be ambassadors for the Mackay – Matsuura Sister City Program on their return from the exchange visit to Japan

The Youth Ambassador Application form is available on the Mackay Regional Council website. Shortlisted students will be required to attend an interview in order to progress their application. Successful chaperones will be invited to participate in the student interview process.

Successful Youth Ambassador Scholarship applicants are required to attend monthly cultural information sessions with the other exchange group members and chaperones in the lead up to the trip. Closer to the departure date, weekly meetings maybe held. The meetings will include information on cultural practices, what to expect during home stays, etiquette in Japan etc.

Youth Ambassadors going on the Mackay Matsuura exchange tour will be required to home host students from Matsuura who visit Mackay in July/August.

Youth Ambassadors are required to prepare a report/presentation for Mackay Regional Council on their return, detailing their experiences.

It is expected that students will honour their commitments in terms of being ambassadors for the Mackay Matsuura Sister City relationship.