



BECOMING A

MEMBER OF

YOUR COMMUNITY

JET PROGRAM

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2

令和2年1月

INTRODUCTION:

THE BEST WAY TO FEEL LIKE YOU'RE REALLY PART OF IT ALL WHILE LIVING IN JAPAN IS TO FIND A GOOD CULTURAL ACTIVITY THAT YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF. SOMETIMES THAT REQUIRES SOME SEARCHING. A GOOD PLACE TO START IS TO TALK TO YOUR SUPERVISORS ABOUT WHAT IS POPULAR IN YOUR AREA. IF AN ACTIVITY PIQUES YOUR INTEREST, ASK IF THEY CAN HELP YOU FIND A PLACE TO LEARN MORE, OR PRACTICE THIS ACTIVITY. IN SOME CASES, YOU CAN JOIN A CLUB AT YOUR SCHOOL AND PRACTICE WITH YOUR STUDENTS. THIS GIVES YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET CLOSER TO YOUR STUDENTS, AS WELL AS A LITTLE EXTRA ENGLISH PRACTICE FOR THEM. SHOULD YOU BECOME INCREASINGLY PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR ACTIVITY, AND WANT TO TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL, YOU CAN ASK FOR SOME ASSISTANCE FINDING A PLACE IN YOUR CITY OR TOWN TO LEARN THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE; A LOCAL MARTIAL ARTS DOJO FOR EXAMPLE. WHEN YOU BECOME A CONTINUED MEMBER OF A DOJO, SCHOOL, OR CLUB, YOU GET PLENTY OF EXPOSURE TO YOUR COMMUNITY, NOT TO MENTION A SERIOUS BOOST IN JAPANESE LANGUAGE PRACTICE. BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO BECOMING A TRUE MEMBER OF YOUR SOCIETY, RATHER THAN "THE LOCAL GAIJIN."

MARTIAL ARTS:

Kyudo 弓道: The art of traditional Japanese longbow archery with roots dating back to the Yayoi period (500 BC - 300 AD).

Iaido 居合道: The art of the rapid sword draw. Think of a samurai showdown. From sheath to strike, and return to sheath.

Aikido 合気道: A martial art with an emphasis on throws. The philosophy revolves around redirecting an attacker's momentum to use it against them. Think Bruce Lee, or Spike Spiegel from Cowboy Bebop.

Kendo 剣道: The traditional art of Japanese Fencing using a bamboo sword. This is one of Japan's most popular martial arts so it would be easy to find a dojo.

Sumo 相撲: A full-contact wrestling sport with the works; pushing, shoving, throwing, slapping, etc. Nagoya is essentially the Sumo capital of the world.

Honourable mentions: Judo, Karate, Kickboxing

CULTURAL ARTS:

Ceramics (陶芸とうげい): Specifically in Tono region, the art of ceramics and pottery is very popular. Some of the finest ceramics in the world are made in places like Mino, Tajimi, Toki, and Mizunami.

Washi making (和紙): Washi is a special kind of high quality Japanese paper. The city of Mino has been specializing in the traditional art of making this paper for many centuries (I know, I'm being vague because I don't know exactly how long).

Blacksmithing and Forging (鍛冶): Seki City has a rich history of crafting some of the world's finest blades using techniques passed down from generation to generation.

Calligraphy (書道しよどう): Work with high quality brushes, ink, and washi paper to write your favorite kanji. This activity is less region specific.

Tea Ceremony (茶道さどう): The art of preparing and serving tea, typically matcha. Sadou club, at high schools that offer it, is always among the most popular (or so I've heard). This is a popular activity in places in Northern Gifu.

Taiko Drumming (太鼓): If you've ever seen a Taiko performance, you probably haven't forgotten about it. This is the art of using whole-body movements to strike a variety of drums, some as large as a sumo wrestler.

Yosakoi Dance (よさこい): This a high-energy dance style often performed at festivals. Teams dress in special outfits and perform well choreographed dance routines through the streets during popular festivals like Tanabata. This is popular throughout Japan, but especially popular in Tono area.

POPULAR SPORTS IN GIFU-KEN:

Rugby, Golf, Skiing, Soccer, Badminton, Baseball.