



FAQ/Info Sheet for Japan-in-a-Suitcase Volunteers

What is the Japan-in-a-Suitcase program?

The Japan-in-a-Suitcase (JiS) program is a hybrid online/in-person program run by JASWDC (the Japan-America Society of Washington DC) which primarily visits local public and private elementary and middle schools – however, we consider applications from all academic organizations or institutions, including libraries, summer camps, festivals, educational fairs, and more.

JiS Volunteer(s) visit the classroom (or virtual classroom) with a laptop and/or “suitcase” filled with all kinds of things – kimono and yukata, origami paper, calligraphy supplies, flashcards, kanji workbooks, maps, and more – that illustrate contemporary life, language, and culture in Japan.

What do JiS Volunteers present on?

- basic Japanese greetings and words
- daily school life of Japanese students
- practice origami (the art of paper folding)
- practice writing kanji (Japanese characters)
- try on traditional clothing (kimono and/or yukata)
- learn about and play traditional Japanese games
- learn about Japanese geography and/or the different regions of Japan
- learn about Japanese local & regional specialties
- ... and much, much more!

Do any of the following apply to you?

If so, then volunteering with Japan-in-a-Suitcase may be for you!

- I have worked or lived in Japan or spent a significant period of time in Japan.
- I have previous experience teaching/working in schools/working with children.
- I am passionate about Japanese language and/or culture.
- I like meeting new people and interacting with students.
- I want to introduce the Japanese language and/or culture to others.

- I can speak Japanese and/or I am a native Japanese speaker.
- I am looking for a great volunteer opportunity to add to my resume.
- I am looking for further opportunities to connect with others within the US/Japan community here in the DMV area.

Do I have to attend an in-person school visit in order to volunteer?

No, although school/in-person visits are always encouraged, we welcome virtual visits as well as volunteers who only wish to create materials.

If you are passionate about a specific area of Japanese study, Japanese language, a specific region of Japan or a specific aspect of Japanese culture, we welcome you to create a presentation based on your passions relating to Japan!

Okay, I'm ready to apply!

If you would like to apply to be a Japan-in-a-Suitcase volunteer, please fill out the following volunteer sign-up form below, or Email us at: jisdc@jaswdc.org.

Volunteer sign-up form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdayQlwxem3vNRptjMzf4tEnGOK-UbaG14dPvTFI4-8WzC_XQ/viewform?usp=sf_link