

# JAPAN SOCIETY JUNIOR FELLOWS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

June 29—July 14, 2024

## The Junior Fellows Leadership Program

is a culturally immersive learning experience for high school students who possess the potential for strong leadership and demonstrate the skills necessary to be future leaders. During this program conducted in New York and Japan, Junior Fellows have the opportunity to build networks with current industry leaders and program alumni, stay with a host family in Aizu-Wakamatsu, Fukushima (Northeast Japan), participate in activities at a local high school, and experience Japanese history and culture through hands-on experiences and historical site visits.



## Program Schedule\*

- **May 18 (tentative)** Program orientation at Japan Society, New York (long distance Fellows will participate via Zoom)
- **June 29—30** Pre-departure orientation at Japan Society, New York
- **July 1—2** Departure for and arrival in Japan
- **July 3—13** In-country program
- **July 14** Return to the U.S.

\*Program contents and dates are subject to change.

**“This trip changed who I am as a person; it gave me a whole new thought process. Japan Society helped me create lasting connections across the world, grow as a leader, and change the course of my entire future... My life will never be the same after being a Junior Fellow.”**

**—Participant from Rapid City, SD**

## Program Highlights

- Meet and learn from industry leaders in business, arts and sciences, nonprofit organizations and government entities
- Visit leading companies to learn and compare what they value and look for in building our future
- Live with a host family and explore local communities in Northeast Japan
- Experience Japanese high school life
- Carry out a group project focused on a global issue
- Visit significant cultural and historic sites
- Learn basic Japanese in an immersion setting
- Join the Junior Fellows Alumni Association (JFAA)

## Qualifications

- U.S. high school students from 9th to 11th grade are eligible to apply.
- All participants must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, including one booster shot for safe international travel.
- Junior Fellows will be selected based on demonstrated leadership potential and skills, as well as the qualities necessary to have a successful and engaging experience with other program participants, including (but not limited to): ability to adapt to a foreign culture, emotional and interpersonal maturity, strong academic background and a demonstrated interest in Japan.
- Knowledge of Japanese language is helpful, but not required.

## Guidelines for Application

Application and recommendation forms are available at:

[japansociety.org/junior-fellows](http://japansociety.org/junior-fellows)

All application packets must include the following documents:

1. **Completed application form**
2. **Two (2) signed letters of recommendation (at least one from a teacher or faculty member at the student's school)**
3. **Copy of school transcript**
4. **Two (2) short responses to the following questions (500-word limit for each question):**
  - Q 1. **How are you qualified to participate in the Junior Fellows Leadership Program?**
  - Q 2. **How will this program help you to achieve your career goals?**

- **Applications are accepted by postal mail ONLY (no electronic submissions accepted). In order to avoid lost mail, we strongly recommend your application be sent via certified mail.**

## Mailing Address

**Attn: Junior Fellows Program  
Japan Society  
333 East 47th Street  
New York, NY 10017**

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**“The Junior Fellows Program taught me a lot about Japanese culture and the leaders I met gave me different perspectives on leadership. I am confident that what I learned could not be experienced anywhere else.”**

**—Participant from Newtown, CT**

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**“This program taught me a lot about leadership and most importantly got me thinking to myself on how I could become a better leader.”**

**—Participant from Somerset, NJ**

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## Application Timeline

- February 9 (Fri.), 2024: Application Deadline (postmarked)
- Mid-March: Announcement of 1st selection
- April 6 (Sat.): Group interviews (invitation only)
- Mid-April: Announcement of 2024 Junior Fellows

## Notes

- Application documents will not be returned.
- Applications submitted by ineligible participants or postmarked after the deadline will not be considered.
- Each applicant is responsible for ensuring that their application is complete. Only complete applications will be considered for review.
- Due to the large number of applications received, we are unable to provide feedback to applicants who are not admitted.

## Program Costs & Participation Fee

- The Junior Fellows Leadership Program is made possible by the generous underwriting of Japan Society donors and supporters. Tuition offsets the partial cost of the two-week program: orientation and arrangements, all international and domestic travel, meals and accommodations as well as all admissions during study trips and retreat. Fellows are responsible for additional expenses, such as pocket money and additional meals/snacks that are not taken with host families or program staff.
- Tuition: \$3,500

## Need-Based Scholarships

Japan Society offers need-based scholarships to provide support for students facing financial barriers who are participating in the Junior Fellows Leadership Program. To apply for a scholarship, you will be requested to submit information from parents' IRS Form 1040 after you are selected as a Junior Fellow. We award need-based scholarships based on a family's demonstrated need. Details are available upon selection to the program.

**“The Junior Fellows Program has given me the opportunity to better myself and grow in many areas. Throughout the program, I have matured as a person and have wrestled with the ideas of independence and responsibility. My understanding of Japan has been deepened and so has my love for the country. After my experience in Japan, I will never see the world in the same way I did before.”**

—Participant from Belleville, NJ

## Program Details

### Leader Meetings & Lunch Reception

Junior Fellows will meet with current leaders in business, education, arts and sciences, nonprofit organizations and government entities through company visits, individual meetings and a post-program lunch reception. Previous Junior Fellows have had the opportunity to speak with senior business executives, media personalities, entrepreneurs, ranking UN policy advisors, leading photojournalists, architects and nonprofit executives.

### Research Project

Junior Fellows will conduct research on social issues prior to departure. During the study trip and homestay in Aizu-Wakamatsu, Fukushima, Fellows will continue to study, discuss and further explore their topic through personal engagement with the local community. At the end of the program, Fellows will present their research projects to leaders and their cohort. Upon returning to school, Fellows will also share their experiences and project on-campus, as well as create an online exhibition about the town and school in which they stayed.

### Junior Fellows Alumni Association (JFAA)

Throughout the program, Junior Fellows will meet with program alumni in both the U.S. and in Japan. As mentors, alumni will share tips on how to successfully complete the program and how to make the most of their experience. Alumni also discuss their post-program experiences with the college selection process, finding internships and career planning. After completion of the program, all Junior Fellows will actively participate in Japan Society programs and continue to expand their network and develop their leadership skills.

### Aizu Wakamatsu Homestay & School Experience

U.S. Junior Fellows will travel to Northeast Japan and experience Japanese life through a homestay in the historic city of Aizu Wakamatsu in Fukushima Prefecture. Fellows will attend a local high school and participate in various activities as they complete their group projects. Program leaders will facilitate programs that allow the Junior Fellows to gain a better understanding of local cuisine, traditions and history.

### Study Trip

Junior Fellows will travel with the Program leader to visit important cultural sites and meet Japanese Junior Fellows alumni in an effort to expand their network. Previous Junior Fellows have participated in traditional craft workshops, visited museums and experienced various local cuisines. The Program leader and local guides have extensive knowledge of Japanese history, culture and society, and help the Junior Fellows develop an in-depth understanding of Japan.

### Japan Society

Japan Society is the leading U.S. organization committed to deepening mutual understanding between the United States and Japan in a global context. Now in its second century, Japan Society serves audiences across the United States and abroad through innovative programs in arts and culture, public policy, business, language and education. For more information about Japan Society, please visit us at [japansociety.org](http://japansociety.org).

For more information, contact the Education Department at Japan Society at **(212) 715-1275/1216** or [jfellows@japansociety.org](mailto:jfellows@japansociety.org).

“My thoughts on leadership have changed substantially after doing the Junior Fellows Program. The Program has definitely prepared me for the future, and will help me be successful. In addition, this program has made me more determined to be successful. It has also taught me lessons on perseverance and open-mindedness that will allow me to be a better leader in whatever career I pursue after college. I also now have connections with very successful leaders, which could benefit my future career.

—Participant from Norfolk, VA



“The program allowed me to build incredible connections, complete a successful research project that has given me insight into many issues, and challenge myself to understand what a leader is and how I can become one.”

—Participant from Linwood, NJ

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**ANA** Inspiration of JAPAN

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

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