



Concord Delegation to Visit Sister City in Kitakami, Japan

Concord, Calif. (July 26, 2019) – The City of Concord is proud to partner with the Concord Ambassadors to celebrate 45 years as Sister Cities with Kitakami, Japan.

Every five years, the anniversary of the relationship between the two cities is celebrated by a delegation visiting the Sister City, led by the Mayor and city officials, Ambassador members and interested residents. Concord and Kitakami alternate the five-year official visits. This fall, a delegation from Concord will be visiting Kitakami, which is located in the upper northeast area of Japan in the Iwate Prefecture.

“We are honored to engage in a longstanding, culturally vibrant and educationally rich exchange program with Kitakami, a city that has so much in common with Concord,” said Concord Mayor Carlyn Obringer.

This year, the Concord Ambassadors will host a 12-day trip to Japan that includes tours of temples, pagodas and castles, UNESCO World Heritage sites, gardens, old world villages and Samurai homes in the cities of Kitakami, Kyoto, Takayama, Shirakawago and Kanazawa. The tour will also include a 3-day home stay, where participants can experience Japanese culture and life up close.

The Concord Ambassadors still have 10 spots available for the tour, which departs on Oct. 18, 2019. The total land package costs \$4,600 per person. For more information, please download [this flyer](#) or visit www.concordambassadors.org to learn more about Kitakami, the history of the Sister City relationship and view photos from the 2009 35th Anniversary Tour.

In 1974, Kitakami, Japan became Concord's Sister City. It offers many tourist attractions such as:

- Cherry Blossoms in Tenshochi Park
- Geto Hot Spring, Famous for its Seclusion
- Japan Kids' Festival
- Michinoku Folklore Village
- Michinoku Geino Festival
- Museum of Contemporary Japanese Poetry, the only center of its kind for poetry in Japan
- Oni Museum

Kitakami also has an active economy based on industrial parks and agriculture. A population of 91,000 as of the year 2000 means Kitakami is very similar in population size to the City of Concord.