

GETTING INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY


2017 SDC WORKSHOP
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THIS WORKSHOP WILL PROVIDE PERSONAL EXAMPLES OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY. WE ARE INTERPRETING "GETTING INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY" BROADLY TO COVER MACRO AND MICRO LEVEL INVOLVEMENT; IE MAKING A JAPANESE FRIEND THROUGH TO TAKING PART IN A LOCAL FESTIVAL.


SO WHAT CAN GETTING INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY MEAN?

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

DANCE




TAIKO




THE WIDER COMMUNITY

KIMONO



BASKETBALL



- ### BENEFITS OF GETTING INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY
- Feel less lonely
 - Live an active and interesting life
 - Learn about Japanese culture
 - Improve and use your Japanese language skills
 - Meet new people and get new outlooks
 - Can help one find purpose
 - Work satisfaction can be low as an ALT, so finding a niche outside of work is important for emotional and mental wellbeing.
 - Try something new; e.g. taiko, shamisen, festival dancing.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN JAPAN

WHO TO CONTACT

- Talk to your fellow teachers. What common interests do you have? e.g. music, sport, food.
- Talk to your students. They are involved and know of events outside of school.
- Go along to events, e.g. live music events, festivals.
- "Cold" email – Google something and send an email asking questions.
- If you're confident in your Japanese abilities, strike up conversations with people, e.g. coffee shops, bars, international events.
- *taiken* 体験 – can cost money though often doesn't.
- Apps – *hellotalk*, *HiNative*
- International Centre
- Cities websites – how to get involved in festivals
- Sports – e.g. Kumamoto Kantsu
- University Circles/Clubs – *coveat*
- YMCA

THINGS TO BE AWARE OF WHEN JOINING GROUPS

EXPECTATIONS

- City v Countryside
- Keep your promises!
- Be on time, if you're late, straight up apologise before joining in. Message ahead and let someone know you'll be late.

MANAGEMENT AWARENESS

- Fees including entrance fees (入会), administration fee, and monthly fees, cancellation times, bank info (esp. Studios and gyms).
- Commitment to joining. Some clubs are very serious – *part of the ship, part of the crew*.
- Travel – could be far, late at night, and locations could change last minute.

BUT DOES INVOLVEMENT MEAN BELONGING??

Cultural awareness

- You may be ignored – this is most likely not vicious or intentional.
- Going from the "foreigner" to a "friend".
- Rules may not be explicitly voiced – ask before and/or follow along; *When in Rome*
e.g. indoor shoes, *souji*, greetings, meetings, hierarchy, management, *nomikai*.
- Feel free to ask – People are always willing to help! #askasenpai

HOW TO DEAL WITH MISCOMMUNICATIONS

Make sure you have someone's contact details : in case of last minute of time or place changes.

しっかり確認しましょう☺ Especially if you are communicating in Japanese. If you're not sure, then ask again.

Ask, ask, and ask again. Don't be shy. Take notes of any important words or phrases you come across. You can always look them up later. E.g. 集合、移動. Some words you will hear a lot, and just come to understand. E.g. Kimono parts.

Gestures and simple English will get you a long way. But you will need to make an effort to learn some Japanese. Ask a friend who knows Japanese whether they can assist or accompany you.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- ① Do you feel included in your local ALT community?
- ② What are your personal experiences with getting involved in the community?
- ③ What are some things you have learned and wish to share? E.g. advice, tips
- ④ How have you been involved in your schools? E.g. Sports Day events, club activities, Eikaiwa.
- ⑤ What are some difficulties you have faced?
- ⑥ How have you overcome these difficulties?

CONTACT DETAILS

- **Sports:**
(Touch) Rugby – Kumamoto Kantsu, Lady Bears
Basketball – Konoha
Tennis
Martial Arts
Marathons (must sign up in advance)
- **Dance:**
Street Dance
Modern Dance
Ballet
- **Music:**
Jazz piano, drums, bass – Piano Bar HeartMoon
Piano
- **Games:**
Boardgames – Facebook
- **Cultural/Languages:**
English Café – small teacher discussion
Foreign Languages- "Salons" at the International Centre – sign up on the second floor.
English/Japanese exchange
KumaJET emails/Facebook pages
- **Festivals:**
Hinokuni Matsuri
Yamaga
- **International Events:**
International Centre
Manly Bar
Global
- **Volunteering:**
Orphanage – Thursday evenings