

2020 Toyama Cup - 24th Japanese Speech Contest

富山カップ日本語スピーチコンテスト

Background of Contest:

In 1996, Toyama Prefecture and the State of Oregon invited the Japan-America Society of Oregon to work with them in presenting a speech contest for university and college students studying Japanese in the State of Oregon and Southwest Washington. Oregon has enjoyed a sister-state/prefecture relationship with Toyama since 1991 and the speech contest was held in celebration of the 5th year of this relationship. The contest was held in June in 1996 and in October in 1997. In order to better accommodate university schedules, we decided to hold the contest in the spring to give first year students a longer period of study time. This year celebrates the 24th anniversary of Toyama Cup Japanese Speech Contest.

Purpose: The purpose of the Toyama Cup is to promote a stronger relationship between the peoples of Toyama and Oregon by promoting Japanese language education in Oregon and Southwest Washington universities and colleges.

Date and Time: Sunday, April 19, 2020

Location: KPMG 1300 SW 5th Ave #3800, Portland, OR 97201

Eligibility: Any non-native speaker of Japanese undergraduate student studying Japanese at a college (community colleges included) or university in the State of Oregon or Southwest Washington. Students who are currently NOT taking a Japanese course also may participate in the event. In that case, the instructor of each school is to conduct a simple placement interview to decide on the appropriate level and sign the application form. Please also describe the case in the form briefly (ex. 1 The applicant is placed into level 1 due to his/her writing proficiency is 100 level, however, his/her speaking proficiency is much higher because s/he is an immersion learner. Hence it seems more appropriate for this applicant to compete in the upper level, etc).

Levels of Competition:

- 1) **Level 1:** Any student who is currently in (or placed on) 100 and 200 level Japanese class
- 2) **Level 2:** Any student who is currently in (or placed on) 300 and 400 level Japanese class

Prizes:

- 1) **Level 1:** Top 3 will receive gifts from Toyama Prefecture including a digital dictionary for the 1st place winner
- 2) **Level 2:** Top 3 will receive gifts from Toyama Prefecture including a trip to Toyama Prefecture for the 1st place winner. By accepting the trip, the winner agrees to become a designated "Honorary Friendly Envoy" as described separately.

Speech Topics and Length

Speeches should be at least 4 minutes but no more than 6 minutes in length.

Contestants are free to select their own topics. Examples might include:

- **Why I am Studying Japanese**
- **My Future Career Plans (ex: working in NASA)**
- **The Importance of Sister-City and Sister State Relationships (such as the Toyama-Oregon Sister State affiliation).**
- **Japan-Related Experiences**
- **How I spend my weekends with family**
- **Why I like the city of Portland**

Questions and Answers

Each contestant will be asked two questions (in Japanese) by a designated person from the judging panel.

NOTE: Students will be using a handheld microphone not a podium microphone so please practice in advance if necessary.



Outline of the Toyama Honorary Friendly Envoy Program

PURPOSE

1. Toyama Prefecture has established the “Toyama Honorary Friendly Envoy” program in order to establish and strengthen relations with other countries.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NOMINATION OF ENVOYS

2. Toyama Prefecture will nominate any foreign individuals to be envoy who meet the following requirements or those who are approved by the governor.
 - (1) Individuals who are interested in fostering international relations and understanding, and who have worked to promote exchange with the citizens of Toyama Prefecture, through the following activities, during their stay in Toyama Prefecture.
 - a) Participation in international activities.
 - b) Introduced and helped enhance interest in other countries in the citizens of Toyama Prefecture.
 - c) Gained a deep understanding of Toyama Prefecture and its citizens.
 - d) Voluntarily participated in international exchange events, etc.
 - e) Helped nurture and strengthen relations among foreigners, and relations between native Japanese and foreigners residing in Toyama Prefecture.
 - (2) Individuals whom we can expect to inform others about Toyama Prefecture and its citizens through their activities in both Japan and overseas.
 - (3) Individuals who will or have obtained a functional command of the Japanese language.
 - (4) Individuals who have stayed, or intend to stay, in Toyama Prefecture for 1 or more years. However, permanent residents shall not qualify for this program.

HOW THE ENVOYS ARE CHOSEN

3. The governor shall select envoys from a number of candidates to be recommended by the International Exchange Organization and other relevant organizations.

FORFEIT OF THE TITLE

4. If the envoy cannot fulfill the requirements hereby outlined, or he/she becomes ineligible to serve as an envoy, he/she must promptly render the title back to Toyama Prefecture.

GRANTING OF THE TITLE

5. The governor of Toyama Prefecture will present to all appointed envoys a plaque and a memorial gift.

DUTIES

6. The duties of the envoy are as follow:

- (1) Envoys should try to introduce Toyama to other people, and provide advice to Toyama Prefecture in order to help promote international exchanges between Toyama and other countries. They will also act as a liaison between Toyama and overseas countries.
- (2) Envoys should try to associate with foreigners living in Japan, and make an effort to introduce to them the various kinds of information that they have collected on Toyama.
- (3) Envoys should support the promotion of international exchange activities in Toyama as much as they can, and should attempt to associate with the people of Toyama if they have the opportunity to visit or stay in Toyama again.
- (4) Envoys should send regular reports updating Toyama Prefecture on their status and respond to requests from Toyama Prefecture for their impression of Toyama Prefecture (messages are also acceptable).
- (5) Envoys should also send information about their countries when Toyama Prefecture makes a request. Toyama Prefecture also requires the envoy's assistance if we send a delegation to his/her country.

DISPATCH OF PUBLISHED MATERIALS

7. We will periodically send published materials to envoys in order to ensure that they have up-to-date information about Toyama Prefecture.