

Kylie Eagles

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Hello, my name is Kylie Eagles. I was one of the exchange students from the Blooming-Normal Sister Cities program to Asahikawa from August 2012 to June 2013.

I never thought that I would have an opportunity like this so soon. I planned to travel the world in my future, but I didn't expect I would be able to for a long time.

I applied only for the sake of trying and it came as the shock of my life when I was told I could go study in Japan for a year.

Some of my favorite memories I have had there would be having little holiday parties with my friends where we could share each other's culture together and just have a really great time together. The Japanese community is over all really kind, thoughtful, and extremely entertaining! And I am so glad to have been able to meet so many unforgettable people.

While I was in Japan, I had a lot of opportunities to share about my life back home and experiences in Japan as an ambassador. I gave several speeches throughout my stay on the progression through my journey and everything that I experienced while living there, as well as being interviewed and meeting with the mayor of Asahikawa on two occasions. I tried my best to share about myself and the country I came from to my friends in Japan also.

Japan has probably been the most influential and eye-opening experience of my life so far. While being here I have been able to experience and be a part of a culture I may otherwise have not ever known. The friends and experiences I have had while being there has led me to understand just how much I have been missing out on. As I think back now, I can't imagine my life not knowing the people and things I now know, and not seeing everything that I have seen.

Not only that, but I have made so many self-discoveries as well. Being truly on my own for the first time gave me the chance to figure out who I am, what's important to me, and what I want to do with the rest of my life.

When someone my age tells an adult about what they are planning for their future, they tend to tell you to slow down and that you will have plenty of time in your future to accomplish these things. They tell you to wait and try later on. I have never been one of those people to wait and plan for later. It's always been more of a I want to do this here and now deal. Before going to Japan though, I hadn't had much success with actually being able to do those things yet. Being chosen as an exchange student really opened my eyes to the knowledge that I don't have to wait and I really can accomplish the things I want to do



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