

Japan-America
Grassroots Summit 2022 in

*Obuse,
Nagano*

October **31** - November **6**



What is “the Japan - America Grassroots Summit?”

The Japan-America Grassroots Summit is a large-scale meeting for Japanese and American citizens held annually alternately in Japan and the United States to share the friendship fostered by the families of Nakahama Manjiro and the Captain William Whitfield. However, the Summit has been cancelled two years in a row due to the Covid pandemic since 2020.

To restart the Grassroots Summit that was interrupted by the disaster of the pandemic, small face-to-face international exchange programs are now being held, by those willing to make them happen. These efforts are stepping stones towards the resumption of regular Grassroots Summit in the future.

Friendship



John Manjiro
Nakahama



W.H. Whitfield

Whitfield rescued the marooned Manjiro in 1841 and welcomed him into his own home. Later, Manjiro’s rare command of English and experience of America became pivotal to the Japan-U.S. relationship after Perry’s arrival 1853.

Each year, Japanese prefectures and American states take turns as hosts for about a week, sharing their homes and the unique features of their communities. At these regular Grassroots Summits, over 100 people usually participate as guests, enjoying sight-seeing, cultural activities, welcoming and closing ceremonies, as well as staying with a host family.

Japan-America Grassroots Summit 2022 in Obuse, Nagano

Dates: **Monday, October 31** (leave the U.S. on Oct. 30) ~ **Sunday, November 6**

Participants: Americans and foreign nationals interested in Japan (including residents of Japan)
Max. 30 participants (min. 20): first-come-first-served basis

Date	Contents	Accomm.	Meals
Oct 30 Sun.	Leave the U.S.	Flight	--
Oct 31 Mon.	PM Arrive in Tokyo To Hotel in Haneda area	Hotel	Dinner
Nov 1 Tue.	AM To Obuse, Nagano by Bus	Hotel	Breakfast
	PM Arrive Welcome Ceremony Explore the town		Lunch
	Evening Welcome Party		Dinner
Nov 2 Wed.	Local Session Program	Homestay	Breakfast Lunch Dinner
Nov 3 Thu. Cultural Day National Holiday	Day with Host family	Homestay	Breakfast Lunch Dinner
Nov 4 Fri.	AM Program Farewell Lunch	Hotel	Breakfast Lunch
	PM To Tokyo by bus Check in Hotel at Takeshiba Pier		Dinner
Nov 5 Sat.	AM Visiting Manjiro’s Grave (Optional) • hosted by John Manjiro Int’l Inc.	Hotel	Breakfast
	PM Grassroots Summit Convention & Reception		Dinner
Nov 6 Sun.	Leave for home or join the Chichi-Jima program	--	Breakfast

November 1 Tue. ~ November 4 Fri.



Local Session:

one of the best features of the Grassroots Summit

The Grassroots Summit 2022 with limited numbers of participants, in only one Local Session will be held in Obuse, Nagano Prefecture, a small town known for its chestnuts, flowers and the famous artist: Hokusai.

The American participants and the people in the town will have the opportunity to interact and foster friendships in Obuse, where Hokusai spent the last years of his life, is a place with full of hospitality and a perfect blend of old and new.

You will experience person-to-person exchange and the unique local culture through personalized programs by volunteers and with host families.



Nagano, Japan

Key Persons

Tohyama Hiroki



Born in Nagano Prefecture. From 2020, he has been the Education coordinator as a Local Vitalization Cooperator in Obuse Town and Obuse Town Innovation HUB Association Inc. . His encounter with the Town of Obuse as a student aspiring to become a teacher led to his assignment to Ghana as a JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteer upon graduation.

Hidaka Takeshi



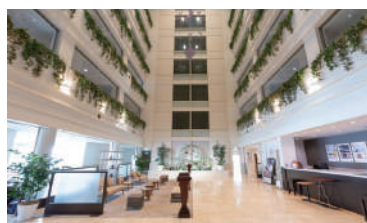
Born in Tokyo. Director of Obuse Town Innovation HUB Association Inc. and Local Vitalization Cooperator in Obuse Town. He moved to Obuse in January 2020 after working with a consulting firm. His work includes planning HR training programs and coordinating luxury sightseeing tours in the region.

International Grassroots Summit Convention and Reception

Nov 5 Sat.

at Bayside Hotel Azur Takeshiba

Takeshiba was established in 1927 when the sea east of the former Shibarikyu Gardens was reclaimed. Today, it is one of the most rapidly changing areas in Tokyo. The Grassroots Summit Ceremony and Convention will be held at the Bayside Hotel Azur Takeshiba, adjacent to Takeshiba Pier, which has long served as one of the gateways to the Port of Tokyo, to celebrate our friendship between the U.S. and Japan, and to consider globalism and world peace.



Package Participation Fee

From	Amount
Seattle / Los Angeles	\$2,490
Chicago / Atlanta / New York	\$2,790
Washington DC	\$3,590

The listed prices do **NOT** include:

- Airline taxes and fuel surcharge
(FYR: As of June 2022, fuel surcharge and taxes are \$765.67 for the round trip between SEA/LAX/ATL and Tokyo Haneda.)
- 4% credit card processing fee
- Hotel single supplement surcharge
- Optional tour during after the Obuse program.
- Lunch on 11/5
- PCR test fee (To enter Japan)
- VISA processing fee

Important Information

1. Youth Discount

- Children, 3 - 11 years old
\$150 discount
- Students, 12 - 25 years old
\$100 discount

2. Hotel Rooms

- Listed prices are based on double occupancy. Unless otherwise requested, another participant may share a room with you.
- Please indicate in the application form if single occupancy is required.
Single Supplement Surcharge: \$200 for 4 nights

3. Any changes to your schedule made after the deadline will incur a substantial penalty

4. Application Deadline:

Registration is still open.
Please contact CIE: manjiro@manjiro.or.jp

Contact

Regarding Travel

Kintetsu International Express (U.S.A), Inc.

Address: 879 West 190th Street, Suite 720,
Gardena CA 90248-4220
Email: Japan@kintetsu.com

Organizers



- John Manjiro – Whitfield Commemorative Center for International Exchange (CIE)
- CIE-US
- Grassroots Summit 2022 in Obuse Executive Committee

<http://www.manjiro.or.jp/e>

The listed prices **include**:

- The round-trip airfare between the listed cities (left) and Tokyo Haneda, and bus transportation costs between Tokyo and Obuse, Nagano Prefecture.
(Please contact with Kintetsu International Express (U.S.A), Inc. about the departure from other cities.)
- Hotel accommodation in Tokyo and Obuse based on the double occupancy.
- Bento box dinner on 10/31 & 11/4
- Most of the meals during Local Session
- All participation, administration, and handling costs for the Summit

5. How to Register

- Visit the following website and click on the Grassroots Summit page.
- Fill in the online application form.
- Send the **application form** and photocopy of your passport to the KIE office via email below.
- Upon receipt of your application, KIE will send you an acknowledgement letter with cancellation policy and other guidance.
- \$500 deposit will be changed at the time of application as a reservation and registrar fee. The balance will be invoiced at a later date.

<http://www.manjiro.or.jp/e>

6. Credit Processing Fee

Payment by credit card will incur a 4% handling charge.

7. All participants are required to accept responsibility for travel and medical insurance and for payment and/or reimbursement of any medical/surgical expenses incurred.

Regarding the Summit Program

CIE-US

(C/O National Association of Japan America Societies)

Address: 1819 L Street NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036
TEL: 202-429-5545
FAX: 202-429-0027
E-mail: manjiro@manjiro.or.jp

Supporters

- Embassy of the United States of America
- Obuse Town