

Proposal for Summer Youth Exchange Programme

5D (2018-2019) Ho Chung Wa, Jonathan



Title: 2019 Summer Youth Exchange Programme

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Introduction

Aimed at providing opportunities for students to learn about the lifestyle and cultures of Hong Kong, the Summer Youth Exchange Programme is going to be held for three weeks in the summer of 2019.

With hopes to foster cultural exchange and interaction between students of different countries, it is proposed that the 2019 Summer Youth Exchange Programme should feature four major events during the three-week period.

50 to 55 US students aged 15 to 17 would be joined by local students in a student exchange week, a joint-school camp, a homestay event and a day out in Hong Kong.

Project Details

1. Student Exchange Week

After their arrival in Hong Kong, the exchange students would first attend lessons with local students in participating schools. Secondary schools in Hong Kong would be invited to participate in the week and let the exchange students sit in summer courses and classes held by the schools.

This provides opportunities for our guests to experience the local education system, to get to know more about local school events and cultures, and to interact with local students.

This ice-breaking event hopes to bring local students together with foreign students, and promote discussions about the school atmosphere in different countries, including school traditions and spirits. This allows foreign students to get to know more about the school life of Hong Kong students as a whole, and vice versa.

2. Joint-school Camp

An overnight camp could be held at the end of the first or second week. This camp would include students from various participating schools in Hong Kong and the exchange students. This provides them with a platform to share their experiences about school and to discuss topics such as interests and hobbies.

The camp is a place where exchange students and local students can be better acquainted with each other, engage in fun and exciting activities, and develop friendship with students from different schools and other countries.

3. Homestay Event

Subject to the amount of participating local students, a homestay event would be held in the last week when the exchange students stay at the homes of local students and their families.

Through their local friends, our guests from the US would be in the best environment to experience the lifestyle of Hongkongers and know how it feels to live in the city.

The exchange students would be recommended to join host families in their daily routines, such as grocery shopping and family activities.

Host families would be encouraged to share knowledge about their communities, society, current affairs and other facets regarding the life of Hongkongers. Our guests may also interact with their host families on the traditions and popular culture of Hong Kong.

This event hopes to give the exchange students time to immerse themselves into the local lifestyle and culture by having first-hand experience and round-the-clock interactions with local residents.

4. A Day Out in Hong Kong

Homestay families would be funded by the programme to guide the exchange students on a tour of Hong Kong. Given a fixed amount of money, host families would choose a number of local destinations and local activities that they enjoy doing at leisure time, such as going to Ocean Park, hiking and having dim-sum in a local Chinese restaurant.

Apart from letting our guests experience the more laid-back side of their host families' life, homestay families and the exchange students may also visit tourist attractions, go shopping, and enjoy local street food. This would give a rounded perspective into the popular culture and lifestyle of Hongkongers.

Conclusion

By providing an all-round glimpse into the lifestyle, culture and atmosphere in Hong Kong, this four-fold programme targets at satisfying the curiosity common to most visitors to Hong Kong. It is believed that by organizing the 2019 Summer Youth Exchange Programme according to this proposal, both the exchange students and their local counterparts can engage in exchanges that will be mutually beneficial, broaden their horizons and promote a global perspective while enjoying an indelible summer.