

JETAADC's Holiday Party with Big Brothers Big Sisters

December 3rd, 2016 from 11:00am-3:00pm
King Greenleaf Recreation Center
Total grant: \$1,500



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Celebrating the Holidays with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the National Capital Area...With a Japanese Twist!

Desiring to connect with and teach children in the Washington DC area, JETAADC teamed up with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the National Capital Area (BBBS) to help them throw their end of the year holiday party for the children in their program. In years past, their holiday parties were held at places like Dave & Busters so they were excited to work with JETAADC to try something different. A team of four JETAADC members worked with a team of five BBBS staff members over two months to plan the event and divide up responsibilities. Using the generous grant from Sasakawa USA, JETAADC was responsible for providing holiday decorations, Japanese activities for the children, volunteers to run the activities and Japanese food for the children to try. BBBS coordinated with their mentors/mentees to manage party RSVPs, found the King Greenleaf Recreation Center and provided pizza and cake.

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The Party!

JETAADC volunteers arrived at 10:00am to set up the activities and decorate the gym. JETAADC volunteers included board members, members, friends of JET and local Japanese in the DC community. Mentors and mentees began arriving at 11:00am and immediately started doing activities. Following a welcome speech given by the JETAADC vice president and the BBBS CEO, a JETAADC board member did a kendo demonstration at 11:45am that was incredibly popular with the children. Lunch was served at 12:30pm. A mochi pounding demonstration was held at 1:00pm and a karate and shamisen/taiko demonstrations done by some of the Japanese university students was held at 2:00pm. The party ended around 2:30pm and volunteers cleaned up and were out by 3:30pm.

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Planning the Event

The JETAADC team wanted to expose the children to a variety of aspects of Japanese culture including clothing, food, music, people and activities. JETAADC planned 8 hands-on activities: origami folding, writing the children's names in katakana, calligraphy, traditional games like kendama and janken, language learning through karuta, a chopsticks game, a kimono/yukata dress-up station and mizu fusen (water yo-yos). A local Japanese restaurant donated 10 trays of karage, sushi and yakisoba so the children could try Japanese food (many of them for the first time). A group of 45 Japanese university students who were visiting the US volunteered to help run events and did a karate demonstration and played shamisen and taiko.

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Feedback and Next Steps

For many children this was their first time using chopsticks, eating sushi or learning how to say "konichiwa". They loved trying kendo, wearing kimono and learning from the Japanese and JETAADC volunteers. During the party, the BBBS CEO and the BBBS staff said how delighted they were with the party. Several mentors thanked JETAADC members for creating such a dynamic and fun holiday party that also taught the children about Japanese culture. JETAADC was thrilled to hear such feedback! BBBS also expressed interest in working with JETAADC again on future events. JETAADC looks forward to forming a partnership with BBBS and potentially working with them in local schools to continue educating DC children about Japan. Thanks to the generous grant from Sasakawa USA that was administered by USJETAA, JETAADC had and will continue to have an impact on DC children.

Holiday Party, By the Numbers

JETAADC's Holiday Party with Big Brothers Big Sisters

Saturday, December 3rd, 2016
11:00am-3:00pm

Volunteers

- 10** Big Brothers Big Sisters employees
- 20** JETAADC volunteers
- 45** Japanese university student volunteers

Event Attendees

- 15** Children from the community
- 15** Local community members
- 250** BBBS children and their mentors

Cultural Activities

- 8** Activity stations
- 10** Trays of Japanese food (sushi, karage, yakisoba) served

Total Attendance

355 Children, mentors, volunteers, community members

Quotes of the Day



"This is the best holiday party we've had in recent years."



"The kids are starved for this kind of cultural immersion."

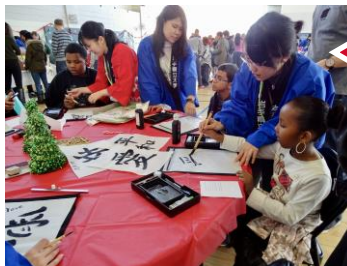


"You delivered on everything...the activities were well organized and interesting, the music was lively, the exhibitions...were wonderful."



"You and your team were awesome. We cannot wait to be part of future partnerships."

Snapshots of the Day



1

Hands-on Japanese Activities

Activities included calligraphy, origami, mochi pounding, karuta and more!



2

Trying Japanese Food

JETAADC had yakisoba, sushi and karage donated from a local Japanese restaurant.



3

Partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters promoted the event within their organization and JETAADC provided cultural activities.



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Cultural Immersion

Mentors "loved the fact that their mentees were learning something about another culture" and that children could learn from the Japanese university students.