



# 第11回高校生国際交流写真フェスティバル (愛称：HIGASHIKAWA ユースフェス)

## The 11th International High School Students' Photo Festival Exchange (HIGASHIKAWA Youth Fest.)

【Organizer】 International High School Students' Photo Festival Exchange Executive Committee

<Affiliated Groups>

Higashikawa Town / Higashikawa Tourism Association / Higashikawa Chamber of Commerce and Industry / Higashikawa Board of Education / Higashikawa Training College of International Culture and Welfare / Higashikawa Development Corporation Inc. / Kitanomegumi Inc. /

【Official Support】 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan / Council of Local Authorities for International Relations / Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Sapporo / Royal Thai Embassy in Japan / Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Japan / Embassy of Canada in Japan / Embassy of Latvia in Japan / U.S. Consulate General Sapporo / Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Tokyo / Embassy of the Republic of Colombia in Japan / Embassy of Ireland, Japan / Sapporo Branch, Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan / Hokkaido Government / All Japan Senior High School Cultural Federation / Hokkaido Senior High School Cultural Federation / Canon Marketing Japan Inc. / Sandisc Corporation / EIZO Corporation

【Sponsorship】 Kinki Nippon Tourist Co., Ltd. Asahikawa Office

【Technical Support】 The Month of Photography, Tokyo / HJK Inc.

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## About Higashikawa, “The Town of Photography” in Hokkaido



Located almost directly in the center of Hokkaido in Japan, this unique town declared itself as the Town of Photography in June, 1985 with the aim of creating a pleasant town full of vitality which is open to the world, where nature and culture can exist in harmony through both international exchange and photography.

## What is the International High School Students’ Photo Festival Exchange?

Since 2015, we have held this festival to connect people across the world through encouraging new conversations between students, expanding their friendships, and aiming for a world of everlasting peace.

We accept applications for works (a series of photos) based on the designated theme from the countries and regions listed below. Qualifiers are held in each region, and then the selected schools will be invited to Higashikawa to participate in the festival.

### International Teams (Cities, districts and towns are designated by the organizer.)

\*Invited countries for 2026 are labelled with ★ Countries participating every year are labelled with ◎

Area	Country/Region	City/District/Town	2026 Invitees
Asia (12 countries)	★◎ China	Beijing, Xiamen	★10 countries
	Korea	Yeongwol County	
	★◎ Taiwan	all across Taiwan	
	★◎ Thailand		
	★◎ Vietnam		
	★◎ Uzbekistan	Tashkent	
	★◎ Indonesia		
	Myanmar	Yangon	
	★ Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	
	★◎ Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar	
	★◎ Laos		
Europe (6 countries)	Latvia	Rūjiena	★3 countries
	★ Finland	Kangasala	
	★ Russia	Aniva	
	France		
	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	
	★ Ireland		
North/South America and Oceania (4 countries)	★◎ Australia	Canberra	★4 countries
	★ Canada	Canmore	
	★ USA	New York State	
	★ Colombia		

\*The organizer accepts entries only from the cities, districts, and town listed above.

\*The qualifier process varies by country. Please contact the local coordinator.

\*Any listed country may participate regardless of invitation status, if they are willing to cover their own travel expenses up to Asahikawa Airport in Japan. In which case, Higashikawa will cover transportation/lodging expenses from that point.

## How to Enter the 11th International High School Students' Photo Festival Exchange

### A Eligibility:

- Teams consisting of three students who are enrolled in a high school or equivalent educational institution
  - A teacher in the school must be their advisor and accompany the team during the festival.
  - Only one team per school can apply.
- High school students who are interested in international cultural exchange through photography

### B Theme of Works for Qualifier: The Charm of Your Region

### C Submission Rules:

- ① Only digital data is acceptable.
- ② The submitted works must not have been previously shown publicly or published and may not have placed in any previous competitions. (If the organizer finds that the submitted works do not meet these requirements, the invitation to the festival may be withdrawn.)
- ③ Only one team per school may apply.
- ④ The submitted works must be a series of six photos.
- ⑤ The photos should be taken in RGB mode, the file format should be JPEG, the size should be at least 1024 pixels on the long side, and the resolution should be 72ppi or higher.
- ⑥ Submission must be by email. If the size of the photos is too large, send them through reliable file hosting services.
- ⑦ Please rename the files of the works using only the numbers according to the order of the photo series.
- ⑧ The entrants must fill out the application form and send it in PDF format by email along with the submitted works. The signature of the principal is essential.
- ⑨ Please note that any submitted works may be exhibited in exhibitions held by the organizer, used for printings and publications, and uploaded on the website without any charge.

### D Application Deadline: 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 15, 2026 (Japan Standard Time)

### E Email Addresses for Submitting the Works

Executive Committee Secretariat: [kouryu@town.higashikawa.lg.jp](mailto:kouryu@town.higashikawa.lg.jp)

Coordinator: [ ]

\*When submitting your entry, please set the subject line of your email to “High School International Photo Festival Entry” and send it to both the Secretariat and the Coordinator email addresses.

\*Please note: For confirmation purposes, we may reply to the email address you used to submit your entry. Be sure to configure your email to allow messages from the above Secretariat address.

### F Qualifier Method:

Submitted works will be assessed by a panel of about three judges for each country/region to determine the qualifying schools to participate in the festival.

\*In some countries/regions, the participating school may be selected by the coordinator.

### G Qualifier Result Announcement

- ① The qualifiers will be held in late June.
- ② The organizer will announce the results in early July on the website, and also contact all entrants by email.
- ③ A plaque and certificates will be presented to the selected schools.
- ④ The submitted works will be exhibited at the main venue during the festival.

## Summary of the 11th International High School Students' Photo Festival Exchange

### A Summary

Selected schools from each country and region including from Japan will be invited to Higashikawa, the Town of Photography, to take part in photo sessions in the picturesque places around the town, using a digital camera.

Based on the designated themes, photo sessions will be held at a designated location and time. After that, the participants will select and prepare their works for exhibition, and submit a series of six photos and one single photo with the title of the work.

\*Please note that the content of the festival is subject to change without prior notice.

### B Duration of the Invitation:

From Monday, August 17, 2026 to Sunday, August 23, 2026

<Duration of the Festival: from Tuesday, August 18, 2026 to Saturday, August 22, 2026>

### C Main Venues:

- I. Higashikawa Cultural Exchange Center CentPure I
- II. Viewpoints throughout the town of Higashikawa

### D Schedule (tentative):

Mon, August 17	■ Arrival in Higashikawa
Tue, August 18	■ Team Photo Session ■ Opening Ceremony ■ Japanese language lesson ■ Equipment loan (eligible participants only) ■ Orientation ■ Welcome dinner party
Wed, August 19	■ Photo Session #1, 2, 3 ■ Japanese culture experience
Thu, August 20	■ Photo Selection #1 ■ Photo Session #4 ■ Judges' Review
Fri, August 21	■ Photo Session #5 ■ Photo Selection #2 & Photo exhibition ■ Online voting ■ Equipment return (participants concerned) ■ Voting ■ Sightseeing Tour
Sat, August 22	■ Awards Ceremony & Closing Ceremony ■ Cross-cultural exchange party
Sun, August 23	■ Dismissal

### E Judges:

The panel comprises 5 judges in total: 2 from overseas and 3 Japanese judges

### F Festival Awards:

Festival Awards	For Team	For Individual	Prize
Higashikawa "Town of Photography" Award (Gold Award)	1 team	1 individual	Certificate and Prize
Higashikawa Tourism Association Award (Silver Award)	1 team	1 individual	Certificate and Prize
Higashikawa Training College of International Culture and Welfare Award (Bronze Award)	1 team	1 individual	Certificate and Prize
Sponsors' Choice Award of Excellence	1 team		Certificate and Prize
Students and Teachers' Choice Award	1 team	1 individual	Certificate and Prize
Online Special Choice Award (Online voting)	1 team	1 individual	Certificate and Prize

### G Online Voting

The Online Special Choice Award will be determined by online voting, which is open to everyone worldwide. Voting will be open from 5 p.m. on Friday, August 21, to 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 22, 2026, (JST).

### H Expenses for Participation (Invitees)

Transportation & Accommodation

The organizer is responsible for transportation costs from each participant's nearest airport to Higashikawa.

Accommodation is provided for each team (three students and one teacher).

Meals during the festival will also be provided.

\* Participants are responsible for transportation and meals between home and their nearest airport.

\* Accommodation is provided only for the minimum number of nights necessary.

### I Precautions Regarding Artwork Production

The usage of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) for taking photos is prohibited.

There are no restrictions on camera settings.

There are no restrictions on the layout of submitted works.

\*The designated layout will be reflected for online voting.

### J Other Information

-Wi-Fi is available at each facility during the festival.

\*If you wish to use a mobile phone or other device outdoors, please prepare a SIM card, portable Wi-Fi, or other means as needed.

- An interpreter will accompany each team during the festival. We will try to assign a staff member who speaks your native language, however, we may not always be able to meet this request.





