

## History and Background of our Sister City Exchange

Over 800 adults and youth have participated in our sister city exchange over the past 40 years. During the first exchange, 35 Japanese participants from Warabi came to our county. The next year, 52 El Dorado County participants visited Warabi and Aizuwakamatsu. Many gifts have been presented to Warabi from the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and the Placerville City Council as well as many gifts have been received from Warabi presented to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and the Placerville City Council over the years of our sister city connection. These gifts are displayed in various locations around the county.

In 2004, the city of Warabi suggested a youth exchange to broaden the experiences to a younger population. We agreed and sent over 17 students and 2 chaperones to Warabi. Over the next 12 years, there have been 5 official youth summits. Many of the youth who participated in the exchanges have pursued careers in international fields.

As shown in the video, the purpose of the exchanges and cultural connections are valuable for our residents and our youth to broaden their experiences and understanding of another culture. In our global world, this is even more critical than when we initiated the sister city program.

- 1974 El Dorado County Board of Supervisors proposed a Sister City relationship with Warabi.
- 1975 People to People International El Dorado County Chapter was established to support our Sister City activities
- 1976 First Cultural Event with our Sister City – 35 participants from Warabi City Assembly came to celebrate our Bicentennial
- 1977 52 El Dorado County participants were hosted by the city of Warabi, Japan
- 1979 18 residents of Warabi were hosted by El Dorado County
  
- 2000 34 El Dorado County residents were hosted by Warabi
- 2004 First youth summit in Warabi with 17 El Dorado County teenagers participating
- 2007 El Dorado County hosts 16 Warabi teenagers for ED Co Youth summit
- 2010 Small group visited Warabi
- 2011 Small group of youth and adults visited Warabi
- 2015 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sister City program held in Warabi – 38 participants from El Dorado Co