

Lions camp report by: Guus van de Ven from the Netherlands

The past few weeks in Japan have been an amazing experience which has shown me that this world is indeed a small place, I met campers that have been on camps with Lions members that I met last year and I have seen how everybody despite cultural differences is similar to one another.

In my first host family I found out that not all monks are very strict and lead a life of praying and working on the field, my host father is one of the best kinds of people. Because he is kind to his grandchildren and makes the most out of his life as a monk. What I liked the most about this family was that I felt accepted immediately and I didn't have a problem with language. We did all sorts of fun things from Lions meetings to religious affairs to a trip to Toyama. The strangest thing that happened would be going to a Buddhist temple ceremony and go through the monks' entrance and then see how even monks welcome you when they see you are a visitor from another country. It was very unique to see how they did not mind that I knew nothing about their religion. But despite that they still showed me how to perform the ceremony and made me do every part of it, at the temple there were also sumo wrestlers residing for the season and after having dinner with them a few actually added me on Facebook, which I think is amazing. I really hope each and everyone of them is able to get an amazing career. And I hope the people reading this understand how amazing it is to meet sumo wrestlers and have a drink with them. I am very thankful that I was allowed such unique experiences and I hope I will not be the last!!!

The second host family was very open and they thought of me as their son. This was touching, because when I woke up early to help prepare breakfast or when I helped cooking my host mother was so surprised, and I was so happy I could help. With them I went to Inuyama, the pool

, Jimbei and geta shopping and last but not least Kyoto! I was very excited to go there and they were glad to take me there. If there is one thing I would like to recommend people traveling to Japan, it would be visiting Kyoto, because this city has so much to offer! It has the prettiest temples and shrines I have ever seen and it offers an amazing variety in ancient Japan and modern Japan.

To end this I have 2 nice pictures of me and my 1st host father and the sumos and of me and my 2nd host family

