



Pittsburgh Sakura Project ESSAY CONTEST

Junior High School and High School (Grades 7-12)

 **Sakura means Cherry Blossom** 

The Sakura is Japan's unofficial national flower.

The Pittsburgh Sakura Project (PSP) began in 2007, with assistance of the Japanese Association of Greater Pittsburgh and The Allegheny County Parks Department. PSP, an independent nonprofit organization since 2009, aspires to plant 250 ornamental cherry trees in and around the greater Pittsburgh region over a 10-year period, in honor of the 250th anniversary of the founding of Pittsburgh in 1758. As of December 2015, PSP has planted 222 Sakura trees and 134 other park trees near the Boathouse in North Park. The Pittsburgh Sakura Project credits their success to an all-volunteer community alliance, an ongoing working relationship with Tree Vitalize and North Park of Allegheny County, and many more supporters.

THEME

Planting cherry trees: linking culture and the environment

桜の植樹：文化と環境のかけはし

RULES AND GUIDELINES

- Contest open to all students in grades 7-12 in the Pittsburgh area.
- Essays may be in English or Japanese.
- Maximum length: English 500 words/Japanese 1200 characters.
- Only one essay per student.
- Submit by email, by **April 15, 2016, 5:00pm**. Include the student's name, age, grade, and school in the body of the email. Email 2 PDF files as attachments (one with and one without the student's name), with "Essay Contest" in the subject line, to: PittsburghSakuraProject@gmail.com

BASIS FOR JUDGING

- **Primary criterion:** demonstrates thoughtful understanding and engagement with (a) meanings of cherry trees in Japan and the US, and (b) environmental stewardship globally and in the Pittsburgh region;
- **Secondary criteria:** clearly written, no or few errors; persuasiveness; attractiveness

AWARDS

First place: \$100 and Sakura T-shirt

Second place: \$50 and Sakura T-shirt

Third place: \$25 and Sakura T-shirt

Honorable mention: Sakura water bottle

Winners will be announced at our Spring Hanami Event, April 30, 2016 (see details below), and notified directly by email. Winners will be invited to read their essays aloud during the event. Winning essays will also be posted on the PSP website and Facebook pages.

PITTSBURGH SAKURA PROJECT SPRING 2016 HANAMI EVENT

Time: April 30, 2016, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Place: Rose Barn, Pearce Mill Rd, North Park

Homepage

<http://www.pghsakuraproject.org/about/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/PghSakuraProject>

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