2023 INTERNSHIP PROGRAM OF KEEP, JAPAN

Kiyosato Educational Experimental Project, Inc. known as “KEEP” is a non-profit community development organization founded on four ideals of Food, Health, Faith, and Hope for Youth, and now operates lodgings, restaurants, cafes, and shops, organic jersey milk cow farm, nursery school, church, museums and nature center, at the foot of Mt. Yatsugatake. Seisen-ryo is now widely known nationwide and loved by many tourists as a highland resort famous for its soft-serve ice cream.

Since its start, KEEP has hosted international volunteers and interns offering opportunities to develop cross-cultural understandings and experiences among youth through working together.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The following position is available for KEEP Internship program 2023 from May till July.

* **Working at Seisen-ryo Restaurant (Daily)**

There are two restaurants in Seisen-ryo. Seisen-ryo Shinkan(Annex) Restaurant is an upscale restaurant associated with the hotel, equipped with banquet facilities. It primarily offers buffet-style breakfast and dinner to hotel guests. Seisen-ryo Honkan(Main lodge) Restaurant is aimed at day visitors, providing a restaurant with Western-style lunch options. It serves homemade dishes using locally sourced fresh ingredients.

Duties　 Interns will support the restaurant operation by

* Meal serving and table cleaning
* Table setting and dish washing
* Taking an order (according to the speaking level)

In this position, workdays will include Saturdays and Sundays due to the museum's opening schedule. The regular days off will be Wednesday and Thursday. If desired, it is possible to arrange for weekends off after consulting with the supervisor in advance.

Also, Interns are required to bring black slacks, a white Y-shirt, leather shoes.

QUALIFICATIONS

To enjoy everyday life at KEEP, the position is suitable for those who

* Are open to new things, flexible, and has challenge spirits
* Enjoy working with international or non-English speaking staffs from various backgrounds
* Love Japan, and have understanding to Japanese culture and manners
* Enjoy country life in natural and outdoor environment

To accomplish the assigned tasks at workplace, the position is suitable for those who

* Can communicate actively with other staffs, and work both in team and solo
* Like to interact with members of the public
* Have an ability to speak basic Japanese to take an order
* Self-driven to start up, be continuous and achieve the mission
* Minimum conversation level of Japanese is preferred, or have eager to learn Japanese (Most of KEEP staffs don’t speak English, and Japanese would be the main language used in the workplace)

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN/GAIN

1. A model case of Japanese community development: Interns can learn the history of KEEP and the spirit of its founder, Dr. Paul Rusch, at the Memorial Museum in the orientation and your free time.
2. Practical Japanese skills and working experiences in Japan: Great opportunity to learn attitudes, manners, and hospitality of Japan.
3. Friendship with local people and real Japanese life: Interns will have many chances to make Japanese friends from children to adult through introducing your culture and language. Interns will enjoy their own unique and real experiences of “Japan” that would never be learned from books or the internet.
4. Country life: KEEP is surrounded by mountains and forests with various types of wildlife. Interns will enjoy nature hiking trails, horse ranches, hot springs nearby.

ABOUT KEEP

Located in the Yatsugatake Highlands in Kiyosato, Yamanashi, Japan, KEEP is an economic and community development project rooted in Christian faith. The organization was incorporated in 1948, and founded on four ideals: Food, Health, Faith, and Hope for Youth. KEEP introduced and encouraged dairy farming in 1947 as a viable solution for the local challenges of high altitude agriculture.

KEEP has grown to include environmental advocacy work and international outreach. KEEP provides a place for educational and cultural exchange between people of different backgrounds, languages, cultures, and religions to create and strengthen mutual ties dedicated to community development. KEEP has annually welcomed trainees and college interns from outside Japan since 1982. KEEP’s mission has remained constant over the years: to offer program participants and visitors alike a new perspective, a stronger spirituality, a deeper cultural understanding, a richer appreciation for the ties that bind all people, and an opportunity to learn valuable agricultural, environmental, and community building skills.

KEEP provides programming for all ages from preschool children to seniors. Both Japanese and international visitors can enroll in educational programs on the environment, farming, and cross-cultural understanding in day programs or overnight camps. Last fiscal year, more than 32,400 people participated in educational programs at KEEP. Over 130,350 people visited KEEP’s three museums. Approximately 1 million tourists visited KEEP during the year.

*For more detail, please refer also our website:* [*www.keep.or.jp*](http://www.keep.or.jp) *(Japanese) or* [*http://ackeep.org/*](http://ackeep.org/) *(English)*