

Akita Prefecture

Project for Promoting the Study Away from Home Programme,
“Let’s Study in Akita!”



Situation



For Akita Prefecture, where depopulation and aging are making remarkable progress, having many children from other prefectures visit Akita will contribute significantly to regional vitalization. Using prefectural resources such as the warm-hearted people, the abundance of nature and top-class academic achievements in Japan, accepting children and students mainly from metropolitan areas as part of the Study Away from Home Programme can be expected to lead not only to increasing the number of visitors but also to the relocation and settlement of families.

Action



Two courses are offered, an “Experience-based Course” and a “Settlement-based Course”.

1 The only Custom-made Study Away from Home Programme in Japan

This is a “custom-made” study away from home programme in which the children and students who wish to participate are free to decide the period of their stay and to choose what they want to study.

2 Emphasis placed not only on learning but also on experience-based activities reflecting the regional characteristics of Akita

This project provides not only learning but also a rich variety of activities in which to experience nature, because of the abundance of nature in the prefecture.

3 Arrangement of social education supervisors who integrally coordinate students’ learning and experiences

Educational facilities have appointed social education supervisors who integrally coordinate learning and experience, and support students in every way by giving them advice on studying away from home and by helping them engage in the various activities.

Impact

- Children and students at Aikawa primary and secondary schools which accepted participating students were able to introduce the advantages of their schools and to learn a lot about other prefectures by interacting with the participating students.
- Residents in private houses which accepted participating students were invigorated and given energy by the students.
- Teachers at Aikawa primary and secondary schools which accepted participating students were able to reconfirm how great the efforts of this prefecture are and realized that the children and students in Akita had improved their communication skills.