

Aichi, Japan and Dallas, Texas Combined Incoming Journey October 1-7, 2019

A joint journey with ambassadors from Aichi, Japan and Dallas, Texas were hosted in the first week in October. The combined journey was the result of Connie Williams' efforts working with the Madison, Wisconsin club.

We picked up the ambassadors at Eagle Point Park in Dubuque and spent some time exploring Dubuque. Then we went to the Field of Dreams movie site outside Dyersville and dinner at The Country Junction in Dyersville.

Wednesday was spent in Cedar Rapids beginning with a bus tour of the downtown area highlighting economic development and an outstanding view of the city from the top of Mount Trashmore. It is a former landfill that has been repurposed to recreation trails. This was followed by lunch at the top of the Doubletree; a back stage tour of the Paramount Theater and a tour of the Cedar Rapids Public Library. In the evening, ambassadors enjoyed small group home hosted dinners with their host and club members.

Thursday had us checking out the Kalona Historical Society village along with a cattle auction at the sale barn. The afternoon was free and four of the Aichi ambassadors ended up on top of Jim Malichky's combine. Once they were safely on the ground they headed off to see a confinement shed and meet 2500 pigs.

Friday saw us at the Stead Children's Hospital at the University of Iowa for a 12th floor tour of the art in the hall as well as a grand view of Kinnick Football Stadium. This was followed by lunch on the river at Iowa River Power. A presentation at the Raptor Center completed the day.

Ambassadors and hosts were free to do as they pleased until the farewell dinner at Lowe Park on Sunday afternoon. Thanks to all who hosted, day hosted, provided home hosted dinners, served on the journey committee, helped with the farewell dinner and all the members who joined us in activities throughout the week.

I hope everyone involved enjoyed getting to know the ambassadors; this is really why Friendship Force exists.

Host Coordinator: Larry Nelson