

Making the Most of Your Time on JET!

You made it – now make the most of it!

1. At school

JOIN & PARTICIPATE

- ◆ Join a club, train with a team, cheer at games!
- ◆ Participate in school events, like the Sports Festival and Culture Festival.
- ◆ Ask if you can eat lunch with your students.



CREATE

- ◆ Start something new, like an English board, English newsletter, or English club.
- ◆ Organize cooking classes, Western holiday celebrations and international events.

WORK RELATIONS

- ◆ Go to at least one enkai (drinking party).
- ◆ Bring back omiyage (souvenirs) from trips.
- ◆ Don't be afraid to speak Japanese.
- ◆ Offer to practice English!



2. Culture

JAPANESE CULTURE

- ◆ Try something new! Martial arts, calligraphy, tea ceremony, ikebana, taiko... and more!
- ◆ Join a festival! Lift a mikoshi (portable shrine), play the flute, dress up, dance!



SPORTS

- ◆ Continue an old hobby or find a new one, and make friends at the same time.
- ◆ Find out about, or organize, local tournaments.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE

- ◆ Feel productive and make life easier.
- ◆ Self-study or find local community classes.
- ◆ Your new hobbies may provide a perfect place to practice!



1. Strategies for success

CHALLENGES

- ◆ Bureaucracy: how do I cut all the red tape?!
- ◆ My students don't want to join!

SOLUTIONS

- ◆ Don't be afraid to ask.
- ◆ Come up with a clear proposal.
- ◆ Patience and persistence!
- ◆ Perfect English is not required.
- ◆ Build confidence via simple, fun activities.
- ◆ Infuse pop culture references – connect with students and co-workers on their level.



2. Strategies for success

CHALLENGES

- ◆ Where do I begin in my tiny village?
- ◆ I've looked and looked... but I can't find the group I want in my town! What can I do?
- ◆ Help, I can't speak Japanese!
- ◆ Oh no! I'm the only foreigner here!
- ◆ Will I have any free time left?



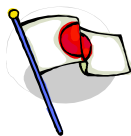
SOLUTIONS

- ◆ Get the word out – ask your teachers, other JETs, friends, neighbors, hairdresser... and ask again and again!
- ◆ Research your options – use your local newsletter, find your community center.
- ◆ There are plenty of people to translate.
- ◆ You're "the gaikokujin" of the group? So what?
- ◆ Be flexible! If it's not available, why not try something else or even start your own group?

3. In the community

VOLUNTEERING & FUNDRAISING

- ◆ Orphanage visits
 - ⇒ Smile Kids
- ◆ Rice planting and harvesting
- ◆ Tohoku needs your help! Join in clean-up efforts, fundraise, or donate!
 - ⇒ Fruit Tree Project & The Big Clean
- ◆ Charity fundraising events and collections – e.g. carol singing, music festivals, sports tournaments, and holiday events – use your talents and tell AJET about it.
 - ⇒ Man Up For Japan
 - ⇒ 5toSurvive



CULTURAL EXCHANGE

- ◆ Hold an international day/night to introduce local JETs' home countries (food, language, clothes, festivals, etc).
- ◆ Write an English magazine or newsletter.
- ◆ Organise Halloween and Christmas parties.
- ◆ Teach free English conversation classes.

Need more inspiration? Take a look at the AJET JET Effect for loads of great examples!

3. Strategies for success

CHALLENGES

- ◆ Help! I still can't speak Japanese!
- ◆ How do I join an existing initiative?
- ◆ How do I start my own?
- ◆ Do I have the time and money?



SOLUTIONS

- ◆ Find someone to help you translate (ALTs, CIRs, PAs and JTEs are great resources).
- ◆ Don't be afraid to use broken Japanese.
- ◆ Ask around about existing projects/find out what your prefecture has done in the past.
- ◆ Have an idea of your own? Great! Tell everyone and gauge interest!
- ◆ Organize yourself and your time, submit a clear proposal, and write reports after the event.
- ◆ Use weekends, national holidays and school vacations to create unforgettable memories.
- ◆ GET SUPPORT! – AJET is there to help you!



Opening doors...

- ◆ Be **proactive**; **prepare** a clear **proposal**; your **persistence**, **perseverance** & **patience** will pay off.
- ◆ Don't let your Japanese skills become a barrier to your involvement – it doesn't matter!
- ◆ Remember: JET is what you make of it – so get out there, challenge yourself, try new things, and take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Having the right attitude can change everything.

Links & Resources

- ◆ **AJET Jet Effect** – What have JETs done recently?: <http://ajet.net/lang/en/category/jet-effect/>
- ◆ **Smile Kids** – Orphanage visits: www.smilekidsjapan.org
- ◆ **Second Harvest Japan** – Food distribution: www.2hj.org
- ◆ **PEPY** – Bike to raise money: <http://pepyride.org>
- ◆ **GoLongitude** – Volunteer, fundraise and support programs abroad: <http://golongitude.org>
- ◆ **Fruit Tree Project** – Tohoku earthquake relief: www.volunteerakita.org
- ◆ **Peace Boat** – Earthquake relief projects: <http://peaceboat.jp/relief/>
- ◆ **5toSurvive 'Running for Japan'**: a successful Japan-wide fundraising initiative: <http://5tosurvive.org/>
- ◆ **Mie Life Magazine** – Volunteers using the power of the written word: www.mielifemagazine.com/en

