

## **Gralen Eidam Wilson Youth Ambassador Scholarship Fact Sheet**

**WHO:** Gralen Eidam Wilson Youth Ambassador Scholarship falls under the umbrella of the 501C3 nonprofit Santa Cruz Sister Cities Support group and works directly with the Santa Cruz Sister Cities program.

**WHAT:** It offers an annual summer scholarship to a junior or senior in the fall Santa Cruz school system to visit a sister city of Santa Cruz (this year it is Shingu, Japan) for a homestay of two to three weeks with a Shingu family and then the opportunity to host a Japanese student in his/her home for a similar period of time, hopefully contiguously if school vacations allow.

**WHEN:** The five to six week period will begin shortly after the school years end in both cities and continue for up to six (6) weeks during the summer, ending shortly before the next school year begins—approximately during the period from July 1 to August 30. Exact dates will be established once selection begins.

**WHY:** The goal of the exchange is to encourage cultural understanding and friendship between our two cities and increase youth involvement in the Sister Cities program. Each participant will be asked to put together a program or project that the student will pursue while visiting Shingu which will encourage him to become an active part of the community life. The Shingu student will do the same while in Santa Cruz.

**WHERE:** Activities will be arranged in each city by the families of the participating students as well as the Santa Cruz Sister Cities Support members and the members of Sister Cities Committees of each participating city.

**HOW:** Funding will be provided by scholarship funds to cover all transportation costs to and from Santa Cruz to the sister city. Also a student health insurance policy covering the exchange student while away and the inbound student while in Santa Cruz will be covered. The host family in Shingu will provide room and board for the student while in Shingu. Each exchange student is responsible for all his own personal expenses. On his return the scholarship recipient will provide room and board for the returning student for the duration of his visit. The visiting student should be responsible for all personal expenses.