

3 ISWA CLUBS HOST WRESTLERS FROM JAPAN

In 2010 three Indiana Clubs hosted a team from Japan and the ISWA expanded our exchange program to include a trip to Mongolia. We continue to work to develop additional partners. For 2011 we are working to develop two new partners, are planning on a trip to Japan, and will be hosting our new partners from Mongolia.

The focus in the last two years has been on developing trips and then recruiting wrestlers. Going forward our approach will be on developing partnerships with coaches and then working with them to match an exchange partner. From 2011 forward we will look to coaches encouraging them to become “Trip Leaders” and then support them in preparing to host an exchange and then participating in an exchange trip.

Each year foreign language departments sponsor overseas trips. With our reciprocal agreements ⁽¹⁾ we are able to offer trips of substantial value. Because we stay with our hosts and our hosts share their countries with us we enjoy a much deeper cultural experience. ISWA Cultural Exchange offers an alternative trip for Coaches and their wrestlers of substantial educational, wrestling, and personal growth opportunity. Please consider becoming active in hosting and then consider leading a trip to one of our partners.

For the teams that host incoming teams we find that there is a great deal of community enthusiasm and involvement. For those who travel we find that the experience is one that facilitates positive change and opens participants to an awareness of their counterparts around the world.

Incoming Team from Japan

Clubs participating	12
Indiana Wrestlers (prox.)	140
Hosted wrestlers	9
Hosted Coaches	2
Adult participation (prox.)	100
Clubs hosting	3
TV – Newspaper coverage	5

A team of 9 wrestlers and 2 coaches stayed in Indiana from July 26 thru August 5th and were hosted by Jeffersonville, Center Grove, and South Bend.



Jeffersonville

Jeffersonville hosted a free tournament where the Japanese wrestlers competed against wrestlers from 7 Indiana and 1 Kentucky club. Over 100 wrestlers participated in the event which was covered by the local news paper. The gym was packed and there were 5 wrestling mats with matches going for most of the afternoon. It was great to have so many clubs and so many kids turn out for this competition and to participate in our cultural exchange.

- (1) - Falls of the Ohio
- (2) - Meeting the Mayor
- (3) – Louisville Slugger Factory

In addition to practices and our friendship tournament our guests traveled to the Falls of the Ohio, met the Mayor, visited the “world’s largest baseball

bat”, the Muhammad Ali Center and the Art Museum and Gallery, then went shopping – Dick’s, Bass Pro, and the Mall, and finally capped the trip with a visit to the Aquatic Center. One evening at the Schremps the team from Japan was introduced to Corn Hole and over 100 people participated in a pitch in to welcome our guests.

Center Grove

While at Center Grove the visiting team wrestled in a dual match against 2 local clubs then visited the Speedway Museum, the NCAA Hall of Champions, Circle Center, relaxed at Rascal’s Fun Zone and got to use a Zip Line at a local resident’s pond.

The Center Grove Wrestling Club had a wonderful experience hosting our guests from Japan. Our first day was spent in downtown Indianapolis first at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. We took the grounds tour highlighted by kissing the bricks before touring the Speedway Museum. We then headed to White River State