



JETAA • FL



12th Annual Tampa Natsumatsuri Returns June 24

*The free celebration of Japanese culture marks the 30th anniversary
of the Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program*

TAMPA, Fla. (May 24, 2017) – The Florida Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association (Florida JETAA) invites guests of all ages to attend its 12th annual Japanese summer festival, Tampa Natsumatsuri, on Saturday, June 24 from 5 to 9 p.m. at Christ the King Catholic Church, located at 821 S. Dale Mabry Highway in Tampa. Admission is free.

Tampa Natsumatsuri is a non-profit, community-based festival featuring traditional Japanese games, treats, crafts, martial arts demonstrations, dance performances, a cosplay contest and more. Guests are encouraged to cosplay as their favorite anime character, wear a kimono or yukata, or attend in their favorite comfortable clothes and shoes.

Festival games include wanage (ring tossing), shodo (Japanese calligraphy), omikuji (fortune telling), otedaruma (doll making), yoyo sukui (water balloon fishing), omocha sukui (fishing for toys), origami (paper folding), hanetsuki (badminton), daruma otoshi (similar to Jenga), ohajiki (marbles), taketonbo (bamboo toy making) and more. Game tickets are 50 cents each and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to charities in Japan such as the disaster relief foundations for victims of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake.

This year's Tampa Natsumatsuri celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program, the only teaching exchange program managed by the government of Japan. Since its founding in 1987, JET has sent more than 60,000 participants, including nearly 32,000 Americans, from more than 40 countries around the world to work in schools, boards of education, and government offices throughout Japan.

Tampa Natsumatsuri is organized by Florida JETAA and sponsored in part by the Consulate-General of Japan in Miami. For more information, please contact tampakumi@gmail.com or visit <https://www.facebook.com/tampanatsu/>.