

# Sister City E-Blast



## Dousou Kai

A "Dousou Kai" 20th anniversary celebration is being planned to reunite everyone who has been involved in sister city program activities; citizens, students and teachers who have traveled to Hanamaki; families that have hosted visitors; and anyone involved in any capacity since the program began in 1993. Please start looking through photos to share for a slide presentation.

Photos can be emailed to

[hotspringssistercity@yahoo.com](mailto:hotspringssistercity@yahoo.com)

or mail them to Sister City Program,  
P.O. Box 6000, Hot Springs, AR 71902  
so we can scan and return them to you.

## It's not too late!

You can still be a part of the 20th Anniversary Citizen Delegation that will travel to our Sister City September 7-15, 2013. The reservation deadline is **May 15**.

Travelers will spend two days in Tokyo, travel to Hanamaki on the bullet train, visit historic shrines and temples, and take part in the annual Hanamaki Festival. It's an amazing opportunity to experience the history and culture of Japan surrounded by our friends in our sister city.

For more information, contact Mary Neilson, Program Coordinator, 545-6960.



## 20th Anniversary Celebration

Mark your calendar: The 20th anniversary celebration of our sister city agreement with Hanamaki will take place this fall. October and November will be filled with special events celebrating our 20 years of friendship and goodwill. Mayor Oishi and Hanamaki dignitaries will visit Hot Springs October 17-21.

In November, an invitational art show will be held in conjunction with the Fine Arts Center of Hot Springs, featuring artists from Hot Springs and Hanamaki inspired by Kenji Miyazawa's poem, "Strong in the Rain."

A citizen delegation will visit Hot Springs from November 21-25. This group will be made up of citizens, artists, and runners taking part in the Spa 5k/10k race.



Special thanks to Mark Buhrow, Belle of Hot Springs, for donating this treasure to the Sister City Program. It was presented by Hanamaki at the Sister City Signing Ceremony in 1993.

**The annual student delegation** will be made up of 9 students from across Garland County who will travel to Hanamaki this summer. Clif and Kristina Coleman will chaperone the delegation that will spend a week visiting schools, staying with host families and even attending a high school baseball game while in Japan. The HSNP Sister City Foundation raised more than \$9,000 to assist students with trip expenses. A very special thank you to the Dorothy Morris Foundation, the Jane Howard Foundation and KYE-YAC for sponsoring a fundraiser that was instrumental in raising funds. Also, a big "thank you" to City Heating, Plumbing and Electric for naming the HSNP Sister City Foundation Scholarship fund as the March recipient of their "Giving Back to the Community" program.