

# NCIA

NIKKO CITY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

### HALLOWEEN

#### Trick-or-Treat! • Piñata • Costume Contest

Hosted at Niko-Niko Honjin and supported by the generosity of nearby local businesses, we enjoyed another successful Halloween celebration! The kids delighted in Trick-or-Treating, cracking open hand-painted piñatas, and walking the runway for the costume contest. Though it was a tough competition, there were 6 winners!



### THANKSGIVING

#### Culture Presentation • Hand Turkey Craft • Pumpkin Bread Cooking Class

For the first time, we held an American-style Thanksgiving event. We learned about its history and modern types of celebrations from Turkey Trot races, presidential turkey pardons, and feasts with friends and family. We also made paper hand turkeys and baked pumpkin bread.



### CHRISTMAS

#### Culture Presentation • Magic Show • Paper Stockings • Santa Visit

This year, our very own Hoshi-san put on a magic show. Violet, the new CIR, gave a presentation on Christmas in the United States and taught us how to make paper stockings. As the event was winding down, Santa made a surprise visit and passed out treats and gifts to all of the kids!



### INDONESIAN CULTURE PRESENTATION

Did you know that there are many Indonesian residents in Nikko? Lecturer Frishka Apriliani came and taught us about her culture and traditional Indonesian dress and dance. We also learned that in Indonesia, people must be of the same faith in order to marry. This is quite different from Japan and surprised many participants.

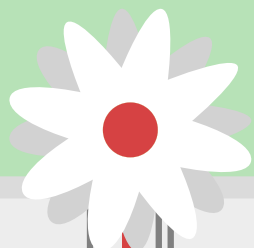


### SETSUBUN CULTURAL EXCHANGE MIXER

As a continuation of last year's Christmas foreign resident pregnancy/childrearing counseling event, this year, we celebrated Setsubun, a traditional Japanese holiday. Through various activities and a free talk period, participants got to know each other better and bond as a community.







The NCIA Japanese Classroom meets 3 times per month from March~July and September~December! See below for details!



# JAPANESE CLASSROOM

Every year, members of the NCIA Japanese Classroom go on a group bus trip. This year's request: **Nikko Edo Wonderland!**



## ANNUAL BUS TRIP



Once we passed through the entrance, we had a taste of mezashi (dried sardines). Though it was the first time for several participants, everyone seemed to enjoy them!



We then split off and made the rounds - some cooking and eating their own senbei, and others trying out archery, shuriken throwing, and more! One group even completed all of the ninja training events!



MAR 2, '25

We were also able to see a variety of shows, including a comedy as well as a ninja-themed acrobatics routine. The last major event of the day was the procession of the Oiran.

All of these scenes - Edo-era treats, buildings, etc. - were captured in everyone's pictures, testaments to a great time!



HANGING OUT WITH NYANMAME, THE SAMURAI CAT

## LEARN MORE!

★ **Free** Japanese class for non-native speakers!

★ Website: <https://www.nikkocity.org/>

★ TEL: 0288-21-5112 · FAX: 0288-21-5121



## HELLO EVERYONE!

My name is Violet Needham and I am the Nikko City Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) as of April 2024. I am originally from the Midwest in the United States and grew up in Indiana (Tochigi's sister state!) along the coast of Lake Michigan.

Of the many things to love about Nikko, I particularly appreciate the famed Cedar Avenue and feel very at home amid all the green. This year, I'm definitely going to go up to the Kirifuri Highlands to see the kisuge in bloom.

So how did I come to work in Japan? Though I originally intended to be a music major, I happened to take an intensive Japanese course at the University of Michigan, which really kickstarted my journey. As a sophomore, I studied at the Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU) in Hikone, Shiga. As part of a class there, I got to attend a lecture on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kobe branch. It was my first time learning about the SDGs in detail and I was moved by Japan's efforts to broadcast them. The more that I learned, the more I wanted to continue my Japan-related studies. I came to realize that I wanted to pursue work in international affairs, a natural conclusion of which came to be living and working in Nikko!

Indiana Dunes National Park

