

## Friends of the World 2016 世界のともだち 2016

It's finally getting hot here in Tokachi, meaning more and more outdoor events are taking place! One of the main annual events of the Domestic and International Relations Section is the "Friends of the World" performance and food-based event at the Tokachi International Relations Center (TIRC).

There will be a kids corner with activities for young children to enjoy, a gallery of items on display from around the world, a "Yatai" or food stand with food prepared by both Japanese and International residents, and more! Volunteer applications will be taken until June 3rd.

Please join us and become one of the "Friends of the World!"



Time: July 3rd, Sunday 10:30 ~ 15:00  
Place: Tokachi International Relations Center West 20, South 6, Obihiro City  
Fee: No Admission Fee!  
Contact:  
Tel: 0155-34-0122  
Email: tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp

## Japanese Calligraphy Class 2016 書道体験会 2016



The Tokachi International Relations Center (TIRC) is having its annual

Japanese Calligraphy, or 書道 *shodo*, class for international residents and students. Even if you don't know Japanese, there will be an instructor there to help you!

Time: June 25th (Saturday) 10:00-13:45  
Place: TIRC Library  
Fee: Free!  
Application/Contact: Apply by June 22nd (Wednesday)  
Tokachi International Relations Center  
West 20, South 6, Obihiro City  
Tel: 0155-34-0122  
Email: tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp

There will be 3 sessions for 10 participants each (total 30 persons). Each session is 45 mins, starting at 10:00, 11:00, and 13:00.

## Contents:

Friends of the World 2016 Calligraphy Class	1
Events	2
Stamp Rallies	3
Movie Schedule	4
Events Cont' Be a Host Family	



Events (pg 2 & 4)



Stamp Rallies (pg 3)



Movies (pg 4)

# Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
6/8 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	<b>International Mini-Volley Night</b> Meet friends from all over the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport! Free of charge!	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
6/11, 25 (Sat) 16:00-18:00	<b>Japanese Conversation and Learning Table</b> Improve your Japanese language skills in a friendly environment. Japanese volunteers will be there to help you.	
6/18 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	<b>International Potluck Night</b> Meet local and international residents and enjoy a dish from another country. This time you can try Vietnamese summer rolls. Free of charge (no registration required) Please bring a dish or drink to share.	
6/25 (Sat) 10:00/11:00/ 13:00 (3 sessions)	<b>Japanese Calligraphy Lesson</b> Try out the traditional Japanese art of calligraphy. Free of charge (3 sessions, max 10 participants per session) Please wear clothes that can get dirty. Apply by June 22nd (Wed)	
6/4 (Sat)	<b>Tokachi Beef and Asparagus Festival</b> 十勝若牛アスパラまつり Enjoy a barbecue of Tokachi beef and asparagus, stage performances, lucky draws and much more.	Hokuren Shimizu ホクレン清水製糖工場広場 十勝清水町農業協同組合 0156-62-2161
6/5 (Sun)	<b>2016 Shikaribetsu Lake Opening Ceremony</b> 2016年然別湖湖水開き「然別湖の楽しいこと、ぜんぶ」 26th Rekifune River Koi Kate-Flying Mini Event Children can enjoy eating soba, udon, and more for free. There will also be activities including a bouncy dome and memorial picture-taking.	Shikaribetsu Lake 然別湖畔 0156-66-1135 <a href="http://shikaoi.net">http://shikaoi.net</a>
6/5 (Sun) 9:30~15:00	<b>37th Hiroo Tsutsuji Festival</b> 第37回広尾つつじまつり See over 12,000 azaleas in bloom while enjoying salmon nabe and local produce, game corners and more.	Hiroo Daimaruyama Shinrin Park 広尾町 大丸山森林公園 01558-2-0177 (Mon-Fri) 01558-2-2111 (Sat-Sun/Holiday) <a href="http://www.town.hiroo.lg.jp">http://www.town.hiroo.lg.jp</a>
6/11 (Sat) 9:30~13:00	<b>Tokachigawa Onsen Footpath Walking</b> 十勝川温泉フットパスウォーキング Enjoy the nature of early summer while walking around Tokachigawa Onsen and the Ecology Park.	Tokachi Ecology Park 十勝エコロジーパーク集合 0155-32-6780 <a href="http://www.tokachi-ecopark.jp/">http://www.tokachi-ecopark.jp/</a>
6/11-12 (Sat-Sun) 10:00~17:00 (Sun: ~16:00)	<b>22nd Tokachi Shimizu Ceramics Market</b> 第22回十勝清水やきもの市 Over 50 Hokkaido potters will come to show and sell their wares. From this year, the venue is changed to the Shimizu Town Gymnasium.	Shimizu Town Gymnasium 清水町体育館 0156-62-1156 <a href="http://tokachi432.net/">http://tokachi432.net/</a>
6/15 (Wed)	<b>7th Bar-hopping in Memuro</b> 第7回はしご酒in芽室 Enjoy food and drinks at the bars and restaurants in downtown Memuro (stamp rally). There is a lucky draw after hopping 3 bars. Registration is required.	Memuro Downtown 芽室町内飲食店 0155-66-6522 <a href="http://www.memuro.info/">http://www.memuro.info/</a>

## (Summer) Stamp Rallies ! スタンプラリー

Some are all year long, but once summer rolls around, they start popping up like crazy! What's popping up? Stamp rallies (スタンプラリー) ! Especially here in Hokkaido where car ownership is much more common compared to down south where public transportation is preferred and very accessible.

### First, what is a stamp rally?

Stamp rallies come in various shapes and sizes, but they are always based on a common theme and the goal is to get a stamp for each location and/or item. For example, there may be a "ice cream" stamp rally, containing 10 different shops. The goal is to collect as many stamps as possible by visiting these ice cream shops. Stamps also tend to be unique to each location.



### Why should I do a stamp rally?

Many rallies (especially those with participation fees) make you eligible for special prize raffles or discounts at certain stores. It's also a great opportunity to explore new places or eat new foods that you have otherwise wouldn't try or know about. After finishing an entire rally, the remaining stamp book or paper becomes a memento of your journey!

### Why is there a stamp rally for EVERYTHING?!

Stamp rallies are a simple way to advertise and introduce various areas/stores/foods. Customers are given a goal to complete



Various goshuincho showcasing amazing penmen ship!

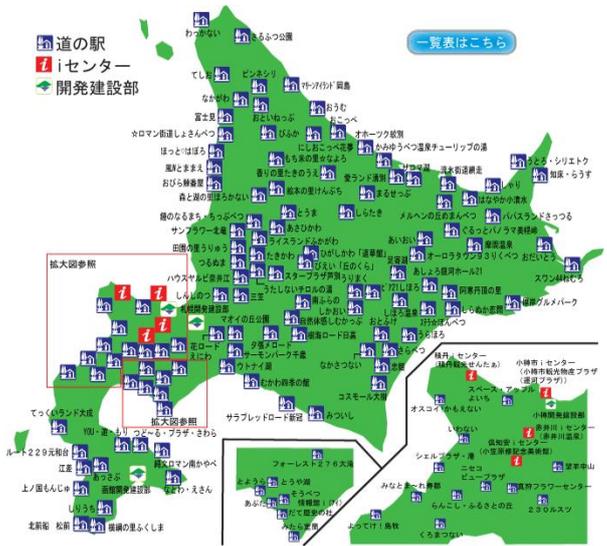
the rally by experiencing new things while keeping track of it. Even without the incentive of a prize, people want to complete the entire rally. It is also believed that the origins of the modern-day Japanese stamp rallies come from a Buddhist tradition. When going on religious trips, monks would carry a notebook called a 御朱印帳 goshuincho. At each temple the monk will get their goshuincho stamped and signed by a resident monk. This is proof that he visited that temple. Goshuincho is also becoming more and more popular with regular people.

### Which stamp rally should I do?

Whichever one you want to! One of the most popular, yet difficult, stamp rallies is the Hokkaido 「道の



駅]michi no eki stamp rally. Michi no eki or literally "Road Stations" are rest stops for drivers.



Most have bathrooms, vending machines, telephones, and parking lots open 24 hours. Containing 115 locations across Hokkaido, completing this rally is a commitment! But it is a great opportunity to explore Hokkaido and check out towns that are not normally considered tourist spots. Completing the rally in 1 year makes you eligible for their prize raffle, but if completed within 2 years you can get a certificate of completion!

### Which stamp rally will you try this summer?

# Movies At Cinema Taiyo, in Obihiro

(Nishi 3, Minami 11)  
Tel: (0155) 20-1525



Times and movies are subject to change! (for space reasons not all movies are listed)  
To confirm, call or check online at: [http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/\\_obihiro/movie.shtml](http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/_obihiro/movie.shtml)

Title	Language	Dates
Zootopia	Subbed Eng	Until 10th
Captain America: Civil War	English	Until 10th
The Huntsman: Winter's War	English	All Month
The Revenant (R15)	Subbed Eng	From 18th

## Events Continued

When	What	Where/Contact
6/19 (Sun) 10:00~14:30	<b>36th Yachiyo Farm Festival</b> 第36回八千代牧場まつり Enjoy many fun events including free roast beef, straw bale rolling, local produce stores, animal petting, and more.	Yachiyo Farm 帯広市 八千代公共育成牧場 0155-59-2323 <a href="http://www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp/nouseibu/nouseika/yachiyofestival.html">http://www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp/nouseibu/nouseika/yachiyofestival.html</a>
6/19~9/11 (every Sunday) 11:00~16:00	<b>Obihiro Downtown Street Festival 2016</b> オビヒロホコテン2016 Enjoy various performances and activities, with plenty of local food on sale every Sunday at Downtown Obihiro.	Obihiro West 2 South 9-10/Hirokoji 帯広市西2条南9-10丁目、広小路 0155-23-4510 office@hokoten.net <a href="http://www.hokoten.net">http://www.hokoten.net</a>
6/25-26 Sat 10:00~ Sun 11:00~	<b>72nd Obihiro University Dormitory Festival</b> 帯広畜産大学 第72回寮祭 Enjoy various food stands, stage performances, and other events organized by Obihiro University student clubs.	Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine 帯広畜産大学 chikudairyousai.web.fc2.com

## Now Accepting Applications for Host Families! ホストファミリー募集中!

Every summer the Domestic and International Relations section holds exchange programs for high school students with its sister-city Seward, Alaska (USA) and friendship city Choyang (China). To make this experience successful, we need volunteer host families to host students for 2-3 nights between **August 9th and August 20th**. Students will also participate in activities organized by Obihiro City, but need families to host and have them experience a real home in Obihiro!

For more information or to apply please contact Coordinator Elaine by Friday, July 8th  
Tel: 0155-65-4133, Fax: 0155-23-0171  
Email: [international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](mailto:international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp)



**Obihiro Pioneer** can be found at the following locations: Obihiro City Hall, Tokachi International Relations Center, Obihiro University International Center, Obihiro Tourism and Convention Center inside the Obihiro JR Station, Obihiro Public Library, Tokachi Plaza, Cinema Taiyo, Joy English Academy and online at [www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](http://www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp) (click on "Information for Foreigners")

"Obihiro Pioneer" is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro International and Domestic Relations Section for residents of the Tokachi District and related parties. The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the official views or opinions of the International and Domestic Relations Section or the City of Obihiro. Questions? Tel (0155) 65-4133 or send e-mail to the Editing Team at [international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp](mailto:international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp).