

By Shari Friedel

Tribune Staff

Perkins County High School junior Christian Miyamoto will have the unique opportunity to travel to the country of his heritage, Japan, as a student ambassador next summer.



The two-week trip will include visits to Tokyo, Takayama, Gifu, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Miyajima with a variety of activities at each site such as a visits to temples, historical sites, a farming village, parks and museums.

The trip is sponsored by People to People International, whose goal is to bridge cultural and political borders through interaction, and promote world peace through understanding.

Miyamoto's interest in the project was sparked when he received a letter inviting him to an informational meeting.

After researching the program, and discovering the opportunity to visit Japan was a possibility, he continued the application process, meeting with adult leaders, filling out an application and gathering letters of recommendation on which selection is based.

In preparation for the trip, Miyamoto is required to attend meetings and classrooms to learn global awareness, citizen and ambassador skills, communication and leadership and cultural information on Japan. He will receive 120 hours of instructional hours, or one semester of high school credit in ambassador studies, which will transfer as college credit.

The community will have the opportunity to support his endeavor with several fundraisers he plans over the next few months. He will provide full service gas pumping, windshield washing and tire checks at a local gas station, paint house numbers on curbs and do odd jobs for any interested persons.

In a unique fundraising scheme, he raffled tickets for “the best seat in the house,” a seat in a recliner on the sidelines of the round one playoff game at Haenfler Field, between Perkins County (of which he is a team member) and Bridgeport.

In addition to football, Miyamoto has been active in wrestling, track, mock trial, drama, music, art, student council, National Honor Society, swimming, baseball and is currently working on his Eagle Scout project.

He is the son of Dennis and Leslie Miyamoto of Grant.