



The
EXPERIMENT
in International Living

CELEBRATING **90** YEARS

はじめまして

JAPAN: JAPANESE LANGUAGE + CULTURE
JAPAN: ANIME + MANGA

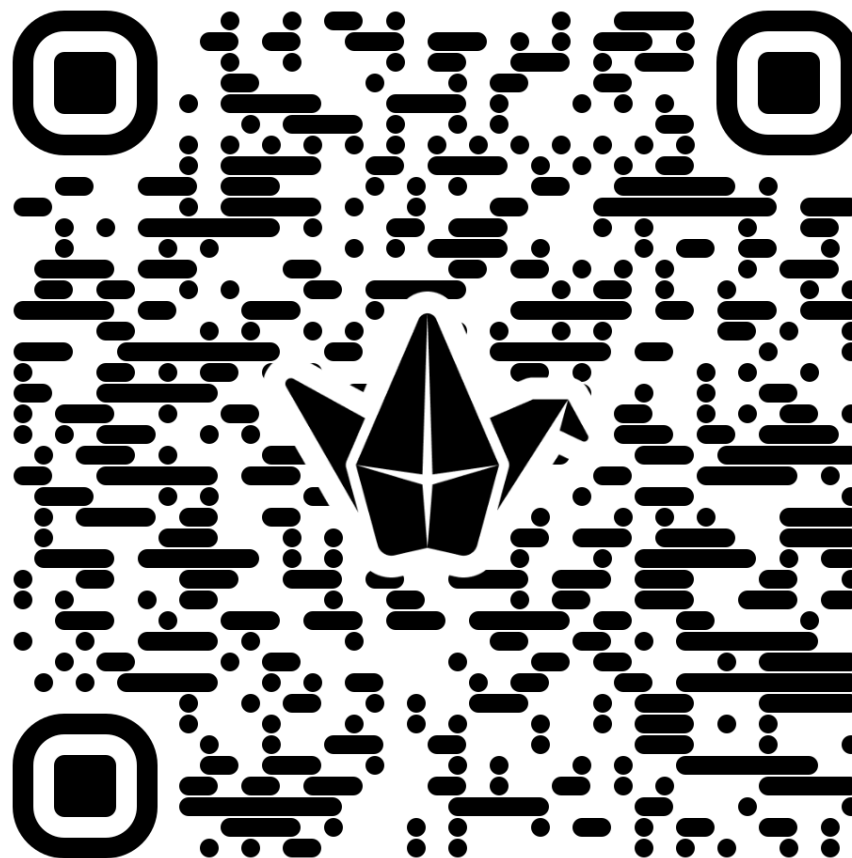
PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION 2026



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WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS



Topics

- Introduction
- Travel Information
- Program Itinerary Overview
- Pre-Departure Planning
- Packing List
- Accommodations
- Temples & Shrines
- Program Expectations:
Communication + Group Learning
- Communication while abroad
- Homestay
- Learning Goals & Identity on Program
- Q+A





MEET-UP POINT & AIRPORT HOTEL STAY

- Domestic Travel Planning Guidelines with International Flight Information
- Pre-Departure Hotel & Orientation Information



Review the *To Do Checklist*, Experimenter Handbook, page 10

Pre-Departure Hotel Information: **Japan**

Experiment Japan participants are required to stay at the pre-departure hotel at Los Angeles International Airport the night before departure. Group leaders will begin program activities that evening, and the group will travel to the airport together the next morning for the flight to Japan. Experiment South Korea participants will also be staying at the hotel during this time.

Dinner will be all together, and orientation activities will be organized by program.

FIRST DAY TRAVEL INSTRUCTIONS

Meeting Place: Hilton Garden Inn LAX Los Angeles Airport: 5249 W Century Blvd, Los Angeles, California, 90045

Airport Arrival Time: Please try to have your student arrive at LAX by 3:30pm

Meeting Time: By 5:00PM on Sunday, July 12, 2026

Hotel Shuttle Instructions: Your student will need to take the complimentary hotel shuttle from Los Angeles International Airport to the Hilton Garden Inn LAX Los Angeles Airport Hotel to meet the group leaders.

1. Once you have retrieved your luggage from baggage claim, please proceed to the Departures (Upper) level. Once you are on the Upper level, look for the red "Hotel & Private Parking Shuttle" sign, and wait there.
2. **Look for this shuttle below. It is a shared shuttle between Hilton Garden Inn LAX and Hampton Inn, and both hotel names will be on the side, along with the name VPNE. There is another shuttle for Hilton Garden Inn El Segundo – Do not take that shuttle!**



3. The shuttle runs every 20-30 minutes. If you do not see the shuttle after 20 minutes, please call the Hilton Garden Inn LAX at 310-645-2200 and let them know you have arrived and your terminal number.
4. If you need other support or directions, call our on call team at (802) 258-3481.

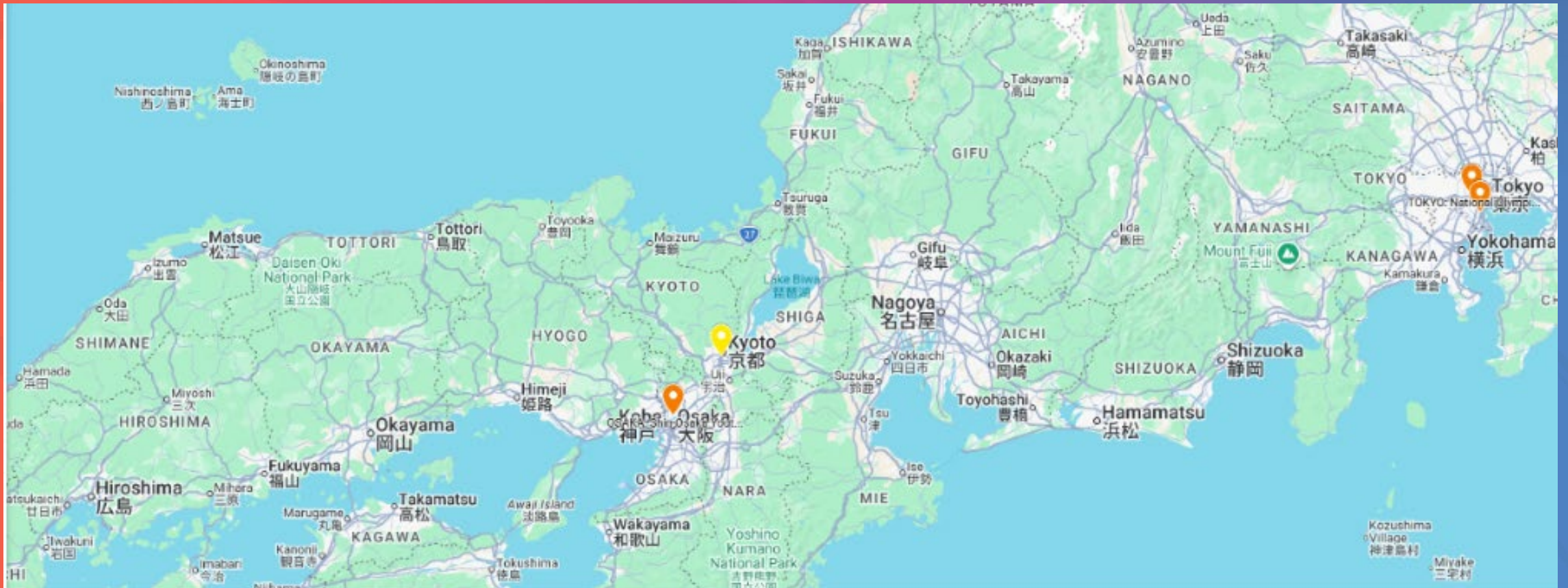


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	Pre-Departure Orientation	Orientation	Thematic Focus	Homestay	Learning Synthesis
Language & Culture (Osaka)	LAX Airport Hotel	Tokyo	Osaka	Tokyo	Tokyo
Anime & Manga			Tokyo	Kyoto	

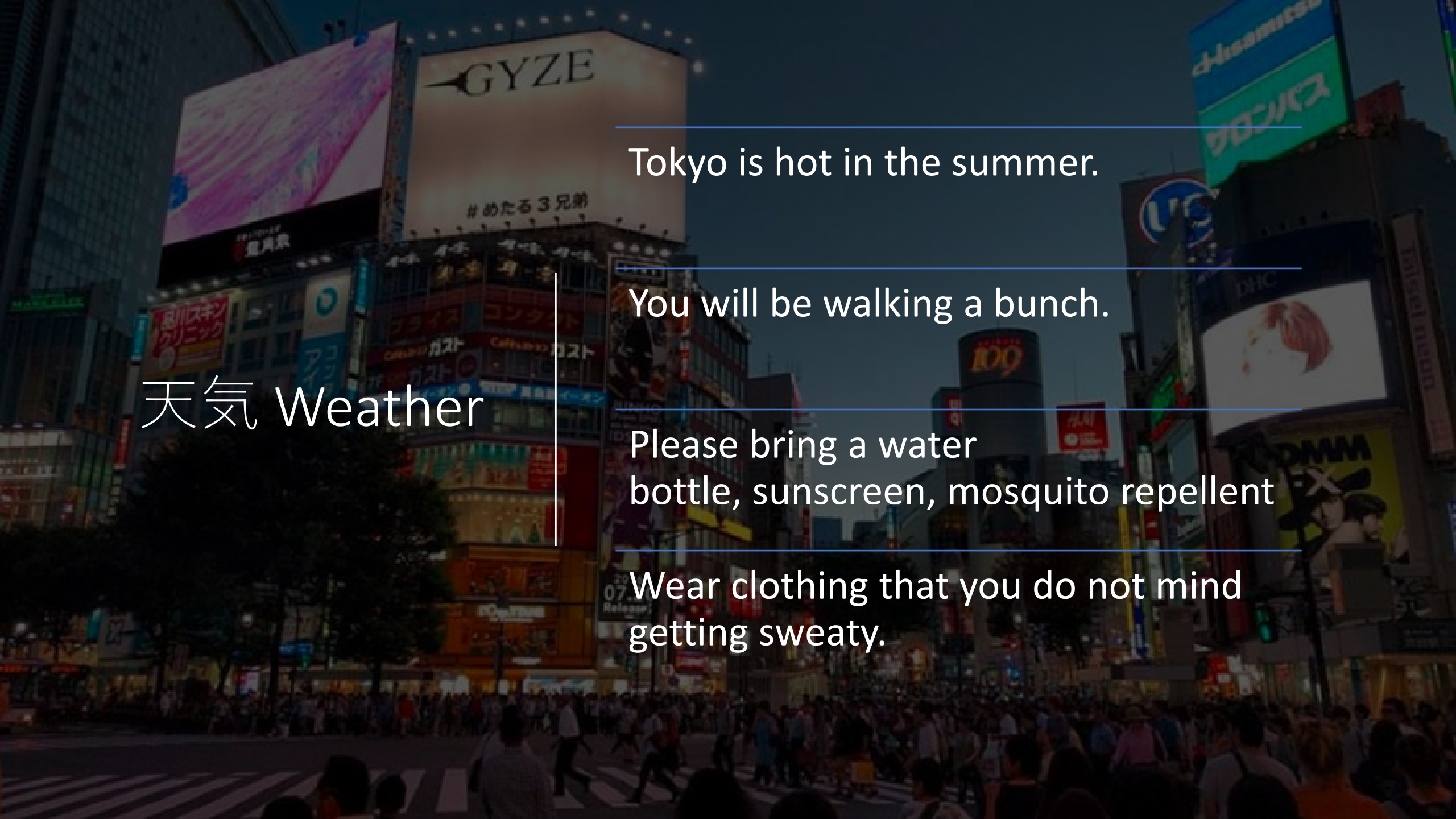
PROGRAM ITINERARY OVERVIEW



PRE-DEPARTURE PLANNING: PACKING & FUNDS ABROAD



- The Experimenter Handbook
- Family Handbook
- The Experiment Policies
- Domestic Travel Planning Guidelines with International Flight Information
- Pre-Departure Hotel & Orientation Information
- Health Guidelines
- HIPAA Form
 - HIPAA Form- Completed Example
- Personal Funds Abroad
- Packing List (Tokyo)
- Packing List (Osaka)
- The Experiment Guide to Traveling with Allergies/Intolerances
- The Experiment Guide to Travel Vaccinations & Medications



天気 Weather

Tokyo is hot in the summer.

You will be walking a bunch.

Please bring a water bottle, sunscreen, mosquito repellent

Wear clothing that you do not mind getting sweaty.

PACKING

- Essentials
- Towels* (Osaka)
- Shower shoes
- Laundry
- Pocket WiFi



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- A collection of folded clothing items, including shirts, pants, and socks, laid out on a light-colored surface. A pair of sunglasses and a pair of sandals are also visible at the bottom. The items are arranged in a somewhat organized manner, with some items folded into neat stacks and others laid out individually. The colors of the clothing range from neutral tones like white and black to more vibrant colors like blue, red, and green. The sunglasses are black with a reflective lens, and the sandals are brown with a simple strap design.





Luggage Transport: Day Bags

Japanese Language & Culture Group (Osaka):

1. Pack a separate day bag for Orientation (2-night stay) in Tokyo.
2. When you arrive in Japan (14 July) your luggage will be sent to Osaka
3. After orientation (16 July), you head for Osaka and will meet your luggage at the hostel.

**** Put your passport, medication, and other valuables in your Day Bag.**



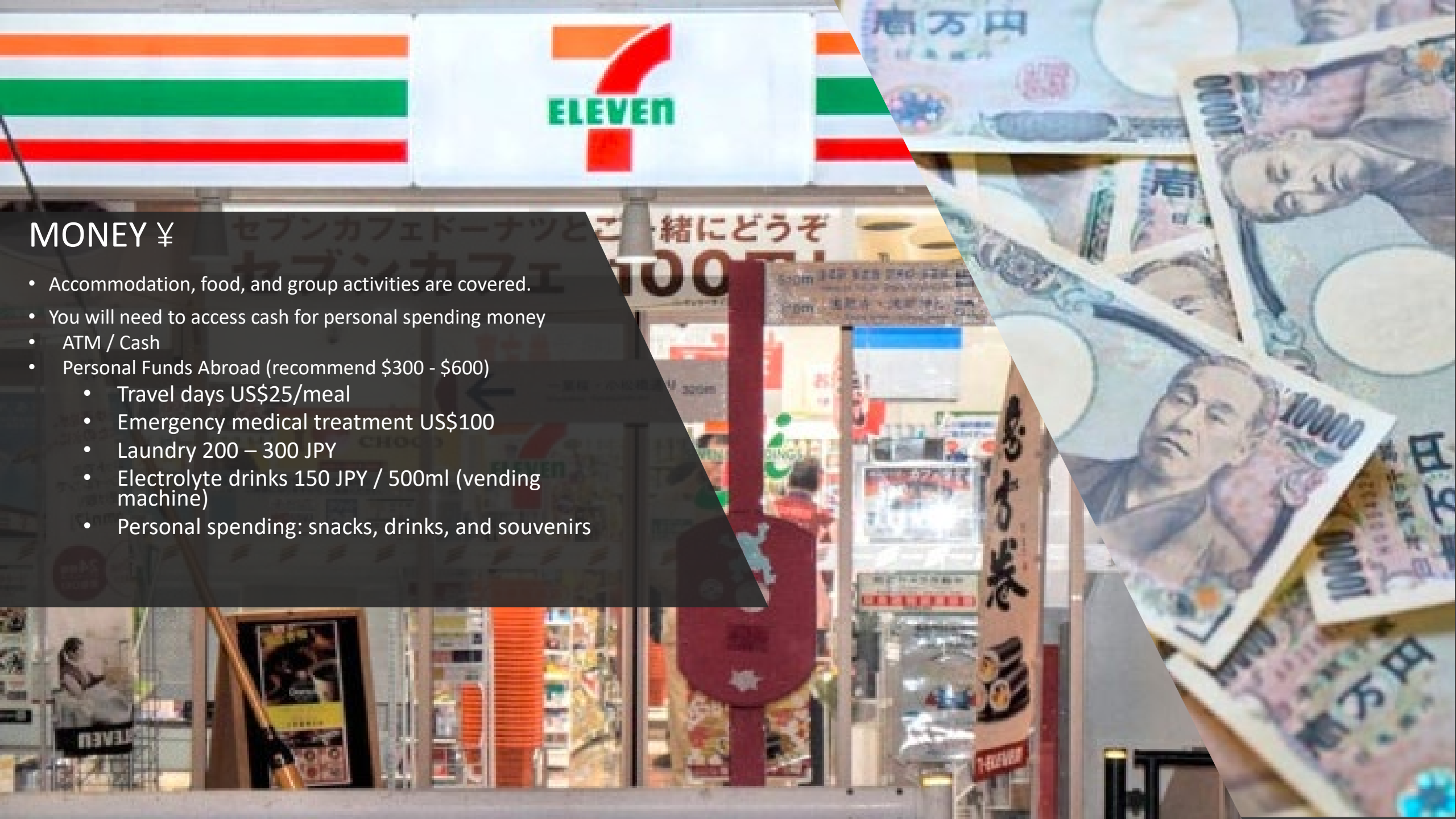
Luggage transport: Day Bags

- All Groups:
 - 24 July: Laundry in the evening and pack a Day Bag for Excursion (3-night stay) to your homestay
 - 25 – 27 July: Homestay
 - 28 – 29 July: Excursion Host Communities
 - Students can do laundry once at their host family home, but not your entire laundry please.

**** Put your passport, medication, and other valuables in your Day Bag.**

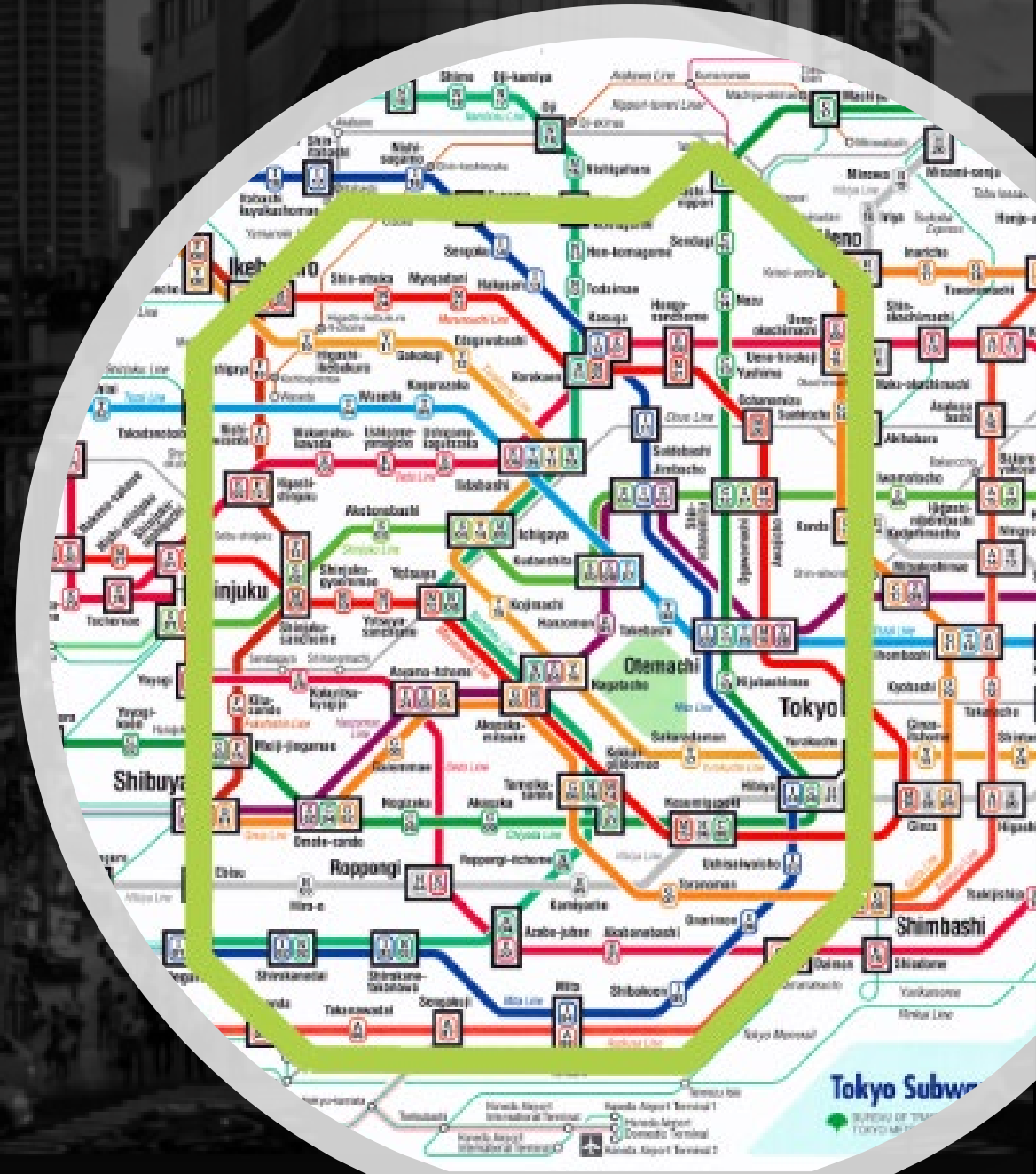
MONEY ¥

- Accommodation, food, and group activities are covered.
- You will need to access cash for personal spending money
- ATM / Cash
- Personal Funds Abroad (recommend \$300 - \$600)
 - Travel days US\$25/meal
 - Emergency medical treatment US\$100
 - Laundry 200 – 300 JPY
 - Electrolyte drinks 150 JPY / 500ml (vending machine)
 - Personal spending: snacks, drinks, and souvenirs



Traveling Around 日本

- Passport safety and responsibility
- Transit
 - バス (Bus)
 - 電車 (Train)



Accommodations

- You may be sleeping on traditional Japanese bedding 布団
- Please do not leave your ゴミ (Trash) behind!
- Indoor slippers vs. Bathroom slippers
- What you need to know about tatami floors in accommodations.
- You may be sitting on the floor (in designated spaces).



Communal Baths

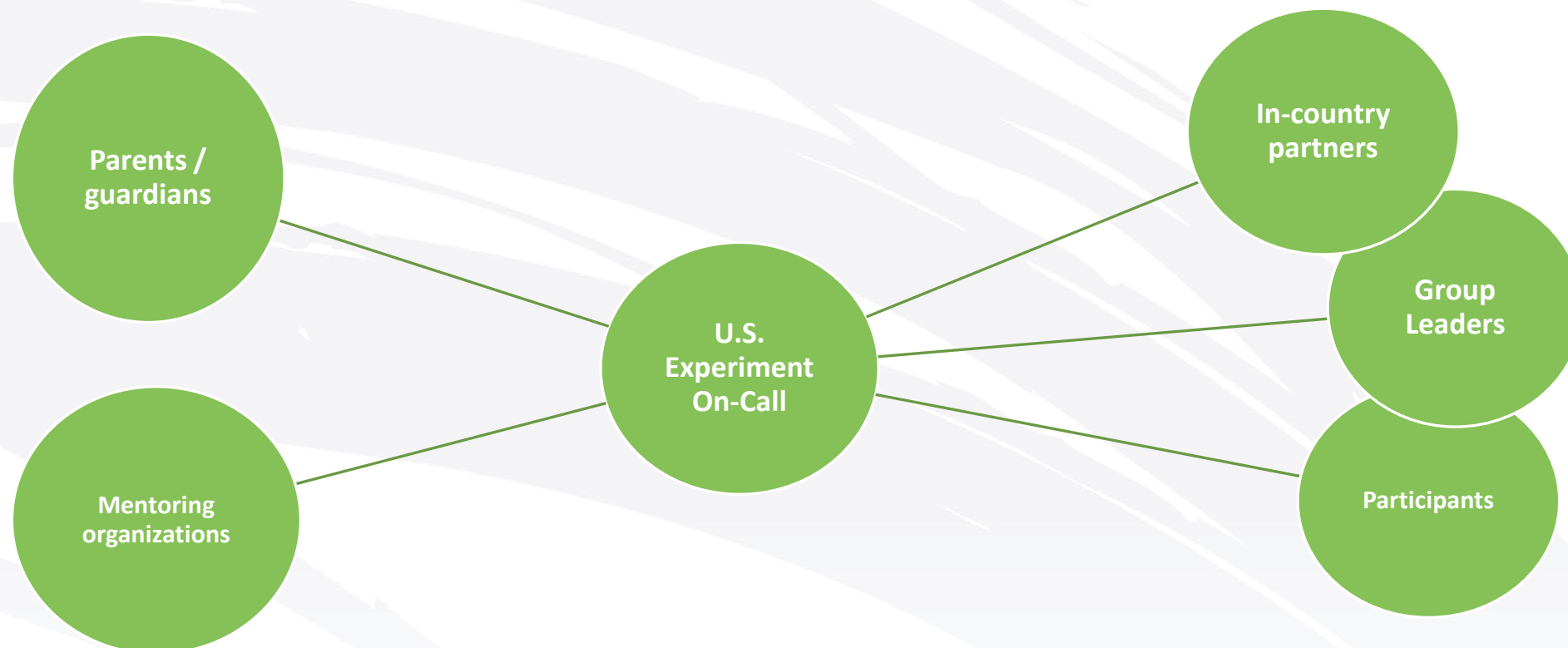


Temples and Shrines 神殿

- Japan is full of many Temples and Shrines.
- When entering these spaces please do so with care.
- Wear appropriate clothing (Shoulders should be covered).

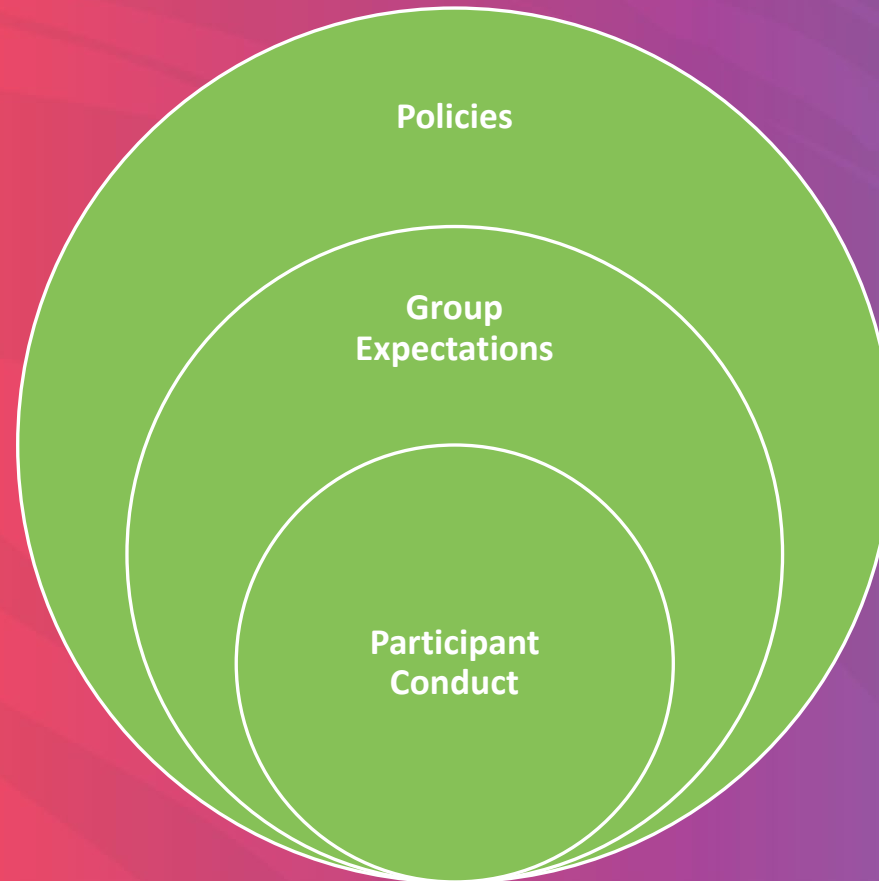


COMMUNICATION DURING PROGRAM



Experiment On-Call: 802-258-3481 EILOnCallSupport@experiment.org

CULTURE OF COLLECTIVE CARE



Participant Expectations

- You are an ambassador
- Tokyo has many similarities and differences from your home communities
- Please make sure you are honoring Japanese culture by watching how locals interact and guidance from your leaders
- Etiquette – eating, classroom, home, public transit/travel, phone/tech use
- Gendered spaces – public baths
- Ask people before taking their picture
- Please ask if you are confused about a cultural norm. Leaders and in-country staff are there to help!



LEARNING GOALS & IDENTITY

Review *Identity While
Abroad*, Experiment
Handbook, page 20



“My host family experience, in my mind, could not have been any better. My host family took me in as one of their own! I usually was watching/ playing with the kids, but I also helped around the house when asked. I learned that the world is just as curious as I thought. By that I mean it was a back and forth learning experience. As I cleared misconceptions, I learned more about culture. As I practiced my Japanese, I fortified the bonds of mutual exchange.”

- Francesca, Experimenter to Japan



QUESTIONS?



info@experiment.org