

Taber Notogawa Friendship Society

The Town of Taber and the Town of Notogawa signed the first twinning agreement in 1981. Between 1981 and 1999, a group of Taber citizens (adults) visited Notogawa and representatives from Notogawa traveled to Taber. Because of a desire to institute a student exchange program between the two towns, the Taber-Notogawa Friendship Society was formed in 1999. The Society exists to promote goodwill between the citizens of Taber and Notogawa, primarily through the student exchange program, and has essentially taken over this responsibility from the Town of Taber. Although the Town of Taber provides some financial support to the Society, the Society handles all details of the student exchange program and undertakes various fund-raising activities to pay for the costs of hosting Notogawa students each fall. Taber students who are selected to visit Japan are responsible for all costs of the trip to Notogawa, and receive no funding from either the town or the Society. Since the formation of the Society, more than 80 Taber junior high students and chaperones have visited Notogawa, and in exchange, more than 55 students and adults from Notogawa have come to Taber. The twinning agreement between Taber and Notogawa was resigned in Notogawa in July 2001, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the original agreement.