



# CHERRY BLOSSOM PROGRAM





### **NCSS Premier Events Sponsor Prospectus**

- NCSS Introduction
- NCSS Cherry Blossom Delegate Program
  - Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, + Enhancing the Future
- Sponsor Categories + Benefits
- Schedule of Events
- Delegate Experiences
- Your Generosity



#### INTRODUCTION

- The National Conference of States Societies (NCSS) was founded and chartered by Congress in April 1952.
- We are a 501 (c) 3 and 501 (c) 4 non-profit organization representing the United States and Territories.
- Our membership includes state and territorial expatriates including students, members of the military, active and retired lobbyists and government workers, members of Congress and staff living in the national capital region.
- Our membership from the 55 state and territorial societies is approximately 20,000 people.



#### NCSS + U.S. GOVERNMENT

- In 1948 NCSS joined the DC Commissioners in restarting the prewar Cherry Blossom Festival to rebuild friendly relations with Japan.
- The role of the state societies was to sponsor events and develop an educational and cultural exchange program that cherry blossom delegates participate in during the final week of the National Cherry Blossom Festival®.
- All state societies are nonpartisan, and include active participation by state members of Congress, many of whom have in the past and still serve as officers of state societies.
- Former President Lyndon B. Johnson was a president of the Texas State Society in 1955 when he was Senate Majority Leader.
- Three active members of Congress are Cherry Blossom Delegate (Princess) alumni: Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (MI) and Senators Shelley Moore-Capito (WVA) and Lisa Murkowski (AK)







#### NCSS CHERRY BLOSSOM PROGRAM

- Since 1948, the National Conference of State Societies has selected accomplished young women to share their state or country's rich culture, traditions, and history with national and international visitors and dignitaries at the National Cherry Blossom Festival and abroad as "Cherry Blossom Princesses."
- The Delegates participate in a weeklong program of educational, leadership, cultural and community service activities alongside the newly crowned Japan Cherry Blossom Princess.
- They are selected by a state society or an embassy for their leadership, academic achievements, and interest in social, civic, community and world affairs.
- The mission of the program is to provide these young women with an opportunity to learn from the many role models in government, military, and business in the nation's capital, as well as to foster multi-generational mentorship among the Princesses.
- Over 3,000 accomplished young women have participated in the National Conference of State Societies Cherry Blossom Princess Program and it remains a great gateway for cultural exchange and friendship.





#### **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

- Pearl
- Platinum
- Gold
- Silver



## PEARL SPONSOR: \$25,000

- 6x Reserved seating at Japanese Stone Lantern Lighting Ceremony
- 4x Japan Embassy U.S. Cherry Blossom Delegates Reception
- 4x NCSS and Japan Ambassador Congressional VIP Reception
- 6x Tickets to NCSS U.S. Cherry Blossom Celebration Gala
- Speaking Opportunity at the NCSS U.S. Cherry Blossom Celebration Gala
- 4x Tickets to the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade
- 4x VIP Tickets to a private reception at the Sakura Matsuri Festival
- Verbal recognition at all NCSS Premier Events
- Full-page ad in 2024 Cherry Blossom Program
- Social media recognition
- Japan Embassy Private Sponsor Reception after the festival







## PLATINUM SPONSOR: \$15,000

- 4x Reserved seating at Japanese Stone Lantern Lighting Ceremony
- 4x Japan Embassy U.S. Cherry Blossom Delegates Reception
- 2x NCSS and Japan Ambassador Congressional VIP Reception
- 4x Tickets to NCSS U.S. Cherry Blossom Celebration Gala
- 2x Tickets to the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade
- 2x VIP Tickets to a private reception at the Sakura Matsuri Festival
- Verbal recognition at all NCSS Premier Events
- Half-page ad in 2024 Cherry Blossom Program
- Social media recognition
- Japan Embassy Private Sponsor Reception after the festival





## GOLD SPONSOR: \$10,000

- 2x Reserved seating at Japanese Stone Lantern Lighting Ceremony
- 2x Japan Embassy U.S. Cherry Blossom Delegates Reception
- 2x NCSS and Japan Ambassador Congressional VIP Reception
- 4x Tickets to NCSS U.S. Cherry Blossom Celebration Gala
- 2x Tickets to the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade
- 2x VIP Tickets to a private reception at the Sakura Matsuri Festival
- Verbal recognition at all NCSS Premier Events
- Quarter-page ad in 2024 Cherry Blossom Program
- Social media recognition
- Japan Embassy Private Sponsor Reception after the festival





## SILVER SPONSOR: \$5,000

- 2x Reserved seating at Japanese Stone Lantern Lighting Ceremony
- 2x Japan Embassy U.S. Cherry Blossom Delegates Reception
- 2x NCSS and Japan Ambassador Congressional VIP Reception
- 2x Tickets to NCSS U.S. Cherry Blossom Celebration Gala
- 2x Tickets to the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade
- Verbal recognition at all NCSS Premier Events
- Quarter-page ad in 2024 Cherry Blossom Program
- Social media recognition



#### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS



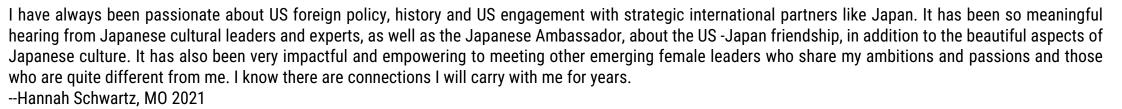
Benefit	Pearl Sponsor	Platinum Sponsor	Gold Sponsor	Silver Sponsor
Reserved Seating at Japanese Stone Lantern Lighting Ceremony	6	4	2	2
Japan Embassy U.S. Cherry Blossom Delegate Reception	4	4	2	2
NCSS + Japan Ambassador Congressional VIP Reception	4	2	2	2
NCSS U.S. Cherry Blossom Celebration Gala	6	4	4	2
Speaking Opportunity at NCSS U.S. Cherry Blossom Gala	**			
National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade	4	2	2	2
VIP Private reception at Sakura Matsuri Festival	4	2	2	
Event Recognition (Verbal + Print)	Full Page	Half Page	Quarter Page	Quarter Page
Social Media Recognition		*	*	**
Japan Embassy Private Sponsor Reception		**		



## NCSS PREMIER CHERRY BLOSSOM EVENTS

- Sunday, April 7 Japanese Stone Lantern Lighting Ceremony
- Tuesday, April 9 Cherry Blossom Delegate reception, Japan Embassy
- Wednesday, April 10 NCSS Congressional Reception
- Friday, April 12 NCSS Cherry Blossom Celebration Gala + Crowning of 2024 U.S. Cherry Blossom Queen
- Saturday, April 113 NCBF® Parade + Sakura Matsuri Festival





I genuinely believe the Cherry Blossom Program came into my life at just the right time. As a recent graduate just starting my career, I have learned so much from my fellow princesses and alumni about the workforce. I loved the Women's Empowerment Conference. This program also inspired me to learn more about Japanese culture and introduced me to amazing young women who I intend to keep as my lifelong friends! Thank you for an incredible week! --Anisha Gupte, FL 2021

This has been one of the best weeks of my life. Even with the restrictions and changes to the program it was impactful. I made so many new friends and connections. I was able to dress up and represent my state at ceremonial events and learned about the Japanese culture. It was amazing to be surrounded by a group of inspiring young women. I was definitely surprised by the full days of programming and enjoyed the "speed dating" and talking with professional women at the Women's Empowerment Conference.

--Catherine Kildea, NJ 2021







The Cherry Blossom Princess Program is a phenomenal way to meet inspiring women from across the globe and learn about Japanese culture, all while celebrating the US – Japan relations in our Nation's capital. It empowered me to speak up about my state and find my own voice. It also offered me the opportunity to meeting with leaders across DC. I have made many friendships that I will cherish forever and highly recommend this program to any young woman.

--Kelly Babphavong, RI 2021

This experience has been so rewarding! I am so glad I had the opportunity to represent the great state of Wisconsin in this year's program. As an international affairs graduate student, I love learning and experience different cultures. This program allowed me to learn about Japan and their culture right her in DC! Some of my favorite activities were the Lantern Lighting with the Japanese Ambassador, Kimono Demonstration, Tea Ceremony, Sushi reception and the Women's Empowerment Conference. Something that surprised me was the vast history of the program! So many incredible women have participated that it is an honor to follow in their footsteps. I loved meeting Japanese Americans and learning about their experiences in the US.

--Gabrielle Goldfarb, WI 2021

After college I haven't had many outlets to meet and network with other driven women who are in similar life stages. I love the change to meet smart women from around the country and attend events where we can build each other up. I am leaving this week with more confidence, connections and friendships. --Dana Eble, MI 2021



#### **YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT**

We hope we can count on you to assist us in celebrating the 76th Anniversary of this amazing program. Please join us as we continue the strengthening of the US and Japanese tradition of expanding cultural understanding, creating business development opportunities and international trade between our nations

•Your support of this exceptional and longstanding program will not only provide access to our NCSS Premier events throughout the week but allows exclusive access with the Japan Embassy and International communities. At the same time reach hundreds of thousands of people to promote your business.

•Our non-profit organization depends on the support of our Sponsor and Donor community to provide the amazing benefits NCSS has to offer.

Donations are fully tax exempt allowable under the law.



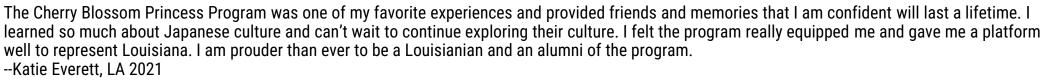




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I really appreciated the Women's Empowerment Conference and was surprised and amazed at the work the outstanding speakers have achieved. It was eye opening to see and hear the evidence of this during the conference and I left feeling empowered and inspired. This program is the first time I have experienced Japanese culture and it showed me how important it is to be culturally aware beyond America's borders. The princesses are diverse in ideas, beliefs and experiences, yet we all have one thing in common and that is we are driven!

--Alivia Roberts, MS 2021

The program really pushed me out of my comfort zone and surprised me how easy it was to make friends that I will have forever. The most interesting part was seeing all the different aspects of Japanese culture, such as the Kimono Demonstration, Origami and Ikebana. The most impactful part of the program was hearing all the different stories with motivational commonalities from the participants. Additionally, we now have an entire network of women we can utilize to reach our goals.

--Oliva Greenwood, GA 2021







The Cherry Blossom Princess Program was one of my favorite experiences and provided friends and memories that I am confident will last a lifetime. I learned so much about Japanese culture and can't wait to continue exploring their culture. I felt the program really equipped me and gave me a platform well to represent Louisiana. I am prouder than ever to be a Louisianian and an alumni of the program. --Katie Everett, LA 2021

My experience I the Cherry Blossom Princess Program has been wonderful! Working in a male dominated industry and being new to the DC area, this was incredibly refreshing and empowering. Learning about the Japanese culture has been so much fun and I'm walking away from the program with a deeper understanding of the world. --Hannah Glasgow, NM 2021

What surprised me about the program most was that I was able to make actual friends and meaningful connection in such a brief period of time. It was great that we all came from diverse backgrounds, but all still got along so well and had so much in common. What interested me the most about the week was learning about Japanese culture and the relations between Japan and the US. The most impactful experience this week was the Women's Empowerment Conference as it inspired me to join the workforce as a strong independent woman and to always believe in myself and my decisions. --Gianna Clegg, OH 2021



I have really enjoyed my time in the program! I had no idea how close I would get with the other women participants. I loved how we were encouraged to meet and interact with everyone. I was impacted by the Women's Empowerment Conference and learning how to have confidence in myself and knowing my worth. It was refreshing to be around other in my same stage of life and learning from each other's experiences. I believe I gained a great support system through this!

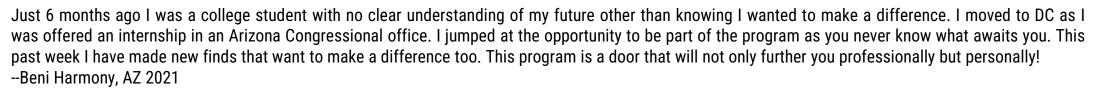
--Brooke Oliver, TX 2021

Before I came to the program, I had no idea of what to expect. I applied because of my deep interest in Japanese culture and language. It seemed like the perfect opportunity not only to represent my state and get out of my comfort zone, but also to enhance my relationships and my knowledge of our country's relationship with Japan and Japanese culture. It was much more than this. This program forced me to learn more about myself and the other wonderful women around me, I am forever thankful. Additionally, I have learned so much more about the Japanese culture than I imagined. All of the activities were enriching and insightful.

I was surprised by how much I enjoyed the week. I believe this program is for all type of young women and it didn't matter that I didn't fit what I thought was the stereotype of a princess. The Women's Empowerment Conference, especially the panel of speakers, was really impactful. I appreciated hearing from those that had experience in the Federal Government since I work as a staffer in the Senate. I was encouraged by them to ask for what I want at work. --Erin Stuart, AK 2021







Throughout the program I was surprised with how much I had in common with the other young women. I had so many connections very quickly and it made it easier to make friends. Although I've been to DC many times, we saw and experience many cultural things that were new to me. My time getting to know the other women was the most impactful. Hearing and sharing storing, relations to each other and making great memories. --Molly Sullivan, KY 2021

The Cherry Blossom Princess Program has impacted my life in many ways. Through the program I was able to make new friends, expand my network, learn about the Japanese culture and the symbolism of Cherry Blossoms. Thank you NCSS and Alumni for proving an impressive program and network for future female leaders in our country. I will recommend this program to all young ladies because I am sure it will have an amazing impact on their life as it has for me.



--Brielle Simmons, DC 2021