



Japan Festival 2025

Saturday, July 19, 11am to 6 pm
Sports Park East • Skokie, Illinois

July 1, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Come celebrate culture, community, and connections at **Japan Festival 2025**: a high-energy, family-friendly celebration of all things Japanese!

From taiko drums to J-pop, kimono fashion to anime art, and tea ceremonies to street food favorites, Japan Festival brings together the best of old and new Japan – all in one vibrant summer day. Whether you're coming with kids, friends, or flying solo, there's something for everyone to explore, experience, and enjoy.

Japan Fest 2025 marks the 40th anniversary of this community celebration, hosted by the Chicago Japanese American Council with support from the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago. This year's festival promises a dynamic blend of traditional and contemporary Japanese performances, cultural demonstrations, hands-on activities, and authentic eats.

All Chicagoland community members are invited to join us in making Japan Fest 2025 a joyful and inclusive celebration of friendship, heritage, and shared community spirit. Admission to the fest is FREE!

–30–

Date & Time: Saturday, July 19, 2025 • 11am to 6pm

Location: Sports Park East

3333 Oakton Street

Skokie IL 60076

www.japanfest-chicago.org

Facebook: @JapanFestfestivalChicago

Instagram: @JapanFestivalChicago

See following pages for Performance/Demonstration Schedule and Sponsors



CHICAGO JAPANESE AMERICAN COUNCIL

8600 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 700N • Chicago, IL 60631
(312) 245-8344 • info@chicagojac.org • www.chicagojac.org



**Consulate-General
of Japan in Chicago**

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(312) 280-0400 • jic@cg.mofa.go.jp
www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html



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Performance/Demonstration Schedule

11:00 am – Opening Ceremony

A celebratory kickoff with special guests and announcements to start the festival with energy and gratitude.

11:20 am – Ho Etsu Taiko part 1

12:20 pm – Ho Etsu Taiko part 2

A thrilling Japanese drumming group based in Chicago. They use large drums (taiko) to deliver powerful, high-energy rhythms you can feel in your chest.

11:38 am – Chicago Koto Group

A traditional music ensemble that performs using the koto, a 13-string Japanese harp. Expect beautiful, elegant melodies that transport you to classical Japan.

11:58 am – Fuko Kyudojo

A demonstration of kyudo, the Japanese art of archery. It's not just about hitting the target – it's a meditative practice focused on form, discipline, and inner calm.

12:36 pm – Kyokushin Karate Kanku Dojo

An intense, full-contact karate style known for its powerful strikes and deep discipline. You'll see precision, strength, and serious martial arts spirit.

12:56 pm – JKA Chicago, Sugiyama Dojo

This group showcases traditional Shotokan karate from the Japan Karate Association. Expect crisp forms, expert technique, and a focus on respect and control.

1:16 pm – Chimu Don Don & Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai

A performance of Okinawan culture – music, dance, and possibly colorful costumes – celebrating the tropical southern islands of Japan with a joyful and rhythmic flair.

2:09 pm – Mikoren Group

A vibrant cultural performance group presenting Japanese folk dances. Expect colorful outfits, traditional music, and audience-friendly fun!

2:29 pm – Kendama Demonstration

Kendama is a Japanese skill toy that looks like a wooden ball on a stick. This demo shows tricks, creativity, and hand-eye coordination—great for kids and adults alike!

2:59 pm – Cosplay Contest (Mario Kart Kids, Shiba-Inu, General Public)

A fun, costume-based competition! Kids will dress up as their favorite Mario Kart characters, dog lovers will showcase Shiba Inu-themed cosplay, and the general public is invited to show off creative Japanese or anime-inspired outfits.

4:02 pm – Chicago Kendo Dojo

Kendo is Japanese fencing with bamboo swords and armor. This demo will show fast strikes, loud calls, and competitive spirit—modern samurai in action!

4:22 pm – Aikido Association of America

Aikido is a peaceful martial art focused on using an opponent's energy against them. It's graceful, flowing, and emphasizes self-control and harmony.

4:42 pm – Mugai Ryu Chicago

This is classical Japanese swordsmanship—samurai-style. They'll demonstrate how the katana (samurai sword) was traditionally drawn, cut, and sheathed with precision.

6:00 pm – Closing Ceremony

A heartfelt thank-you and farewell to all attendees, participants, and supporters – wrapping up a day of culture, community, and celebration.



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