

## SENIOR CAMP COUNSELOR REFLECTIONS SUMMER 2017

SCOA was an amazing experience for me. I feel that I learned so much being immersed in Japanese culture and working with all the kids at camp. I will always have fond memories of my teams that were each so wonderful to work with. My favorite part of SCOA has to be the Survivor camps where we worked with older teens on their leadership skills and working together as a team. Over the camps, we were able to go on hikes and really have time to get to know each and every camper individually. However, SCOA is no walk in the park either, we were always on duty taking care of our team and doing activities throughout the day. Every day is jam-packed with sports, games and recreational time that give the campers a real American summer camp experience. Overall, I had a great experience at SCOA, from meeting the other counselors that have become lifelong friends for me to bonding with campers, all of those memories I will cherish for the rest of my life.

- Sam

SCOA exposed me to another culture and another way of life that I don't know that I ever would have seen without this opportunity. I loved getting to know dozens of different campers from a whole range of age groups, making them smile, laugh, and enjoy sports, English, and their crazy American SCOA counselors! Not only did I get to spend my summer playing with and teaching sweet, fun Japanese kids, but I also learned about Japan, including the tsunami and earthquake tragedy that struck in 2011. Participating in the benefit camp for the families and children affected most directly by that disaster was a deeply moving experience I won't soon forget. I am grateful to have had this opportunity to meet the people of Japan, enjoy delicious Japanese food, learn some fundamental Japanese phrases, and see Japan through the eyes of its youngest citizens!

Brynna