

Wisconsin/Jalisco

This was an educational exchange of middle school children, which greeted students in both Wisconsin and Jalisco, Mexico.

Madison students visited Guadalajara, in Jalisco, Mexico during the Wisconsin school session's spring break and were treated to school visits and educational tours during their stay.

They also reported a lesson in traveling with large groups - never agree to let children exchange chaperons or join other groups during the visit! After 3 hours of police assisted searches, three "lost" students were found, but missed their travel connections for their return trip. Each chaperon thought children were with the other chaperon. Luckily things turned out alright, but there were some very nervous adults.

Wisconsin/Chiba, Japan

The Wisconsin/Chiba delegation departed for Chiba, Japan in June and were accompanied by the Madison Boys Choir and a native American Indian artist from Wisconsin.

Even though a new Japanese Language Consultant funded by the Japan Foundation, we can expect fewer teacher exchanges this coming year due to program funding cuts, which makes us appreciate the successful student and teacher exchanges that transpired over this last year.

The "Women of Wings", which is made up of 33 women from Chiba from all walks of life will again visit Wisconsin this year to take in the educational, cultural and business aspects of Wisconsin.

Milwaukee's International Snow Sculpting Competition

This was the 8th year that Milwaukee hosted the U.S. International Competition for Snow Sculpting, with teams from Bulgaria, Canada, Italy, Switzerland, France, China, Paraguay, Mexico, Wales, England, the USA and the Winnebago Nation. The three member teams have five days to complete their artistic creations without use of power tools. That may seem easy, but remember they begin with a six foot long, six foot wide and ten foot high block of snow.

This years winners were: 1st place-China; 2nd place-Canada; 3rd place-Winnebago Nation, with some of the sculptors going on to the Olympic Winter Games for competition, (the US team won the bronze medal in this artistic competition).

This is a wonderful opportunity for our states' sister cities to participate in a seasonal event and invite participants to the event from their sister cities and surrounding area.