

BEYOND Tomorrow Endeavor 2018 Participants



Meia Iida Nagano Nishi High School, Nagano Prefecture

Meia lost her mother to suicide at a young age and entered the foster care system. Because of this experience, she feels that she has a unique ability to connect with children who are victims of abuse or domestic conflicts, offering realistic perspectives and solutions. She wants to dedicate her life to creating a “home” for children, and she wants to explore different career paths including media in order to achieve this goal. Meia has participated in BEYOND Tomorrow since starting high school, and now in her third year, she hopes this year will be one where she can play on her strengths and help create an environment that welcomes others to express their opinions.



Haruna Shimoji Takashima High School, Tokyo Prefecture

Haruna had times when she felt pain for not being able to live with her parents. Despite these challenges, her older sister never missed a beat and kept forging forward. Inspired by her, Haruna decided to become a dental hygienist. Aiming to be a hygienist who can touch people’s hearts and make them smile, she decided to pursue further education. She participated in a short-term home stay program in Seattle to broaden her horizons, and after that experience, she was inspired to continue meeting more people and learn about the world, prompting her to apply to the BEYOND Tomorrow Endeavour program. Through this year with the program, she hopes to learn how to express her thoughts effectively.



Yuki Shirasaka Takamkizu High School

Inspired by the staff at the foster care group home who always supported him even when he created trouble for others, Yuki decided to pursue a career in social welfare. He wants to help children who carry various types of distress in their hearts as well as others who are similarly underserved by working in a consultation centre for children. Through his time with BEYOND Tomorrow Endeavour program, he hopes to participate in lively discussions and learn to articulate his feelings effectively. He also wants to grow up to be someone who is proud of his actions.



Akemi Nishizuka Yaotsu High School, Gifu Prefecture

Akemi grew up in a difficult family environment, often suffering on her own. When she finally discussed this with her high school teacher, she decided to enter a foster care group home. There, she was supported by lots of people, and she learned how to trust adults for the first time. Until she entered the group home, she never had the wherewithal to think about her future, but now, she is thinking to work to support children who, like herself, are suffering difficult situations. She hopes that the BEYOND Tomorrow Endeavour program offers her an opportunity to make new discoveries and grow into a person with a positive outlook.



Sho Fujimoto Kukihokuyo High School, Saitama Prefecture

As a victim of bullying during his time in a foster care group home, Sho decided that, when he grows up, he will serve as a support for other children who suffer similar experiences. He joined the BEYOND Tomorrow Endeavour program as a high school junior. Though he had been a young man of few words, shy to speak his mind, after participating in the Endeavour program, he thought to himself for the first time, “I want to change.” During his second year with the program, he wants to be proactive in making changes and learn to support his new friends. His dream is to eventually work in a foster care group home, after getting a teaching license at university.



Hazuki Murayama Tsuruoka Minami High School, Yamagata Prefecture

Hazuki grew up in a foster care group home, which inspired her to want to become someone who can care for others. She has several interests, including studying psychology to become a therapist and pursuing law to enter a field that helps those most in need. After participating in BEYOND Tomorrow as a high school junior, she was inspired by her experiences in engaging in deep conversations with peers and making new discoveries, prompting her to apply for the BEYOND Tomorrow Endeavour program. Over this year, she hopes to develop a leadership style that reflects her personality and supports her friends.