

## "Exploring Amami-Oshima: A Journey of Discovery and Collaboration"

Today, our group embarked on an enlightening educational journey to Amami-Oshima, a pristine island nestled in Japan. Our adventure was nothing short of extraordinary as we had the unique opportunity to immerse ourselves in the island's rich culture and natural wonders.

Our first memorable experience involved learning about the island's cuisine. Guided by local experts, we delved into the art of crafting a special pork dish unique to Amami-Oshima. The aromatic flavors and meticulous preparation techniques left a lasting impression, showcasing the deep culinary traditions of this remarkable place.

In the spirit of collaboration and community, we joined hands with local villagers to prepare for their bountiful harvest celebration. From setting up the festive grounds to assisting with food preparation, we were welcomed with open arms into their close-knit society. This hands-on involvement allowed us to appreciate the hard work and dedication that go into preserving their traditions and fostering a strong sense of togetherness.

Our exploration extended beyond the cultural sphere as we embarked on a thrilling field excursion into the island's lush wilderness. With the guidance of experienced naturalists, we encountered an array of unique species native to Amami-Oshima. The island's breathtaking landscapes served as the backdrop for our encounters with rare and endemic wildlife, further solidifying our connection with the island's ecological wonders.

In retrospect, our journey to Amami-Oshima was not just a typical educational trip; it was a voyage of discovery, collaboration, and profound cultural exchange. It reinforced the importance of preserving traditions, fostering community spirit, and appreciating the natural beauty that graces this remote island. As we returned home, our hearts and minds were filled with memories and experiences that will forever connect us to the enchanting Amami-Oshima.

We also prepared for the Sumo wrestling to be held during the Harvest Festival. The community, called "Seisounedan" Amami Oshima, was working in a congenial atmosphere. As we helped with these preparations, we could see how much this community was looking forward to the festival. According to the locals, preparations begin a week before the festival, which seems to lift their spirits. Although the hard work of setting up the tents was very tiring, it was a great experience to see people working together in a small community, looking forward to the work. Tomorrow, September 17, is the day of the festival. We want to be a part of it, not only watching the people in the preparation stages, but also helping those who are going all out on the day to make the festival a great success.







