

# **Sister City Committee of Lodi, California, USA**

Established – 1961



## **Lodi's Sister Cities**

**Kofu, Japan**

**Lodi, Italy**



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LODI, CALIFORNIA

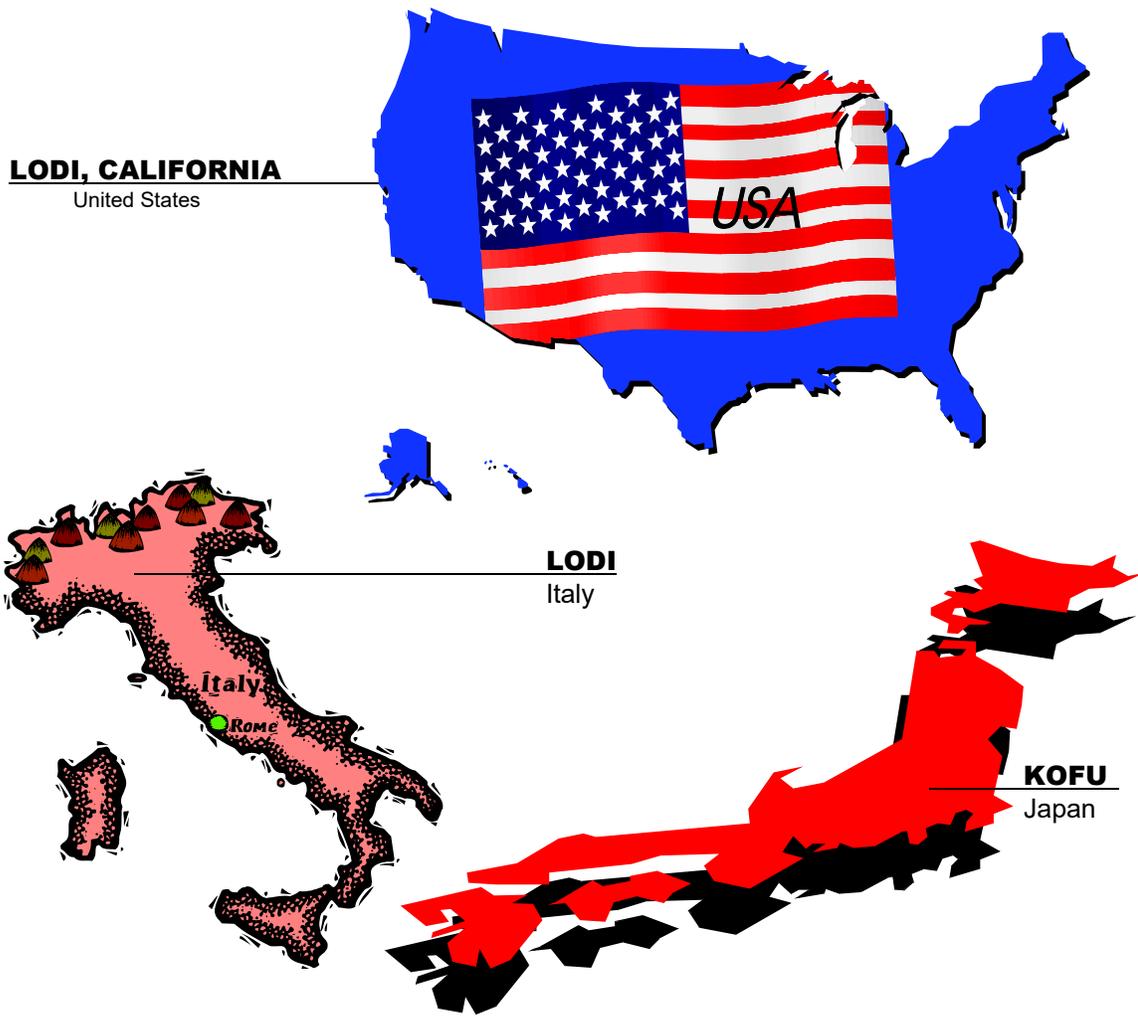
KOFU, JAPAN  
LODI, ITALY

# History

Sister city, county, and state affiliations between the United States and other nations began shortly after World War II and developed into a national initiative when president Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed the people-to-people program at a White House Conference in 1956.

President Eisenhower's intention was to involve people and organized groups at all levels of our society in personal citizen diplomacy with the hope that people-to-people relationships, fostered through sister city, county, and state affiliations, would lessen the chance of future world conflicts.

## Location of Lodi's Sister Cities



## Lodi Sister City Committee



The Lodi Sister City Committee was established in 1961. Although a brief school scrapbook exchange took place with Lodi, Italy, in 1958 on the occasion of the Italian city's 800<sup>th</sup> year, a more active relationship with Kofu, Japan, began in 1964, when Lodi representatives went to Kofu for the city's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Since then, gifts of Tokay grapevines to Kofu; of a miniature shrine and a granite marker and cherry trees for Lodi's Kofu Park; a student art exchange with Lodi, Italy; and visits and letters to and from both cities have marked over 40 years of the California Lodi's sister city relationships.

The Lodi Sister City Committee meets monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Japanese American Community League Hall, 210 E. Elm Street, Lodi. Its purpose is to promote the ideals of offering exciting opportunities for involvement in international relations through exchanges of persons, products, and ideals through cultural, educational, technical, professional, municipal, youth, and sports activities. Lodi's sister cities are Kofu, Japan and Lodi, Italy.

For further information on the Lodi Sister City Committee program, contact the City Clerk's Office at (209) 333-6702.

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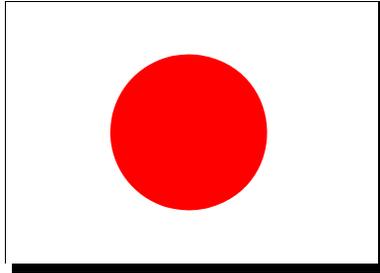
## Sister Cities International

Sister Cities International (SCI) is a non-profit citizen diplomacy network creating and strengthening partnerships between U.S. and international communities in an effort to increase global cooperation at the municipal level, to promote cultural understanding, and to stimulate economic development. SCI leads the movement for local community development and volunteer action, by motivating and empowering private citizens, municipal officials, and business leaders to conduct long-term programs of mutual benefit.



**What is a Sister City Relationship?** A sister city is a broad-based, officially approved, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries. A sister city becomes official with a signing ceremony of the top-elected officials of the two local jurisdictions, following approval by the local city councils. Sister city partnerships have the potential to carry out the widest possible diversity of activities of any international program, including every type of municipal, business, professional, educational, and cultural exchange or project. Sister city programs are also unique in that they inherently involve the three main sectors in a community: local government, business, and a wide variety of citizen volunteers (and civil society or non-profit organizations).

## KOFU, JAPAN



Kofu, the capital of Yamanashi Prefecture, is located in the Kofu basin surrounded by mountains, including the Japanese Alps and Mt. Fuji. It can be reached from Tokyo in two hours by rail and three hours by car.

The Kofu basin is located in the midst of hot springs, grapevines, and many temples and historic sites. The scenic gorge of Shosenkyo and the five lakes around Mt. Fuji provide beautiful areas for sightseeing.

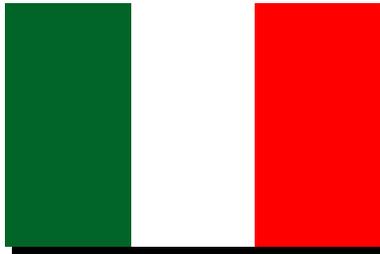


The city itself has shown amazing growth, is the center of politics, economy, culture, and transportation in Yamanashi Prefecture, and is known for its manufacture of jewelry made of crystal, natural stones, and pearls; purses, belts, and wallets made of specially tanned buckskin; and wines made from vines, which include some grafted with Tokay vines sent from Lodi, CA.

The dianthus is the flower of Kofu; the oak, the tree; and the kingfisher, the bird.

This city of about 250,000 recently celebrated its centennial. After the Age of Civil Wars, during which Kofu was ruled by the famous warlord Shingen Takeda, the city was brought under direct rule by the Tokugawa Shogunate. Born in 1521, Warlord Shingen is still honored with an annual festival in Kofu.

## LODI, ITALY



Lodi is a city of 52,000 people, located on the Plains of Lombardy in Northern Italy, an area known as the Lodigiano throughout its history. It is 43 kms. southeast of Milan, home of grand opera's famed La Scala and one of several notable universities in the area.

Situated as it is among four rivers, Lodi has been valuable for its lush farming throughout the 150 years it has been known as Lodi. A Roman village, large enough to rate a cathedral, was recorded as Laos Pompeia in the fourth century A.D.

In its early life, Lodi underwent raids and battles, one of which was the famous battle at the bridge spanning the Adda River, a victory against Austria. (This event purportedly gave Lodi, CA, its name.)

Ceramic manufacture has been an important industry since the first century A.D., and there are cheese factories, laboratories, and other kinds of industry.

Central old Lodi is a network of narrow streets and open squares based on an ancient network of roads. It is known for its wrought ironwork and for several fine churches and the Cathedral of the Annunciation, begun in 1160.



The city boasts a museum, a civic library, a theater, and facilities for several kinds of sports.

**LODI SISTER CITY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Sister Cities: Lodi, Italy and Kofu, Japan

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Fax)

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Interests:** *(Check all that apply)*

- Student Exchange \_\_\_\_\_
- Pen Pals \_\_\_\_\_
- Transportation \_\_\_\_\_
- Publicity \_\_\_\_\_
- Communication \_\_\_\_\_
- Citizen Exchange \_\_\_\_\_
- Speakers Bureau \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone \_\_\_\_\_
- Finance \_\_\_\_\_
- Hosting Visitors \_\_\_\_\_
- Home Stay \_\_\_\_\_
- Membership \_\_\_\_\_
- Planning \_\_\_\_\_

**Foreign Languages:**

- Spoken \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Read \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Written \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues (per year):**

- Adult -- **\$20**
- Supporting organization/business -- **\$35**
- Student/Senior Citizen (60+ years) -- **\$15**

PLEASE SEND OR DELIVER APPLICATION AND CHECK FOR DUES TO:

Lodi Sister City Committee  
P.O. Box 3006  
Lodi, CA 95241

For questions about the Lodi Sister City Committee, call the City Clerk's Office at 333-6702.