

19th Volunteer Activity Supporting Restoration and Recovery



Date	Tuesday, August 7 through Thursday, August 9, 2012
Activity site	Iwaki-shi, Fukushima
Participants	11 (6 men, 3 women, 2 administration office staff)

● Activity Details



On the first day, we went to a community hall at a temporary housing complex within Iwaki City and held a street fair in the evening.

We set up five game stalls for children to enjoy, including a shallow tank to go fish for water balloons, inside the community hall and under two canopies we had pitched just outside. We also set up refreshment counters and a rest station.

The street fair was a smashing success. We volunteers felt relieved when the children asked us to return the next time dressed as Santa Claus.



On the second day, we held a class making pressed flowers into bookmarks at the Iki Iki Koryu Salon (Salon for Cheerful Social Interaction) that the Social Welfare Council of Iwaki City sponsors.

Here we volunteers suddenly found ourselves in the role of teacher. Bewildered at first, we ended up having a great time making bookmarks with around 40 class participants.



Afterwards, we went over to a district surrounding Iwaki Station, where the Taira Tanabata Matsuri (Milky Way Festival of Taira) was about to finish. There, we worked together with people from the community and other volunteers taking down the 10-meter-long decorated bamboo stems that were the festival's main attraction.

On the third day, we held another class for making pressed flowers into bookmarks at a hostel operated by the local government on the outskirts of Iwaki.

By this time the volunteers had grown used to teaching, and we had fun as we kept up a good tempo crafting bookmarks together.

With so many men, women, boys and girls of all ages participating, our group of volunteers found leading the various activities a very rewarding experience.