

Valerie Stewart

Platform

JETAA USA Country Representative

Member of JETAA Southeast (US-4)



EXPERIENCE

- JETAA USA Country Representative
2021 - Present
- USJETAA Board of Directors
2021 - Present
- Regional Conference Atlanta 2016
(Co-Organizer)
- JETAASE Treasurer: *2010 - 2021*
- JETAASE Secretary: *2009 - 2010*
- AJET Local Board, Saga Prefecture
2001 - 2002
- JET Program, ALT, Saga Prefecture
1999 - 2002

HIGHLIGHTS

- In conjunction with USJETAA, with the support of MOFA, created the NEXT JET Mentorship Program (formally Tayo-sei Mentorship Program)
- Held GiA Open Office Hours to provide support to chapters completing GiA applications.
- Held Chapter Check-ins
- Represented JETAA USA at the JETAA Canada conference in Ottawa, August 2023
- Served as CR Representative on the USJETAA Board
- Worked on the NatCon Committee with the NatCon Working Group to hold the first JETAA USA Hybrid National Conference in 2023 and conference in 2024.

Hi! I'm Valerie Stewart, a native of Atlanta, Georgia. My interest and love for Japan started in high school as a participant in my school district's foreign language magnet school. That newfound interest led to a chance encounter with a JET participant in Osaka, Japan during my time studying abroad in university. Her passion for her work as an ALT was the driving force for me to apply to the JET Program.

Being selected as one of the Country Representatives for the past four years (from April 2021) continues to be a great honor and responsibility that I do not take lightly. I could never repay what I gained as being a part of the JET Program.

Serving in this role has given me the opportunity to work on behalf of all alumni and share your ideas and stories in a broader way.

If given the opportunity to serve a final year as a Country Representative for JETAA USA, my goals are to

- Continue to establish and finalize partnerships with Japanese related companies and other organizations to provide discounted lifestyle products and services to alumni members.
- Assist in future planning of NatCon by updating the guides and creating an additional framework for sponsorships and partnerships.
- Build on the JET Mentorship program by giving opportunities for JET Alumni to mentor aspiring and new JET Participants.
- Create opportunities for more working groups for JET Alumni who wish to continue serving nationally in areas of their interest.
- Build out Chapter Center as a resource for JETAA USA Chapter Leaders to obtain resources in one central location.
- Continue established programs
 - Quarterly Forums
 - Chapter Check-Ins
 - GiA Office Hours
 - Working Groups
 - NEXT JET Mentorship Program (formally Tayo-sei)