

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 JET Mentorship Program
- Held GiA Open Office Hours to provide support to chapters completing GiA applications.
- Re-established Chapter Check-ins with USJETAA.
- 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.

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 three 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 continue as a Country Representative for JETAA USA, my goals are to

- 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.
- Work with USJETAA to establish affinity groups for JET Alumni.
- Continue established programs
 - Quarterly Forums
 - Chapter Check-Ins
 - GiA Office Hours
 - Working Groups