

Performance conducted in the grounds of Suijingu Shrine and Yokosuka Castle (Saturday evening)

5 communities, which are located western part of Yokosuka, haul their floats to the grounds of Suijingu Shrine and Yokosuka Castle, which does not exist now and is maintained as historical sites, and perform the festival music. These communities showed their performance in the castle in the Edo period.



Drawing the lottery (Saturday 8.a.m.)



13 festival floats parade in Yokosuka in a line on Sunday. Delegates of each community gather at Mikumano Shrine and draw the lottery to decide the order of the parade. They want to avoid the numbers, 1, 6, 11 and 12. Please ask Yokosuka people why those numbers are unfavorable.

Putting up festival banners (Friday 8.a.m.)



Hearing the sounds of gong as the signal of the beginning of the festival, community members whose community is in front of Mikumano Shrine, put up the festival banners at the entrance of the shrine.

Festival is coming.

Building the ceremony stage



About two weeks before the festival, wooden stage on which the festival music is played is built in the grounds of Mikumano Shrine, creating the atmosphere of the festival.

Eve of the festival (Friday 12.p.m.)



“Soroi” means their first parade of festival floats after they have finished preparing for the festival. They parade in their own community block and two adjacent blocks.

Reharsal of the festival music



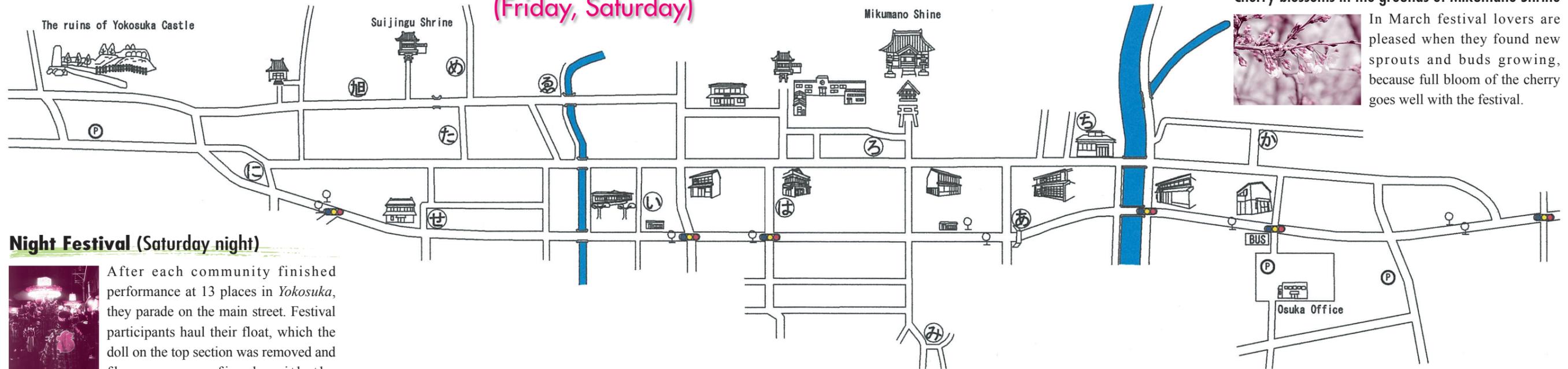
In each community of Yokosuka, children have practiced the festival music with the instructions of adults since the beginning of March. On Thursday, the day before the Eve of the festival, they rehearse their performance in the presence of community members. Having attentions from the community members, children seem to be nervous.

Cherry blossoms in the grounds of Mikumano Shrine



In March festival lovers are pleased when they found new sprouts and buds growing, because full bloom of the cherry goes well with the festival.

Festival Map (Friday, Saturday)



Night Festival (Saturday night)



After each community finished performance at 13 places in Yokosuka, they parade on the main street. Festival participants haul their float, which the doll on the top section was removed and flowers were fixed, with the accompaniment of the music. A distinctive tune, light from many lanterns and excitement of festival participants and spectators create comfortable atmosphere, which has been same since the Edo period.

A distinctive tune breaking the silence of early morning (Saturday, early morning)



At dawn of Saturday, sounds of flutes and drums can be heard in Yokosuka. Some festival lovers enjoy in hauling their festival floats with the accompaniment of rather slow tune in early morning, without any spectators.

Performance conducted at 13 places in Yokosuka



13 communities offer places where other community members hauling the festival float stop and perform the festival music, Shoten, Kamakura and Hitityoume. They show their gratitude that they can conduct the festival and take part in the parade of Mikoshi, portable shrine with your community this year.

Performance of the festival music and dance on the stage (Saturday 10:30 a.m.)



One community out of 13 communities is on duty performing the festival music on the stage, showing their gratitude that they can conduct the festival this year in the presence of the deity. A community which drew the first number of the lottery used to be on duty. 13 communities have took turns performing on the stage since 1980.

Showing respect to the 13th descendant of the lord (Saturday 9.a.m.)



The 13th descendant of the lord of Yokosuka clan was invited to the festival. When entering the grounds of the shrine, each festival floats stop in front of his seat and perform festival music to show their respect towards him. It is the vestige of the Edo period when festival floats entered the grounds of Yokosuka Castle and showed their performance in the presence of the lord at the time.