

## The second ceremony site (Sunday 2.p.m.)



When *Mikoshi*, portable shrine, comes near *Suijingu Shrine*, second ceremony site, two old community leaders guide *Mikoshi* to the shrine. The second ceremony was conducted in the grounds of *Yokosuka Castle* in the Edo period. After the end of the castle in 1871, a large picture of the castle was offered to the shrine and the shrine grounds have been the second site since then.



## Ceremonies conducted in the grounds of Mikumano Shrine, Tyikatamenomai and Taasobi (Sunday 3 p.m.)

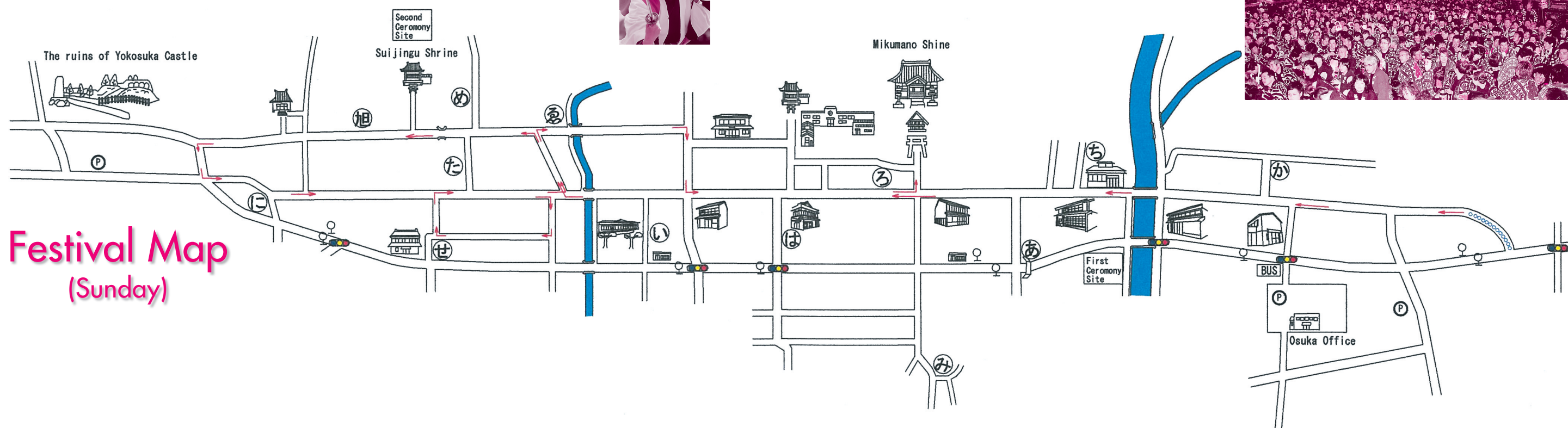


*Tyikatamenomai* is a ceremony to ward off devils hiding under the ground and to purify the ground. Young performers who practiced the traditional ceremony hard with the instruction of the experienced purify themselves before the ceremony.



After *Tyikatamenomai*, the ceremony, *Taasobi* is conducted.

Performers imitate planting rice while singing rice-planting song to pray for good harvest of rice.



## Festival Map (Sunday)

## Traditional way of decorating the festival float



When they decorate their festival floats, a doll, which is the symbol of the float, is lifted and carried to the top section in their shed. But two communities do this job in a traditional way. They tilt center pillar of the float and put the doll on the top section and put up at a time. This task is carried out carefully with efforts of community members.

## Preparing for the night festival (Sunday 5.p.m)

13 festival floats stop to prepare for the night festival. Festival participants have a dinner and take a rest for a while. When they leave for the climax ceremony, 13 floats are lit up, creating a distinctive atmosphere.

## Heading to the first ceremony site (Sunday 10.a.m)



At 10 a.m. with the signal of the fire work, a processions of *Mikoshi*, portable shrine, where the deity of the shrine is enshrined, leaves *Mikumano Shrine* to go to the first ceremony site, the bank of *Nishi Oya River*. Women who want easy-childbirth take part in the ceremony with their husband. They conduct the ceremony where the women hug the sacred doll, *Nennekosama*, which has been worshiped for easy-childbirth.

## Sensyuraku, climax of the festival (Sunday 9 p.m.)

After 13 festival floats, which followed *Mikoshi* parade returned to the grounds of *Mikumano Shrine* at 9 p.m., the last and the most important ceremony is conducted. They showed their gratitude that they could fulfill their duties in the presence of the deity. Silent and solemn atmosphere was broken by the clapping hands and exciting music, *Bakabayashi*, is performed. Being beside themselves, festival participants dance to the music, shaking their floats right and left and the devil crown, *Hannya*, dances violently on the float. Spectators, as well as festival participants, get excited in the climax.



## In front of Mikumano Shrine (Sunday 12 p.m.)



One of the best site for watching the parade is in front of *Mikumano Shrine*. Passing the most bustling area in *Yokosuka* under the full-bloom cherry trees, performers who put on special masks dance violently on the float. You can enjoy the succession of the performance of 13 communities here. You should not miss it!

## 13 festival floats waiting for the parade (Sunday 9:30 a.m.)



13 festival floats are waiting until the ceremony conducted at the first site ends. They follow the processions of *Mikoshi*, portable shrine and parade in *Yokosuka* in a line. Their order was decided Saturday morning.