

Changes in Shinto Festivals in Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark

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We studied the current state of the traditional festival (Shinto festival) in Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark (Muroto City, Kochi Prefecture), in order to discuss what high school students can do in the age of declining birthrate. Each settlement in Muroto has traditional festivals and events. The festival in Ukitsu area, central Muroto, is held every October (October 6-7, 2018). Ukitsu area once flourished with whaling. Several ceremonies that originated from old-style whaling take place at the festival. The style of festival has been transformed to reflect changes in society. Population decline may make it difficult to inherit traditions. We, the young generation, need to cooperate with the adults, actively participate in the festival, and take over the tradition. We would like to call on the outside for participation.

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