

Students will study Japanese culture

Two Alaska high school juniors have been named by Senators Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski to receive Japan-U.S. Senate Scholarships.

Amber Huss of Kotzebue and Stephanie Copus of Fairbanks will spend two months this summer with a host family in Japan. Prior to flying to Tokyo, they will meet in Washington, D.C., with Senators and Japanese Embassy officials and attend orientation

sessions on Japanese language and culture.

The program, established in 1981 by the government of Japan, has two major aims: to promote better understanding between Japanese and U.S. citizens; and to increase American awareness and appreciation of Japanese culture and society.

Amber, who attends Kotzebue High School, is the daughter of Charles and Wyn Huss. The

oldest of six children, she is class president and on the executive board of the Alaska Association of Student Governments. She has been on the high honor roll since seventh grade, participated in basketball and volleyball, concert band and the Native Youth Olympics. She has been a 4-H blue-ribbon winner at the Alaska State Fair, was a member of the Hugh O'Brien Leadership Program and the National Close-Up Program,

which she attended last year in the nation's capital.

Stephanie, a junior at West Valley High School, is the daughter of Gary and Jimmie Copus of Fairbanks. She is Student Council representative, and was class president last year. She received the outstanding freshman and sophomore awards at West Valley, and was sophomore school representative to the Hugh O'Brien state conference. A member of Junior Achievement and the Foreign Language Club; Stephanie has been in advanced placement classes in Spanish, French and German and is also a Latin student. During the summer she worked in the office of the construction firm. Among her volunteer activities she includes

the Special Olympics, assisting senior citizens in nursing homes and working on a fingerprinting program for youngsters.

Each Alaska high school was invited last fall to submit one nomination to the program. A state selection committee then interviewed the top 12 nominees and recommended the two winners to the Senators.

Members of the selection committee included representatives of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and National Council for Social Studies, representatives of the two Senators' offices, and of Youth for Understanding, the international student exchange organization which administers the Japan-U.S. Senate Scholarship Program.