

The Paralympic flame

The flame used in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Relay will be formed from the flames of the 47 prefectures of Japan, combined with the flame of Stoke Mandeville, where the Paralympics were born. The flames will be combined in Tokyo, and used to run the relay. Toyohashi is one of 48 towns in Aichi Prefecture holding its own ceremony. Those 48 flames will be collected in Aichi Prefecture, before being transported to Tokyo.

Tezutsu (Handheld) Fireworks

Tezutsu fireworks were born in the Higashi Mikawa region of Aichi Prefecture, and have a history of over 450 years. They are said to have first started at Yoshida Shrine in Toyohashi. The fireworks are held by the side of the operators as they shoot a giant pillar of fire into the air. They finish with an explosion at the brave operator's feet.

History

Tezutsu fireworks are said to have come from handheld smoke signals, used to relay messages from far away. With the birth of fireworks during the warring period of Japan, and their proliferation during the Genroku period, they reached the castle town of Yoshida (modern day Toyohashi). It is said that the Tokugawa Shogunate entrusted the lords in the Mikawa region with the production of gun powder, resulting in the production of many fireworks in the area. Tezutsu fireworks are said to bring about healthy crops, prevent illness and disaster, protect one's household, and bring strength and victory to warriors.