

## Oushiko Jinja Shrine Fall Festival

This lively festival is held on the third Saturday and Sunday in October. The highlight is the parade of *mikoshi* (portable shrines). Young people carry the red one, in which Onamuchi no Mikoto, the deity of Takasago, is enshrined, while older people carry the yellow one, which carries the deity Sukunahikona.

During the parade, the *mikoshi* are bumped hard into each other, the energy of which is thought to please the *kami* (gods) being carried inside them. In one ritual, a man dressed as Sarutahiko, the guardian of deities, waves a stick at the young men shouting around him and chases them away. This symbolizes the strength of the deities.