Open Your World! Ohio 4-H International Exchange Programs are among the largest and most successful in the country. Ohio families host visitors from around the world, and Ohio youth & adults travel abroad to live with families in a variety of countries. Host Families & Youth Travelers are not required to be current 4-H members ~ in fact, they automatically become members by participating! Join us this year!

2015 Host Family Opportunities

Don’t have the time and money to travel? Enjoy the exposure to different cultures which traveling brings? Looking for a low-cost project or experience in which the whole family can participate and grow together? The Ohio 4-H International Program allows families to gain the benefits of international travel right here at home, as they welcome a new son, daughter, brother or sister from another country into their homes. Host families come in many shapes and sizes and are responsible for lodging, meals, and family activities. Exchangees bring personal spending money, as well as medical/accident insurance. Host families are asked to “live their everyday life,” and to simply treat their visitor as a member of the family, with the same responsibilities and privileges as other members. Notes:
* Families hosting a Youth must have their own child of the same gender and approximate age.
* Families should not have any native speakers of the language of their visitor, and can only host one visitor at a time.

**Deadline:** As soon as possible, by 2/28 for 1st-choice placements, or by 5/1 → however, applications accepted until all youth are placed (usually March for girls & April for boys).

The 2015 exchange visitors to Ohio will include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Description</th>
<th>Arrival Dates</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Labo Youth for 1 Month</td>
<td>July 23 to August 18</td>
<td>(Ages 12-15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Labo Older Youth for 2-4 Weeks</td>
<td>July 23 – Aug. 5 or August 5 – 18 or Both</td>
<td>(Ages 19-22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Labo Adult for 2-4 Weeks</td>
<td>July 23 – Aug. 5 or August 5 – 18 or Both</td>
<td>(Ages 30-55)</td>
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</tbody>
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2015 Travel Abroad Opportunities

**Youth Travel Scholarships of $2,000+!**
Generous Ohio 4-H donors, the Ohio 4-H Foundation (tentative) and the Labo Foundation provide travel scholarships to all youth involved with 4-H programs who are selected for any travel program. A $2,000 base scholarship + $100 per previous exchangee hosted through Ohio 4-H is awarded to each traveler. Selection is based on application quality, references & interviews (see next section for interview dates). Scholarship amounts vary from year-to-year depending on funding. Note that a portion of the scholarship money is distributed before the trip and a portion afterward, after successfully completing the program.

**Overseas Homestay Youth Program: Japan in 2015**
Possible future trips: Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland & Norway
(Note: Not all programs are offered each year. For 2015, only Japan will be offered.) Get on-board with these exciting travel opportunities! Language learning, cultural exploration and personal growth are offered through a 1-month host family stay and other activities. Adult chaperones accompany each group beginning at the gateway U.S. city. Non-4-H members may participate, but are not eligible for scholarships. Youth cannot be in college & must be willing to learn basic foreign language skills. Orientations will be held in Columbus (Japan - see next page) or by phone conference call (all other countries). Application & Deposit Due: December 10, 2014. (You MUST read the 2015 “Instructions for Completing the Application” before completing the application – see website.) The Japan program accepts an unlimited number; other countries are limited to 8-15. The date for Required Selection Interviews in Columbus in January for youth and at least 1 parent will be Jan. 10, 2015. Selected participants are announced in mid-January. See next page for trip details!
2015 Travel Abroad Opportunities (cont.)

See bottom of previous page for important information re: scholarships, dates, etc!
Also, visit us at www.ohio4h.org/youth/international

Japan

2015 Japan
Ages 12-18 (12 by departure date & still 18 on return date) July 8 – Aug. 6, 2015
Initial Cost: appx. $5,100 → Scholarship Cost = $3,100 or less (after $2,000 scholarship)
(Runs every “odd” year) This 1-month exchange offers a unique program of language learning, cultural exploration and personal growth through a 3-week stay with a Japanese host family plus 1 week at Labo Camp. Travelers may stay with the Japanese youth they hosted if that Japanese family can host. Youth need not have language fluency, but must be willing to learn basic language skills. Required Orientation for youth and at least 1 parent will be held in May 2015 in Columbus (exact date TBA). An optional 1-month additional homestay with intensive Japanese language classes (“Nihongo”) is also offered from June 10 to July 8 (for an additional $1,400 + week-day lunch costs [$8-$10]). Cultural group excursions are part of “Nihongo.”

2016-17 Labo Internship in Japan (Runs every year)
Would you like to spend a year in Japan, living with various host families and being paid a salary to work for Labo? Applicants must be 18-25 years old as of 12/15/15, have a high school diploma, be seriously committed to Japanese culture and language, and have previous travel experience (preferably through the 4-H/Japan exchange). Application deadline is December 15, 2015 and Internship dates are September, 2016 to August, 2017. Visit: www.labo-exchange.com

Future opportunities may include:

Australia

2016 Australia
Ages 16-19 (16 by departure date & still 19 on return date) June 18 – July 16, 2016 (tent.)
Initial Cost: appx. $5,580 → Scholarship Cost! = $4,880 or less (after $700 scholarship is paid in Sept.)
(Usually runs each year) Host Families will live in the rural state of Victoria. About 70% of families will be farmers hoping to host youth interested in Agriculture. A 2-night trip to Sydney also included! (Host sibling not guaranteed.)

Costa Rica

2016 Costa Rica
Ages 15-18 (15 by departure date & still 18 on return date) June 25 – July 26, 2016 (tent.)
Initial Cost: appx. $3,250 → Scholarship Cost! = $2,550 or less (after $700 scholarship is paid in Sept.)
(Usually runs each year) Exploration in San Jose & a possible day trip (e.g. volcano, rainforest) is included in this trip to the beautiful country of friendly people, laid-back culture and spectacular nature. Your host family awaits you!

Norway

2016 Norway
Ages 15-19 (15 by departure date & still 19 on return date) June 25 – July 25, 2016 (tent.)
Initial Cost: appx. $4,260 → Scholarship Cost! = $3,560 or less (after $700 scholarship paid in Sept.)
(Usually runs “even” years) Includes a 1-week 4-H camp (tent-sleeping) in the stunning Norwegian countryside!

Argentina

2017 Argentina
Ages 15-18 (15 by departure date & still 18 on return date) July 8 - Aug. 6, 2017 (tent.)
Initial Cost: appx. $4,400 → Scholarship Cost! = $3,700 or less (after $700 scholarship is paid in Sept.)
(Usually runs “odd” years) Enjoy the warmth of an Argentine host family! Includes a visit to a local high school, cultural workshops, a 2-day orientation and sightseeing in Buenos Aires and an excursion to Iguazu Waterfall.

Finland

2017 Finland
Ages 15-19 (15 by departure date & still 19 on return date) July 1-31, 2017 (tent.)
Initial Cost: appx. $3,800 → Scholarship Cost! = $3,100 or less (after $700 scholarship is paid in Sept.)
(Usually runs “odd” years) Day-trips to Helsinki & Estonia are part of this visit to the land of the midnight sun, where the sun shines nearly 24 hours a day! Soak up the European culture. (Host sibling of same age not guaranteed.)

Volunteer!

Volunteering as an International County Coordinator is a “hands-on” and rewarding way to participate in the Ohio 4-H International Program. Adults who are interested in becoming an ICC for their county should contact their county OSU Extension office or the State 4-H Office for more information. ICC Training is always held the last Saturday in January. The 2015 ICC Training will be January 31, 2015 at OSU in Columbus.

Applications and More Information

Please see our website, or the Ohio 4-H International Programs Booklet (mailed each January to past host families & travelers, and available from your county OSU Extension office), or contact: Mary Lynn Thalheimer, Ohio 4-H International Program Director, 2201 Fred Taylor Dr., Columbus, OH 43210, (614) 247-8162, Fax: (614) 292-5937. thalheimer.1@osu.edu

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