TO: County Extension 4-H Educators and Volunteer ICCs  
FR: Mary Lynn Thalheimer, Ohio 4-H International Programs  
RE: News Releases for 2014 4-H International Programs

Attached for your use are (8) News Releases and (1) radio public service announcement promoting Ohio 4-H International Programs for 2014. Thank you in advance for your efforts to have them placed in your local newspapers or aired on your local radio station.

Hopefully ICCs and Educators can work together in getting these releases published. You may wish to tie their placement in with your Ohio 4-H Week promotional efforts. Also, since our host family recruitment period runs for several months, it would be helpful to have selected articles run two or three times between now and various dates throughout the year (see below).

The list at the bottom of this page contains a schedule as to when would be best to have these releases run in your local papers. Also, if you happen to personally know the reporter and/or editor and can suggest that the words “4-H” along with “International,” “Global,” or “World” be used in the headline, our message will be better heard...

Please contact me at thalheimer.1@osu.edu with any questions.

Thank you very sincerely for your efforts!

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**Radio Public Service Announcement**

“County 4-H Offering International Opportunities" | Jan. 1 - May 10
EXPERIENCE THE WORLD OF 4-H

“Do you know what I learned from this child?” asked one host father. “That you can live together and not understand what the other is saying, and yet still communicate and learn to love each other.” Comments like this from a local family sum up the joy which can result from participating in the Ohio 4-H International Exchange Program.

You, too, can join in the Ohio 4-H International Program, as either a host family or an exchange student traveling to another country. The program’s primary purpose is to promote global awareness through friendship and cultural exchange.

Each year, Ohio families host more than 100 youth from various countries between the ages of 12 and 18, as well as several adult chaperones, for periods of 2-4 weeks. Families open their hearts and homes by sharing their everyday lives and American culture. Many types of families – dual-career, urban, rural, etc. – are needed. Some programs require that the family has a youth of the same age and gender as the international visitor. Families need not be 4-H members to participate, although through hosting they will automatically become part of the organization.

This year, the 4-H/Labo Japanese Exchange will bring Japanese youth ages 12-15 to stay with local host families for 3 ½ weeks (July 23 - August 18). Japanese adult chaperones are also available for 2-week hosting periods this summer, from either July 23 - August 5, or August 5-18. In addition, Argentine and Finnish teens aged 15-18 will visit Ohio from July 8 – August 7.

Families provide room and board and an opportunity for visitors to experience daily life in Ohio. Exchangees provide personal spending money and 4-H provides medical insurance and other fees. Exchangees are members of organizations similar to 4-H in other countries.
"The best thing about our hosting experience was the friendship and love that developed between this boy from the other side of the world and our children," said one host mother.

4-H also sends Ohio youth abroad to various countries around the world. Travelers need not initially be 4-H members to participate, but rather, automatically become 4-H members by through their selection for the program. Homestay programs travel for one-month visits to Australia, Argentina, Costa Rica, Finland, Norway and Japan. Dates vary, but all programs operate during the summer months of mid-June to mid-August. Scholarships of appx. $1,000 to $1,500 are awarded to all selected youth who are 4-H members.

Both hosting and traveling are tremendously exciting, memorable experiences for both exchangees and families. If you have an open mind, a desire to learn and are willing to try new adventures, consider the Ohio 4-H International Exchange Program. For more information, contact your county Extension office at ________________ or visit www.ohio4h.org/youth/international.

-end-
JAPANESE ONE-MONTH HOST FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE THROUGH 4-H

Ohio 4-H International Programs
__________________________ County Extension Office
__________________________

DATE: _______________

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON:
Mary Lynn Thalheimer, Ohio 4-H International Program Director, thalheimer.1@osu.edu
Phone: 614-247-8162. www.ohio4h.org/youth/international

JAPANESE ONE-MONTH HOST FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE THROUGH 4-H

__________________________ County families will have the opportunity to welcome a young person from Japan into their home for one month this year through an international exchange program being offered by the __________________ County OSU Extension, 4-H.

Host families are needed for more than 100 Japanese youth (aged 12-15) and their adult chaperones, who will visit Ohio from July 23 through August 18.

Host families provide the exchange youth with room and board and a chance to experience daily life in America. Families are urged not to alter their daily routines or lifestyles during their visitor’s stay. Exchange youth provide their own spending money, and the sponsoring organization furnishes comprehensive insurance and 24/7 support to families at the state and county levels.

The Japanese visitors belong to the Labo Foundation, an organization which promotes the study of English culture and language in Japan. Ohio 4-H has been conducting international exchange programs with Labo since 1980.

“Do you know what I learned from this child?” asked one host father. “That you can live together and not understand what the other is saying, and yet still communicate and learn to love each other.” Comments like this from a local family sum up the joy which can result from participating in the Ohio 4-H International Exchange Program.

All types of families are welcome to apply to become hosts, including urban, rural, single-parent, childless, and non-4-H families. One requirement is that families must have their own child of the same gender and approximate age as the international visitor. A 4-H volunteer will conduct an interview in the home of the prospective host family and they must attend an orientation before the arrival of the Japanese youth.
Those interested should contact ________________ at (___) - ______ or email: XXXX. For an application form and more information about this and other 4-H international exchange programs, please visit www.ohio4h.org/youth/international.

-end-
Ohio 4-H International Programs

__________________________ County Extension Office

__________________________

DATE:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSONS:
Mary Lynn Thalheimer, Ohio 4-H International Program Director, thalheimer.1@osu.edu
Phone: 614-247-8162.  www.ohio4h.org/youth/international
Local volunteer ICC Contact information here: ______________________________

__________________________ NAMED ____________________________ COUNTY
4-H VOLUNTEER INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR

__________________________ has been named ____________________ County 4-H International
Coordinator by 4-H County Extension Educator ____________________ . In this volunteer capacity,
__________________________ will be responsible for recruiting, orienting and counseling host families and Ohio
youth traveling abroad through the 4-H International Exchange Program. ____________________ will
also plan special events while international visitors are in the area. 4-H conducts exchanges with
Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan and Norway.

__________________________'s experience includes:

Ohio 4-H hosts about 100 young people from around the world through exchange programs each
year. Urban, rural, traditional, single-parent, childless and other families have the opportunity to host
exchangees of all ages for periods of 2-4 weeks. One requirement is that families hosting youth must
have their own child of the same gender and approximate age as the international visitor.

Families provide room and board and a chance for visitors to experience daily life in Ohio. Exchangees provide personal spending money and the sponsoring organizations provide tuition, medical insurance and other fees. Exchange youth are members of organizations similar to 4-H in other countries.

In addition, Ohio youth can travel to other countries for one-month homestays. Host families and traveling youth do not need to be in 4-H members to apply, but automatically become 4-H members through their participation.
For more information and application forms, please contact ______________ at ____________
or call your county extension office at __________________ or visit
www.ohio4h.org/youth/international.

-end-
Ohio 4-H International Programs
The Ohio State University Extension

DATE: ______________

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSONS:

Mary Lynn Thalheimer, Ohio 4-H International Program Director, thalheimer.1@osu.edu
Phone: 614-247-8162. www.ohio4h.org/youth/international

Youth contact information here: ____________________________

_________________________ COUNTY YOUTH TO VISIT ARGENTINA THROUGH 4-H

A __________________________ County youth will be traveling to Argentina this summer as part of the 4-H/Argentina Exchange Program. __________________________, ___ years old, son/daughter of __________________________ will join seven 4-H'ers from across the country for the exchange, from July 5 to August 6. While in Argentina, the American teens will be learning the local culture by living with Argentine host families and participating in community life.

_________________________ is among two from Ohio who will be visiting Argentina. He/she will begin his/her tour with orientation sessions in Columbus and Buenos Aires, Argentina. The program in Argentina is coordinated by the City Government of Lincoln. A trip to the famous Iguazu Waterfalls will be part of the experience.

_________________________ attends __________________________ High School, and is active in ____________.
He/She decided to apply for the Argentina experience because “______________________________ .”

Youth interested in traveling overseas or families interested in hosting someone from another country should contact your local county extension office at ______-_______ or your local volunteer International County Coordinator, ________________________ at _____-_______ or email: ________ . You can also visit www.ohio4h.org/youth/international.

Ohio 4-H is currently seeking families to host youth from Japan from July 23 – August 18 this summer. Youth and families do not need to be current 4-H members to apply. Join the fun and learn about your world!
NEWS RELEASE  Topic: Ohio 4-H'er Traveling to Norway

Ohio 4-H International Programs

CONTACT PERSONS:
Mary Lynn Thalheimer, Ohio 4-H International Program Director, thalheimer.1@osu.edu
Phone: 614-247-8162

COUNTY YOUTH TO VISIT NORWAY THROUGH 4-H

A ________ County youth has been selected to travel to Norway this summer as part of the 4-H/Norway Exchange Program. ________, ___ years old, son/daughter of ___ will join other 4-H'ers from across the country for the exchange, from June 25 to July 25. While in Norway, the American teens will be learning the local culture by living with Norwegian host families and participating in community life.

_________ is among (12) 4-H'ers from the USA who will be visiting Norway. He/she will begin his/her tour with orientation sessions in Columbus and Oslo, Norway. The program in Norway is coordinated by the Norwegian 4-H Federation. A week-long Nordic Camp with hundreds of 4-Hers from all the Scandinavian countries will be part of the experience.

_________ attends __________________ High School, and is active in __________________. He/She decided to apply for the Norwegian experience because “___”
Young people interested in traveling overseas or families interested in hosting someone from around the world either this summer or in the future, should contact your local county extension office at _____-_______ or your local volunteer International County Coordinator (name) at ___________________ or visit www.ohio4h.org/youth/international.

Ohio 4-H is currently seeking families to host youth from Japan for 1 month this summer, from July 23 to Aug. 18. Youth and families do not need to be current 4-H members to apply. Join the fun!

-end-
NEWS RELEASE While Argentine & Finnish Exchangees are In-State: July 8 – August 7

Ohio 4-H International Programs
__________________________ County Extension Office

DATE: __________
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON:
Mary Lynn Thalheimer, Ohio 4-H International Program Director, thalheimer.1@osu.edu
Phone: 614-247-8162. www.ohio4h.org/youth/international

__________________________ COUNTY 4-H'ers HOST ARGENTINE/FINNISH YOUTH

__________________________ County 4-H'ers are hosting ___ Argentine/Finnish youth this month through the Ohio 4-H/ International Exchange Program. The visiting youth come from Lincoln, Argentina and from all over Finland, and are members of Argentina or Finland 4-H. Ohio 4-H has been conducting international exchange programs since 1950. The exchange works in both directions, with a group of Ohio 4-H'ers visiting Argentina and Norway this summer. Among the host families enjoying their Argentine/Finnish visitors from July 9 – August 7 are:

Argentina 4-H and Finnish 4-H are similar to 4-H in Ohio and teach young people important life skills. The international visitors especially enjoy the everyday activities that families do, and do not expect lots of travel and sight-seeing.

(Add comment from a family here, concerning what they have learned, or what the program means to them:)

(Add comment from an exchangee here, concerning what they have learned or what the program means to them:)

Ohio 4-H also conducts exchange programs with Australia, Costa Rica, Japan and Norway. If you are interested in more information about these programs, please contact ________________, County International Coordinator (____ - ____ - _______ ), or visit www.ohio4h.org/youth/international, or contact Mary Lynn Thalheimer at the State 4-H Office (614-292-6941, 2201 Fred Taylor Dr., Columbus, Ohio, 43210, thalheimer.1@osu.edu.)

-end-
NEWS RELEASE While Labo Japanese Exchangeeis are In-State: July 23 - August 18

Ohio 4-H International Programs
____________________________________ County Extension Office
____________________________________

DATE: __________
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON:
Mary Lynn Thalheimer, Ohio 4-H International Program Director, thalheimer.1@osu.edu
Phone: 614-247-8162. www.ohio4h.org/youth/international

County 4-H’ers HOST JAPANESE YOUTH

County 4-H’ers are hosting ___ Japanese youth this month through the Ohio 4-H/Labo Exchange Program. Among the host families enjoying their visitors from July 23 through August 18 are:

The Labo Foundation is a Japanese organization devoted to teaching Japanese youth about the English language and American culture. Each summer, close to 350 Japanese Labo youth and their adult leaders travel to America for a one-month homestay. Ohio 4-H hosts more than 100 of these visitors each year.

(Add comment from a family here, concerning what they have learned, or what the program means to them:)

Ohio 4-H forged an exchange partnership with Labo in 1980. The Japanese youth especially enjoy the everyday activities that families do, and do not expect lots of travel and sight-seeing.

(Add comment from an exchangee here, concerning what they have learned or what the program means to them:)

Other programs sponsored by Ohio 4-H and Labo include a year-long hosting opportunity for Ohio families and Japanese youth, and an outbound program which sends Ohio youth to Japan for one month. Ohio 4-H also organizes exchange opportunities with Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland and Norway.

If you are interested in more information about these programs, please contact ________________,
County International Coordinator (        -        -              ), or visit www.ohio4h.org/youth/international, or contact Mary Lynn Thalheimer at the State 4-H Office (614-292-6941, 2201 Fred Taylor Dr., Columbus, Ohio, 43210, thalheimer.1@osu.edu.)

-end-
Ohio 4-H International Programs
________________________ County Extension Office
________________________

DATE:
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Phone:

__________ COUNTY 4-H OFFERING 2013 INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Ohio 4-H will be hosting young people from Japan this year through the Ohio 4-H International Program. Families from around the state have the opportunity to bring the world into their living rooms by hosting a Japanese youth for one month, from July 23rd to August 18th. Families do not need to be current 4-H members. Families should have a youth in their own home who is aged 10-15 to serve as the main host sibling.

Families provide room and board and a chance for exchange visitors to experience daily life in Ohio. Exchangees provide personal spending money and the sponsoring organizations provides medical insurance and other fees. Host Family applications are being accepted immediately, and will be taken until all youth are placed. Families are urged not to alter their daily routines nor to plan special vacations or trips. Regular Ohio life is the focus of this cultural exchange!

For Ohio youth ages 12-18 who wish to do some traveling of their own, 4-H offers one and two-month summer travel programs to Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan and Norway. Application deadlines for the 2014 travel programs have passed, but if you are interested, get on board now for the 2015 programs! Scholarships of appx. $1,000 to $1,500 will be available to all selected youth travelers who are 4-H members.

More information and application forms for all programs are available through every County Extension Office or from local volunteer __________________________ at (____) _____________. You can also visit www.ohio4h.org/youth/international or contact the state program director, Mary Lynn Thalheimer, 614-292-6941, thalheimer.1@osu.edu. Discover the world through Ohio 4-H!