 Participating in the Ohio 4-H Delegation to Japan gives Ohio youth the opportunity to learn more about themselves and the lives of others. Delegates live with a Japanese family for either one or two months and take part in Labo camps and activities with host brothers and sisters. Many Ohio youth stay with the family of the Japanese youth who has previously visited them in Ohio, although this is not a requirement.

Language fluency is not a prerequisite, but basic language study is required in advance of departure. Applicants need not be current or former 4-H members to apply ... in fact, they become 4-H participants through participation on this exchange! (Note that applicants who have never participated in any 4-H program in the past are not eligible for scholarships.)

Ohio sends a delegation to Japan every year. Ohio youth aged 12 to 18 (12 by date of departure and still 18 on date of return) who are willing to prepare for the exchange by studying the language, country and culture of Japan are invited to apply. Delegates should be willing to become an active member of their host family.

TENTATIVE 2018 Program Dates:

- Two Month: June 13 – Aug. 9
- One Month: July 11 – August 9

$1,600 + Scholarships Available! – see next page for more details.

Price: The fee for the 2018 Ohio 4-H Delegation to Japan will be appx. $3,400 (or less for previous hosts). This price reflects the $1,600 base scholarship – regular price is $5,000. Additional funding is provided for each previous Ohio 4-H hosting experience. Price includes: program support from staff in Ohio, Seattle, and Tokyo, orientations in Columbus (2), the west coast (overnight) and Tokyo (overnight), guidebooks, medical and accident insurance, round-trip airfare from Columbus to Tokyo, all transportation taxes, travel to and from the Japanese host family, program expenses in Japan, 1 week at Labo Camp, final consultation and sightseeing in Tokyo, (2) 4-H shirts & luggage tags, passport carrier, and 24/7 chaperone coverage beginning at gateway city. (One chaperone for every 10-20 youth.) Additional price for those choosing the Nihongo language program is $1,600.

Optional “Nihongo” Language Program
An optional opportunity for those who would like to become conversant in Japanese is an intensive 1-month “Nihongo” language program. Labo offers this program at their downtown Tokyo office from June 13 – July 11. Participants will then join the regular Ohio delegation for the month-long homestay until August 9. Nihongo students live with a Tokyo host family and attend classes during the day. (Youth may also request a particular host family for the Nihongo program, if they know one in the Tokyo area.) The cost is $1,600 and covers tuition, books, cultural excursions and daily public transportation to the Labo Office. Participants are responsible for paying for their weekday lunches (about $180). Host families provide lodging and all other meals.

How to Apply / Required Selection Interviews ~ Please notify us that you plan to apply by contacting (thalheimer.1@osu.edu) and visit www.ohio4h.org/youth/international for the 2018 application form and instructions. (You MUST read the instructions before completing the form!) Application and 1st payment are due December 1, 2017. All applicants plus at least 1 parent are required to attend “Selection Interviews and Orientation #1” in Columbus on either Dec. 10, Jan. 6, or 7, or 15 (please hold all dates), as well as Orientation #2 in Columbus in May or early June.
$1,600 + Scholarships Available!
We are thrilled to announce $1,600+ scholarships to each Ohio youth who is selected to travel to Japan in 2018. Selections will be based on the quality of the application form and essays; reference checks; and required Selection Interviews.

Each selected youth will receive a base scholarship of $1,600, plus an additional scholarship based on hosting history with Ohio 4-H. A “Previous-Hosting Scholarship Application” is part of the general application packet for outbound travel – no other form is necessary. To learn your scholarship amount before applying, contact Mary Lynn Thalheimer (thalheimer.1@osu.edu) with your hosting history.

Sincere thanks to the wonderful donors making these Youth Travel Scholarships possible!

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