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!

2018 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 placement. Applications accepted until all youth are placed (usually April for females & May for males). However, please inquire whenever you learn about our program! Thank you!

The 2018 exchange visitors to Ohio will include:

- **Japanese Labo Youth for 1 Month**
  - July 23 – August 17
  - (Ages 12-15)
- **Japanese Labo Adult for 2-4 Weeks**
  - July 23 – Aug. 4 or August 4 – 17 or Both
  - (Ages 19-55)
- **Costa Rican 4-S Youth for 1 Month**
  - June 25 – July 21 (appx.)
  - (Ages 14-18)
- **Finland 4-H Youth for 1 Month**
  - June 25 – July 21 (appx.)
  - (Ages 15-19)

2018 Travel Abroad Opportunities

**Youth Travel Scholarships!**

Generous Ohio 4-H donors, the Ohio 4-H Foundation and the Labo Foundation provide travel scholarships to all youth involved with 4-H programs who are selected for a travel program. A base scholarship ($1,500 for Japan & Norway and $1,000 for Costa Rica) + additional funding per previous exchangee hosted via Ohio 4-H are awarded to each selected traveler. Selection is based on application quality, references & interviews (see below for date). Scholarship amounts vary annually depending on funding. Base Scholarships are distributed before the trip and Previous-Hosting Scholarships are awarded after successful program completion. **Scholarship amounts could change and will be finalized Dec. 9. Applicants may withdraw with no penalty at that time.**

**Overseas Homestays for Youth: Japan, Costa Rica and Norway in 2018!**

Notes: Not all countries are offered each year. Japan & Costa Rica travel most years. Finland & Norway usually alternate years. Get on-board with these exciting travel opportunities! Language learning, cultural exploration and personal growth are offered through 1-month host family stays. (Except for Japan, a same-age host sibling is not guaranteed.) Adult chaperones accompany each group beginning at a 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) or by phone conference call (all other countries). **2018 Travel Application & Deposit Due: December 1.** (You MUST read the 2018 “Instructions for Completing the Application” before completing the application – see website in mid-October.) Japan accepts an unlimited number of youth; other countries are limited to appx 20. **Required Interviews & Orientation #1** in Columbus for youth and at least 1 parent will be Jan. 15, 2018. Selected participants are announced in mid-January. See next page for details!
2018 Travel Abroad Opportunities (cont.)

See bottom of previous page important info! Also, visit www.ohio4h.org/youth/international

γ 2018 Japan Ages 12-18 (from 1st to last day of program & not in college) July 11 – Aug. 9, 2018
Cost after scholarship: appx. $3,600 MINUS additional for previous hosting! (Pre-scholarship Cost: appx. $5,100)
(Runs every 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 in May 2018 in Columbus (exact date TBA). An optional 1-month additional homestay with intensive Japanese language classes (“Nihongo” 8-week Japan) is also offered from June 13 to July 12 (for an additional $1,600 + week-day lunch costs [$10]). Cultural group excursions are part of “Nihongo” as well.

γ 2018 Costa Rica Ages 15-18 (from 1st to last day of program & not in college) June 21 – July 20, 2018
Cost after scholarship: appx. $2,350 MINUS additional for previous hosting! (Pre-scholarship Cost: appx. $3,350)
(Usually runs each year) Exploration in San Jose & an excursion (e.g. volcano, rainforest) is included in this trip to the beautiful country of friendly people, laid-back culture & spectacular nature. (*$150 required for individual bus travel in-country.)

γ 2018 Norway Ages 15-18 (from 1st to last day of program & not in college) June 28 - July 27, 2018
Cost after scholarship: appx. $3,350 MINUS additional for previous hosting! (Pre-scholarship cost: appx. $4,850)
(Usually runs “odd” years) Visit the land of the midnight sun, where the sun shines nearly 24 hours a day! Enjoy the fjords and the stunning countryside!

γ 2018-19 Labo Internship in Japan (Runs every year) Ages 18-25 September, 2018 to August, 2019
Spend a year in Japan, living with various host families and receive a stipend working for Labo! Applicants must be age 18-25 as of 12/15/17, 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). This program is coordinated by Labo in Japan and the application deadline is December 15, 2017. To apply, visit: www.labo-exchange.com

2019 Country choices will be announced in September 2018 and will likely include:

γ 2019 Finland Ages 15-18 (from 1st to last day of program & not in college) mid June - mid July 2019
Cost after scholarship: appx. $2,900 (Pre-scholarship Cost: appx. $4,500)
(Usually runs “even” years) A day-trip to Estonia is included! Soak up the European culture.

γ 2019 Costa Rica Ages 15-18 (See above section for description) mid June - mid July 2019

γ 2019 Japan Ages 12-18 (See above section for description) early July - early August 2019

γ 2019-20 Labo Internship in Japan Ages 18-25 (See above for description) Sept, 2019 to August 2020

Volunteer!
Volunteering as an Ohio 4-H International County Coordinator is a “hands-on” and rewarding way to participate in the exchange. Adults wishing to serve as ICC 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 at OSU in Columbus. The 2018 ICC Training will be January 27, 2018.

Applications and More Information
Please see our website, or the Ohio 4-H International Programs information (emailed each January to past host families & travelers, 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

Revised 10/11/17 thalheimer.1@osu.edu
“A” www.ohio4h.org/youth/international