

Ohio 4-H International Exchange Programs

At-A-Glance!



Open Your World! Ohio 4-H International Exchange Programs are among the largest and most successful in the country, with more than 800 participants worldwide each year. Ohio families host exchangees from around the world, and Ohio youth and adults travel abroad to live and tour in a variety of countries. Host Families & Youth Travelers do not have to be 4-H members to join us ~ in fact, they automatically become members by participating!

2008 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 ~ traditional, single-parent, dual-career, childless, rural, urban, etc. Host families are responsible for lodging, meals, and family activities. Exchangees bring personal spending money, as well as medical and other insurance coverage. Host families are asked to "live their everyday life," and to simply treat their exchangee as a member of the family, with the same responsibilities and privileges as other members. *Special Requirement:* Families hosting a Month-Long Japanese youth must have their own child of the same gender and approximate age.

Host Family Applications should be submitted as soon as possible; by February 28 for first-choice placements. Applications are accepted until all exchangees are placed, which is usually March for girls and May for boys.

The 2008 exchange visitors to Ohio will include:

γ	Finland Youth for 1 Month	June 15 to July 13	(Ages 14-19)
γ	German IFYE for 2-4 Weeks	Between Sept. 10 and Dec. 5	(Ages 18-25)
γ	Japanese Labo Youth for 1 Month	July 24 to August 19	(Ages 12-18)
γ	Japanese Labo Adult for 2 Weeks	July 24 – Aug. 7 or August 7 – 19	(Ages 19-55)
γ	Japanese Labo Youth for 1 Year	July 31, 2008 to mid-June, 2009	(Ages 15-18)

2008 Travel Abroad Opportunities

γ **2008 Exchanges to: Finland, Norway (New!), Australia (New!), and Costa Rica (New! ~ Tentative)**
Get on-board with these exciting new international travel opportunities for older teens! These exchanges offer programs of language learning, cultural exploration and personal growth through a **1-month host family stay**. An adult chaperone will accompany youth from around the U.S. to various countries. Youth need not be current 4-H members to apply/participate. Youth need not have language fluency, but must be willing to learn basic language skills. Orientations will be via phone conference calls, and in-person prior to departure. **Application Deadline** for the (15) national spots offered for each country is **January 28, 2008**. (Applications may be accepted after 1/28 if spots still remain.) Applications and more information will be available in December, 2007. Please contact us to receive more info as it becomes available. **See next page for details on each program.**

Travel Abroad Opportunities (cont.)

- γ **2008 Finland** **Ages 15-19** **June 14 – July 13** **Appx. Cost: \$2,900**
(Runs every year) A Day-trip to Estonia is included in this visit to the dramatic land of the midnight sun!
- γ **2008 Norway** **Ages 16-19** **July 5 – August 5 (tentative)** **Appx. Cost: \$3,000**
(May run every "even" year) Includes a 1-week Nordic camp (tent-sleeping, shared bathrooms) near the fjords!
- γ **2008 Australia** **Ages 16-19** **June 17 – July 17 (tentative)** **Appx. Cost: \$4,400**
(May run every year) Host Families will be rural and live near Melbourne. About 70% of families will be farmers hoping to host youth with an interest in Agriculture. A day-trip to Sydney is also included.
- γ **2008 Costa Rica** **June 20 – July 20 (tentative)** *No details yet available for this tentative program.*
- γ **2009 Ohio 4-H Delegation to Japan** (Runs every "odd" year) **Appx. Cost: \$3,500**
Youth ages 12-19 will be selected to visit Japan from **mid-July to mid-August, 2009**. This exchange offers a unique program of language learning, cultural exploration and personal growth through a 1-month host family stay. Travelers may request to be hosted by a Japanese youth who stayed with them in Ohio. Japanese language is not required, but participants must be willing to learn basic language skills. Applications are due **January 25, 2009** and required Selections will be on **February 1, 2009**, in Columbus. A required Orientation will be in **late May** or **early June 2009** in Columbus. Labo offers scholarships to youth who have previously hosted a Labo youth ~ \$100 per month-long (up to \$300 max) and \$1,000 per year-long. An optional 1-month intensive Japanese language course ("Nihongo") is also offered from **mid-June to mid-July** for an additional \$1,100.
- γ **Ohio 4-H Youth Study Tour to Europe or Great Britain** (Runs some "even" years)
This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity offers a 2-3 week living and learning abroad experience for Ohio youth ages 13-21 (flexible), scheduled for **late June to early July**, in either **2010 or 2012**. Coordinated and chaperoned by Ohio 4-H staff, the trip combines a homestay with travel around various countries. Pre-trip orientations and cultural reading materials will assure that you have a solid knowledge basis for what you will experience, creating the ultimate in "learning by doing." Language fluency is not required, although you should be willing to learn basic language skills. Cost for the program will be approximately \$3,700. **Application deadline** will be **Feb. 1 or 2010 or 2012**. Selection Interviews (February) and an Orientation (May or June) will be held in Columbus.
- γ **2008-09 Labo Internship in Japan** (Runs every year)
Would you like to spend a year in Japan, living with host families across the country and being paid to work in the Labo Offices? This career opportunity could be yours if you are age 18-25, have your high school diploma, have a serious commitment to Japanese culture and language, and have preferably traveled to Japan previously. Application deadline is **December 1, 2008** and Internship dates are **September, 2009 to late August, 2010**.

Volunteer!

Volunteering as an International County Coordinator is a "hands-on" and rewarding way to participate in the Ohio 4-H International Programs. 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 **2008 ICC Training** will be held **January 26** 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, Manager, Ohio 4-H International Program, 2120 Fyffe Rd. #25, Columbus, OH 43210, Phone: (614) 292-6941, Fax: (614) 292-5937**

www.ohio4h.org
thalheimer.1@osu.edu

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