

# ~ Ohio 4-H International Programs ~ Celebrating 63 Years!

## At-A-Glance!



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

## 2012 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 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. **Notes:**

\*Families hosting any Month-Long 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.

**Deadlines:** Applications to host a Japanese exchangee should be submitted as soon as possible, and by 2/28 for first-choice placements. Applications are accepted until all exchangees are placed, which is usually March for girls and May for boys. Applications for hosting a non-Japanese youth have a final deadline of 2/28.

### The 2012 exchange visitors to Ohio will include:

γ	Japanese Labo Youth for 1 Month	July 26 to August 21	(Ages 12-16)
γ	Japanese Labo Older Youth for 2-4 Weeks	July 26 – Aug. 8 <u>or</u> August 8 – 21 <u>or</u> Both	(Ages 19-22)
γ	Japanese Labo Adult for 2-4 Weeks	July 26 – Aug. 8 <u>or</u> August 8 – 21 <u>or</u> Both	(Ages 30-55)
γ	Finland or Argentina for 1 Month (Youth or Adult)	July 2 – 30 (Finland) July 9 – Aug. 7 (Argentina)	(Ages 15-18) (Ages 15-18)

*Only a small group from the above countries will be visiting us; therefore, please consider choosing the Japanese program as your 2<sup>nd</sup> choice.*

## 2013 Travel Abroad Opportunities

**NOTE:** Deadlines for our 2012 Travel Opportunities have already passed – please join us in 2013!

### γ Youth Travel Scholarships!

Generous Ohio 4-H donors and the Labo Foundation provide travel scholarships to all youth selected for any travel program. A **\$1,500** base scholarship + **\$100 per previous exchangee hosted** through Ohio 4-H is awarded to each traveler. Selection is based on quality of application, references and interviews (see next sections for interview dates).

### γ Overseas Homestay Youth Programs to: **Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Norway and Japan!**

(Note: Not all programs are offered each year. 2013 programs include **Australia and Japan, with others to be announced soon.** See next page for details.) 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. Youth need not be 4-H members to participate. Youth must be willing to learn basic foreign language skills. Orientations will be held in Columbus (Japan program) or by phone conference call (all other countries). **Application and Deposit Due: January 24, 2013.** (You **MUST** read the 2013 "Instructions for Completing the Application" first.) Japan accepts an unlimited number of youth; other countries are limited to 8-12. **Required Selection Interviews** are in Columbus for youth and 1 parent on either **Jan. 28 or Feb. 3-4, 2013** (hold all dates). Participants are announced mid-February.

# 2013 Travel Abroad Opportunities (cont.)

See bottom of previous page for important information! Also, visit us at [www.ohio4h.org/youth/international](http://www.ohio4h.org/youth/international)

- γ **2013 Japan** Ages 12-18 (on travel date) Appx. July 6 – August 4, 2013  
Appx. Cost: \$4,150 → **Scholarship Cost! → \$2,650 or less**  
(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. An optional 1-month intensive Japanese language class (“Nihongo”) is also offered from **June 10 to July 6, 2013** for an additional \$1,100 + week-day lunch costs. Required Selections/Orientation for youth and 1 parent will be in May or June, 2013 in Columbus.
- γ **2013 Australia** Ages 16-19 (on travel date) Appx. June 20 – July 19, 2013  
Appx. Cost: \$5,200 → **Scholarship Cost! → \$3,700 or less**  
(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. (Host sibling not guaranteed.) A 3-night trip to Sydney also included!
- γ **2013 Argentina** (tentative) Ages 15-18 (on travel date) Appx. July 7 – Aug. 7, 2013  
Appx. Cost: \$4,050 → **Scholarship Cost! → \$2,550 or less**  
(Usually runs “odd” years) Includes a visit to a local high school, cultural workshops, a two-day orientation and sightseeing in Buenos Aires and an excursion to Iguazu Waterfall.
- γ **2013 Costa Rica** (tentative) Ages 15-19 (on travel date) Appx. June 18 – July 16, 2013  
Appx. Cost: \$2,850 → **Scholarship Cost! → \$1,350 or less**  
(Usually runs each year) A visit to the rain-forest, plus a 4-day camp with 250 Costa Rican youth, is included in this trip to the beautiful country of friendly people, laid-back culture and spectacular nature.
- γ **2013 Finland** (tentative) Ages 15-19 (on travel date) Appx. June 25 – July 27, 2013  
Appx. Cost: \$3,350 → **Scholarship Cost! → \$1,850 or less**  
(Usually runs each year) Day-trips to Helsinki & Estonia are part of this visit to the dramatic land of the midnight sun, where the sun shines almost 24 hours a day! Soak up the culture of this beautiful northern European country.
- γ **2014 Norway** (tentative) Ages 16-19 (on travel date) Appx. July 1 – 30, 2014  
Appx. Cost: \$4,500 → **Scholarship Cost! → \$3,000 or less**  
(Usually runs “even” years) Includes a 1-week camp (tent-sleeping) in the gorgeous Norwegian countryside!
- γ **2013-14 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 12/15/12, have a high school diploma, be seriously committed to Japanese culture and language, and have previously Japanese travel experience (preferably through the 4-H exchange). Application deadline is **December 15, 2012** and Internship dates are **September, 2013 to August, 2014**. Visit: [www.labo-exchange.com](http://www.labo-exchange.com)

## 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 **2013** ICC Training will be **January 27, 2013** 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, Phone: (614) 292-6941, Fax: (614) 292-5937.**

[www.ohio4h.org/youth/international](http://www.ohio4h.org/youth/international) [thalheimer.1@osu.edu](mailto:thalheimer.1@osu.edu)

