



4-H Youth Development
International Programs
Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center
2201 Fred Taylor Drive
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January 28, 2012

TO: County Extension 4-H **Educators** and Volunteer **ICCs**
FR: Mary Lynn Thalheimer, Ohio 4-H International Programs
RE: **News Releases for 2012 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 2012. 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 can suggest to the reporter/editor that the words **“4-H”** along with **“International,” “Global,” or “World”** be used **in the headline**, our message will be better heard..

For security purposes, these news releases are not posted on the 4-H Web-site. However, please contact me at thalheimer.1@osu.edu to have them emailed to you as a Word Document so that you can type your county information directly on to them.

Thank you very sincerely for your efforts!

News Releases

- "Experience the World of 4-H" (Hosting and Traveling)
- "One Month Host Family Opportunities" (Japanese Hosting Only)
- "_____ Named ICC"
- "_____ County Youth to Visit Australia"
- "_____ County Youth to Visit Norway"
- "_____ County 4-H'ers Hosting Finnish Youth"
- "_____ County 4-H'ers Hosting Argentine Youth"
- "_____ County 4-H'ers Hosting Japanese Youth"

Appropriate Publishing Dates

- Jan. 1 - May 15th
- Jan. 1 - May 15th
- Jan. 1 - May 10
- April - July
- April - July
- July 2 - 30
- July 9 - August 6
- July 26 - August 21

Radio Public Service Announcement

- "County 4-H Offering International Opportunities" Jan. 1 - May 10

NEWS RELEASE Topic: Hosting (all types) and Traveling

Ohio 4-H International Programs
_____ County Extension Office

DATE: _____

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON:

PHONE:

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 between the ages of 12 and 25, as well as several adult chaperones, for periods of two weeks up to one year. 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 Exchange will bring Japanese boys and girls aged 12 to 16 to stay with local host families for 3 ½ weeks (July 26 - August 21). Japanese adult chaperones are also available for 2-week hosting periods this summer, from either July 26-August 8, or August 8-21. In addition, Finnish teens will visit Ohio from July 2-30 and Argentine teens from July 9 – August 6.

Families provide room and board and an opportunity for exchangees to experience daily life in Ohio. Exchangees provide personal spending money and 4-H provides tuition, medical insurance and other fees. Exchangees are members of organizations similar to 4-H in other countries.

-more-

NEWS RELEASE

(Hosting and Traveling)

Add 1

"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.

Ohio 4-H also **sends young people 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 joining us. 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. \$1,500 are awarded to all selected youth.

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-

NEWS RELEASE Topic: Hosting Only – Japanese Month-Long Exchange

Ohio 4-H International Programs
_____ County Extension Office

DATE: _____

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Phone:

**ONE-MONTH JAPANESE 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 12-16) and their adult chaperones, who will visit Ohio from July 26 through August 21.

Host families provide the exchange students 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 students provide their own spending money, and the sponsoring organization furnishes comprehensive medical insurance.

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. The only requirement is that families must have their own child of the same gender and approximate age as the international visitor.

Those interested should contact _____ at (____) _____ - _____ for an application form and more information about this and other 4-H international exchange programs, or visit www.ohio4h.org/youth/international.

-end-

NEWS RELEASE

TOPIC: ICC Announced

Ohio 4-H International Programs
_____ County Extension Office

DATE:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Phone:

_____ 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 exchangees are in the area. 4-H conducts exchanges with Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan and Norway.

_____ 's experience includes:

Ohio 4-H will be hosting more than 100 young people from around the world through exchange programs this year. Urban, rural, traditional, single-parent, childless and other families have the opportunity to host exchangees of all ages for periods of three weeks up to one year. Families do not need to be in 4-H members to apply, but automatically become 4-H members through their participation.

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

For more information and application forms, please contact _____ at _____ or call your county extension office at _____ or visit

www.ohio4h.org/youth/international.

NEWS RELEASE Topic: 4-H'er Traveling to Australia

Ohio 4-H International Programs
_____ County Extension Office

DATE: _____

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON:

Phone:

_____ **COUNTY YOUTH TO VISIT AUSTRALIA THROUGH 4-H**

A _____ County youth will be traveling to Australia this summer as part of the 4-H/Australian Exchange Program. _____, _____ years old, son/daughter of _____ will join other 4-H'ers from across the country for the exchange, from June 20 to July 19. While in Australia, the American teens will be learning the local culture by living with Australian host families and participating in community life.

_____ is among (10) 4-H'ers from the USA who will be visiting Australia. He/she will begin his/her tour with orientation sessions in Chicago and Sydney, Australia. The program in Australia is coordinated by the Australian 4-H Federation. A 3-day trip to Sydney will conclude the experience.

_____ attends _____ High School, and is active in _____.
He/She decided to apply for the Australia 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, _____ or visit www.ohio4h.org/youth/international.

Ohio 4-H is currently seeking families to host young people from Japan for 1 month this summer. Youth and families do not need to be current 4-H members to apply. Join the fun!

-end-

NEWS RELEASE Topic: 4-H'er Traveling to Norway

Ohio 4-H International Programs
_____ County Extension Office

DATE: _____

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON:

Phone:

_____ **COUNTY YOUTH TO VISIT NORWAY THROUGH 4-H**

A _____ County youth will be traveling 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 July 1 to July 30. 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 (10) 4-H'ers from the USA who will be visiting Norway. He/she will begin his/her tour with orientation sessions in Chicago and Oslo, Norway. The program in Norway is coordinated by the Norwegian 4-H Federation Australian 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, _____ or visit www.ohio4h.org/youth/international.

Ohio 4-H is currently seeking families to host young people from Japan for 1 month this summer. Youth and families do not need to be current 4-H members to apply. Join the fun!

-end-

NEWS RELEASE While Finnish Exchangees are In-State: July 2 - 30

Ohio 4-H International Programs
_____ County Extension Office

DATE: _____
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON:
Phone:

_____ **COUNTY 4-H'ers HOST FINNISH YOUTH**

_____ County 4-H'ers are hosting ___ Finnish youth this month through the Ohio 4-H/ International Exchange Program. The visiting youth are members of the Finnish 4-H Federation. Among the host families enjoying their visitors from July 2 – 30 are:

The Finnish 4-H Federation is similar to 4-H in Ohio and teaches young people important life skills. Ohio 4-H forged an exchange partnership with Finland in 1950. The Finnish youth 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 Argentina, 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 Argentine Exchangees are In-State: July 9 – August 6

Ohio 4-H International Programs
_____ County Extension Office

DATE: _____
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON:
Phone:

_____ **COUNTY 4-H'ers HOST ARGENTINE YOUTH**

_____ County 4-H'ers are hosting ____ Argentine youth this month through the Ohio 4-H/ International Exchange Program. The visiting youth come from Lincoln, Argentina and are members of the Argentina 4-H. Among the host families enjoying their visitors from July 9 – August 6 are:

Argentina 4-H is similar to 4-H in Ohio and teaches young people important life skills. Ohio 4-H forged an exchange partnership with Argentina in 1950. The Argentine youth 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, Finland, 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.)

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NEWS RELEASE While Labo Japanese Exchangees are In-State: July 26 - August 21

Ohio 4-H International Programs
_____ County Extension Office

DATE: _____
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON:
Phone:

_____ **COUNTY 4-H'ers HOST JAPANESE YOUTH**

_____ County 4-H'ers are hosting ____ Japanese youth this month through the Ohio 4-H/Labo International Exchange Program. Among the host families enjoying their visitors from July 26 through August 21 are:

The Labo Foundation is a Japanese organization devoted to teaching Japanese youth about the English language and American culture. Each summer, close to 450 Japanese Labo youth and their adult leaders travel to America for a one-month homestay. Ohio 4-H hosts a large portion of these visitors; this year, families around our state are hosting about 100 Japanese exchangees.

(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-

RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (60 Seconds)

TOPIC: General -- Hosting & International Traveling Through Ohio 4-H

Ohio 4-H International Programs
_____ County Extension Office

DATE:
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Phone:

_____ COUNTY 4-H OFFERING 2011 INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Ohio 4-H will be hosting young people from around the world this year through the International 4-H Youth Exchange Program. Urban, rural, traditional, single-parent, childless and other families have the opportunity to host exchangees of all ages for periods of three weeks up to one year. Families do not need to be 4-H members.

Families provide room and board and a chance for exchangees to experience daily life in Ohio. Exchangees provide personal spending money and the sponsoring organizations provide tuition, medical insurance and other fees. Host Family applications are being accepted immediately, and will be taken until all youth are placed, usually by May 1.

For Ohio youth ages 12-18 who to do some traveling of their own, 4-H offers one-month summer travel programs to Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan and Norway. Application deadlines for the 2012 travel programs have passed, but if you are interested, get on board now for the 2013 programs! Scholaships of around \$1,500 are available to all selected youth travelers.

Application forms for all programs and more information are available through the _____ County Extension Office in _____ or phone _____. You may also or visit www.ohio4h.org/youth/international or contact the State Coordinator: Mary Lynn Thalheimer, 614-292-6941, thalheimer.1@osu.edu.

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