

# ~ Ohio 4-H International Programs ~ Celebrating 61 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!

## 2009 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 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. **Note:** Families hosting any Month-Long Youth must have their own child of the same gender & 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 2009 exchange visitors to Ohio will include:

γ	Japanese Labo Youth for 1 Month	July 23 to August 18	(Ages 12-17)
γ	Japanese Labo Older Teen for 2-4 Weeks	July 23 – Aug. 5 <u>or</u> August 5 – 18 <u>or</u> Both	(Ages 18-21)
γ	Japanese Labo Adult for 2-4 Weeks	July 23 – Aug. 5 <u>or</u> August 5 – 18 <u>or</u> Both	(Ages 30-55)
γ	Japanese Labo Youth for 1 Year	July 30, 2009 to mid-June, 2010	(Ages 15-18)
γ	Finnish, Costa Rican & Norwegian Youth for 1 Month	Dates Vary, June to August	(Ages 14-19)

*Only 1-2 total from these countries will be visiting Ohio. If interested, please consider the Japanese program as your 2<sup>nd</sup> choice due to the small number coming.*

## 2010 Travel Abroad Opportunities

### γ New Youth Traveler Scholarships!

Generous donors to Ohio 4-H provide travel scholarships of \$500 to all youth selected for any travel program. Labo and Ohio 4-H offer additional scholarships of \$100-\$1,000, based on # of exchangees previously hosted.

### γ 2010 Overseas Homestay Programs to: Finland, Australia, Norway & Costa Rica (see next page)

Get on-board with these exciting 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 each group of (15) U.S. youth, beginning at the gateway U.S. city. Youth need not be 4-H members to apply. 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 at gateway U.S. city. **Application Deadline** for each country's (15) spots is **January 19**. Required Selections in Columbus for youth and 1 parent: **January 23-24**.

# 2010 Travel Abroad Opportunities (cont.)

γ **2010 Finland** **Ages 15-19** (on travel date) **June 12 – July 13** **Appx. Cost: \$2,900**  
(Runs every year) Day-trips to Helsinki and Estonia are included in 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 **2010 Australia** **Ages 16-19** (on travel date) **June 16 – July 15** **Appx. Cost: \$5,000**  
(Runs every year) Host Families will be rural and live near Melbourne. About 70% of the families will be farmers hoping to host youth with an interest in Agriculture. A one-to-two day trip to Sydney is also included!

γ **2010 Costa Rica** **Ages 15-19** (on travel date) **June 19 – July 17** **Appx. Cost: \$2,100**  
(Runs every 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 **2010 Norway** **Ages 16-19** (on travel date) **July 1 – August 5** **Appx. Cost: \$3,700**  
(Tentatively runs every "even" year) Includes a 1-week Nordic camp (tent-sleeping) near the gorgeous fjords!

γ **2011 Ohio 4-H Delegation to Japan** (Runs every "odd" year) **Appx. Cost: \$4,300**  
Youth ages **12-18** (on travel date) will be selected to visit Japan from **July 6 to August 4, 2010** (tentative dates). This 1-month exchange offers a unique program of language learning, cultural exploration and personal growth through a 3-week host family stay plus 1 week at Labo Camp. Travelers may request to stay with the Japanese youth they hosted in Ohio. 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 9 to July 6** for an additional \$1,100 + week-day lunches. Applications are due **January 18, 2011** and required Selections will be in Columbus on **January 22-23**. Required Orientation will be in May or June in Columbus.

γ **2010-11 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 Office? 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, 2009** and Internship dates are **September, 2010 to late August, 2011**.

γ **2012 Ohio 4-H Youth Study Tour to Europe, Great Britain or New Zealand** (Tentative Only!)  
This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity offers a 2-3 week living and learning abroad experience for Ohio youth ages 13-21 (flexible), is tentatively scheduled for **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, but participants must be willing to learn basic language skills. Cost will be approximately \$3,900. **Application deadline** will be **Feb. 15, 2012**. Required Selection Interviews (February or March) and an Orientation (May or June) will be held in Columbus.

## 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 **2010** ICC Training will be held **January 30, 2010** 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, 2201 Fred Taylor Dr., Columbus, OH 43210, Phone: (614) 292-6941, Fax: (614) 292-5937.**

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