

Phone 614-292-6941

January 23, 2008

TO: County Extension 4-H **Educators** and Volunteer **ICCs**

FR: Mary Lynn Thalheimer, Ohio 4-H International Programs

RE: **News Releases for 2008 4-H International Programs**

Attached for your use are (6) News Releases and (1) radio public service announcement promoting Ohio 4-H International Programs for 2008. 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 guide below should be helpful in alerting you to the time schedule and the content involved. 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 by the public.

These news releases will soon be available on the 4-H Web-site (ohio4h.org) under "**International**".

Thank you very sincerely for your efforts!

News Release Titles

Appropriate Publishing Dates

"Experience the World of 4-H"	Jan. 1 - May 10
"Year-long Host Family Opportunities"	Jan. 1 - May 10
"Short-term Host Family Opportunities"	Jan. 1 - May 10
"_____ Named ICC"	Jan. 1 - May 10
"_____ County Youth to Visit Finland"	April - June
"_____ County 4-H'ers Hosting Japanese Youth"	July 24 - August 19

Radio Public Service Announcement

"County 4-H Offering International Opportunities"	Jan. 1 - May 10
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NEWS RELEASE Topic: General -- Hosting and Traveling Opportunities

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 one word 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 exchangee traveling to another country. The program's primary purpose is to promote global awareness through friendship and cultural exchange.

Each year, Ohio families host 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. Urban, rural, traditional, single-parent, childless and other types of families are all needed. (Some programs, however, require that the family has a youth of the same age and gender as the exchangee.) Families need not initially 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 18 to stay with local host families for either one month (July 24 - August 19) or a school year (July 31, 2008 - June, 2009). Japanese adult chaperones are also available for 2-week hosting periods this summer, from either July 24-August 6, or August 6-19.

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.

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"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. In **2008**, homestay programs will travel to Finland (June 14 – July 15), Australia (June 16 to July 17), Costa Rica (June 21 to July 19) and Norway (June 30 to August 4).

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 _____ .

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NEWS RELEASE

Topic: (Long-Term) Japanese Labo Year-Long Host Family Opportunities

Ohio 4-H International Programs
_____ County Extension Office

DATE: _____

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Phone:

YEAR-LONG HOST FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE THROUGH 4-H

_____ County families will have the opportunity to welcome a young person from Japan into their home for ten months this year, as part of an international exchange program being offered by the _____ County OSU Extension Service, 4-H. Six Japanese teenagers will be arriving in Ohio on July 31, and staying through mid-June, 2009.

The year-long Japanese exchangees, ages 15-18, will attend local high schools and adopt the daily lifestyle of their hosts. Each of them has successfully completed a month-long exchange to the United States in the past. Their tuition, fees and medical costs are covered by the program, and the exchangees pay for their personal spending. Families are responsible for providing room and board.

Japanese youth have been visiting Ohio through 4-H on shorter-term exchanges since 1980, and on year-long exchanges since 1989. The young visitors belong to the Labo Foundation, a Japanese organization which promotes the study of English culture and language.

All types of families are welcome to apply to become hosts, including urban, rural, traditional, single-parent, childless, and non-4-H families (hosts will automatically become 4-H members through their participation on this program, however).

Those interested should contact _____ at (____) _____ - _____ for an application form and more information about this and other 4-H international exchange programs.

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NEWS RELEASE Topic: Short-Term Host Family Opportunities

Ohio 4-H International Programs
_____ County Extension Office

DATE: _____

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Phone:

**SHORT-TERM 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, as part of an international exchange program being offered by the _____ County OSU Extension, 4-H.

Host families are needed for 80 Japanese youngsters (aged 12-18) and their adult chaperones, who will visit Ohio from July 24 through August 19.

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

The young Japanese visitors belong to the Labo Foundation, an organization which promotes the study of English culture and language in Japan. The other youth belong to organizations similar to 4-H in their country. Ohio 4-H has been conducting international exchange programs with these groups since 1949.

"Do you know what I learned from this child?" asked one host father. "That you can live together and not understand one word 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 for the Japanese month-long exchange, hosts must have a family member of the same gender and approximate age of the exchangee.

Those interested should contact _____ at (_____) _____ - _____ for an application form and more information about this and other 4-H international exchange programs.

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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 Agent _____. 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.

_____ 's experience includes:

Ohio 4-H will be hosting 100 young people from around the world through it's 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 4-H members, but are automatically included in 4-H rosters 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 _____.

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

Ohio 4-H International Programs
_____ County Extension Office

DATE: _____

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON:

Phone:

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

A _____ County youth will be traveling to Finland this summer as part of the 4-H/Finland Exchange Program. _____, _____ years old, son/daughter of _____ will join other 4-H'ers from across the country for the exchange, June 14 to July 15.

While in Finland, the American teens will be learning the local culture by living with Finnish host families and participating in community life.

_____ is among (15) 4-H'ers from the USA who will be visiting Finland. He/she will begin his/her tour with orientation sessions in Chicago and Helsinki. The program in Finland is coordinated by the Finnish 4-H Federation.

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 _____ - _____ of your local volunteer International County Coordinator, _____ at _____ . Youth and families do not need to be current 4-H members to participate.

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NEWS RELEASE While Labo Japanese Exchangees are In-State: July 24 - August 19

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 24 through August 19 are:

The Labo Foundation is a Japanese organization devoted to teaching Japanese youth about the English language and American culture. Each summer, close to 600 Japanese boys and girls 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 80 Japanese youth and their five adult chaperones.

(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 being hosted by the rural families of 4-H, although suburban and city hosts are also welcome to participate.

(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 other exchange opportunities with numerous areas of the world.

If you are interested in more information about these programs, please contact _____, _____ County International Coordinator (_____ - _____), or 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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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 2008 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 wish to do some traveling of their own, 4-H will offer homestay programs to Finland, Australia, Norway and Costa Rica in summer, 2008. Future experiences may include a 3-week tour and homestay in Europe, Great Britain or New Zealand in 2012. Application deadlines for the 2008 programs were Jan. 28, 2008. If you are interested, get on board quickly for the 2009 programs!

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

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