2024 JAPAN EXCHANGE
Join a HOMESTAY EXCHANGE and immerse yourself in another culture!

Are you curious about daily life, culture, and youth leadership programs in other countries? Live with a host family in Japan and immerse yourself in a world that most visitors rarely get to see. You can share everyday life with friends and relatives in your host community and build friendships that will last a lifetime.

STATES’ 4-H INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM DETAILS:

8 WEEK HOMESTAY PROGRAM
Dates: June 12—August 9, 2024
Capacity: Maximum 20 delegates
Cost: $5,600 + airfare estimate ($2,100 - $2,400)
(Actual airfare may vary at time of booking)

For the first 4 weeks, stay with a host family (host sibling not guaranteed) in the Tokyo area, while attending an intensive Japanese language Nihongo program. This program is for youth that are interested in a true Japanese classroom experience! In the second 4 weeks, you will be placed with a new host sibling and host family.

Program Timeline*:

| November 1 | Application due to Missouri 4-H Office |
| November 18 | Required interview—Columbia, MO |
| January: | States’ 4-H notifies applicant of acceptance |
| January 15: | First payment due for Japan |
| | ($3,000 for Japan 4 week, $4000 for Japan 8 week)* |
| February 1: | States’ 4-H issues international air tickets |
| April 1: | Passport due to States’ 4-H Office |
| | Domestic itinerary due to States’ 4-H Office |
| | Remaining payment due to States’ 4-H Office |
| Early Spring: | State-level orientations |
| Late Spring | National orientation for all Argentina delegates |
| June 20: | Students fly to a U.S. gateway city for National Departure Orientation the day before the international flight |

4 WEEK HOMESTAY PROGRAM
Dates: July 10 - August 9, 2024
Capacity: Maximum 60 delegates
Cost: $3,600 + airfare estimate ($2,100 - $2,400)
(Actual airfare may vary at time of booking)

Live with a Japanese host family for the month and experience daily life. You will be placed with a host sibling to share your experience and learn about Japanese culture. A group camp is offered through both Labo and LEX.

Program Fees Include:
- Overnight National Orientation in Seattle, WA & in Tokyo
- LABO and LEX camps
- In-Japan expenses: lodging, meals, transportation
- Orientation materials and States’ 4-H t-shirts
- Accident & Sickness Insurance
- A portion of adult chaperone expenses
- 8 Week Program fees include the 4-week Japanese Nihongo language program: Language learning in a classroom setting and cultural excursions outside of classroom.*
- Overnight National Departure Debriefing in Seattle, WA
- Deposits due November 1 with application University of MO $250.00; States 4-H Exchange $3,000 or $4,000. 2 separate checks. Will not be cashed until accepted at National Level

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States’ 4-H International’s mission is to enhance world understanding and global citizenship; one way to move towards that goal is through living with a local host family and immersing oneself in another culture.

“This was a life changing experience and it has truly changed my mindset on others and the world. I feel like a different person now, in a good way, and I now have an international family!”

- States’ 4-H Outbound Alumna

Who can apply:
4-H youth who want to learn first-hand about another culture and gain a global perspective. Must be between ages 12-18 from the first day to the last day of the exchange for Japan 4-Week, and 15-18 for Japan 8-Week (applicant must not be in college). 4-H enrollment guidelines and ages vary by state.

How to apply:
Contact your local 4-H coordinator to apply and learn about your local deadlines and to access the application.

States’ 4-H Program Policies:

- Program Cancellations:
  * No refund of paid deposits, unless full program cancelled by States’ 4-H
- Airfare is non-refundable once issued
- In-State Fees may apply
- Participant is responsible for purchasing domestic airfare to/from National Departure in Seattle, WA
- Unaccompanied Minor fees may apply (up to $150 each way)
- Program details subject to change

FAQs:

Q: Will a chaperone accompany the group?
A: Yes! Adult chaperones accompany the group during international travel and remain in-country to provide support during the exchange.

Q: Do I need to speak Japanese?
A: No prior language study is required, but it is certainly helpful! Our international partners have English-speaking staff on hand to assist you in communication.

Q: How will States’ 4-H prepare me for my homestay?
A: States’ 4-H provides travel handbooks that cover everything from packing lists to financial matters to cultural information. In addition, each state may conduct a spring orientation covering these topics. Delegates also receive details during the States’ 4-H group conference call in late spring and a National Departure Orientation the day before the international flight.

For more information:

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