2023 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 tourists rarely get to see. You will 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 14—August 10, 2023
Capacity: Maximum 20 delegates
Cost: $3,895 + airfare estimate ($1,700 - $2,600) + $50 travel agent fee (Airfare varies based on applicant’s location)

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. In the second 4 weeks, you will be placed with a new host sibling and host family. A group camp is offered through Labo and cultural excursions are offered by LEX.

Program Timeline*:

November 1: Application and first deposits due to Missouri 4-H Office ($2,000 for 8 week and $1,500 for 4 week) payable to States 4-H Exchange; $250.00 payable to University of Missouri. 2 separate checks.
$250.00 applies only to NEW applicants.
February: States’ 4-H notifies applicant of acceptance
March 15: Second deposit due to States’ 4-H Office ($2,000 for 8-Week, $1,500 for 4-Week)
March 15: Medical form & Passport due to States’ 4-H Office
April: States’ 4-H issues air tickets
Early Spring: State-level orientations
May 1: Third and final deposit due to States’ 4-H Office
Late Spring: National orientation for all Japan delegates
Summer: Students fly to a U.S. gateway city for National Departure Orientation the day before the international flight.

*HOLD SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12 FOR INTERVIEWS FOR NEW APPLICANTS

4 WEEK HOMESTAY PROGRAM

Dates: July 12 - August 10, 2023
Capacity: Maximum 30 delegates
Cost: $2,745 + airfare estimate ($1,700 - $2,600) + $50 travel agent fee (Airfare varies based on applicant’s location)

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 Labo and cultural excursions are offered by LEX.

Program Fees Include:

- Overnight National Orientation in U.S. gateway city & in Tokyo
- Labo camp or LEX cultural excursions
- 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.*

*First payment will not be deposited until applicant is accepted in February

**Lunch not included on weekdays during language classes ($7-10/day estimate).
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States’ 4-H International’s mission is to enhance world understanding and global citizenship, which we believe can be achieved 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 a 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 (you 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:
  * Prior to March 31, 2023: $100 cancellation fee. The remaining amount of program deposits will be refunded. (JPN8 must be received by 3/15)
  * After April 1, 2023: No refund of paid deposits, unless full program cancelled by States’ 4-H (No refund for JPN8 after 3/15)
- Airfare is non-refundable once issued
- In-State Fees may apply
- Unaccompanied Minor fees may apply (up to $150 each way)
- No donor checks are accepted by the States’ 4-H Office; donors must send checks directly to the delegate
- 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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