2020 JAPAN EXCHANGE

Spend a SUMMER ABROAD 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 10—August 6, 2020
Capacity: Maximum 20 delegates
Cost: $3,875 + 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 host sibling of the same gender and of a similar age. A group camp is offered through Labo and cultural excursions are offered by LEX.

Program Timeline*:

December 1: Application & first deposit due to States 4-H Office** ($2,000 for 8-week & $1,500 for 4-week)
January: States’ 4-H notifies applicant of acceptance
February 1: Second deposit due to States’ 4-H Office ($2,000 for 8-week & $1,500 for 4-week)
Late-February: States’ 4-H issues air tickets
March 1: Medical form & passport copy due to States’ 4-H Office
Spring: State orientations
April 15: Third & final payment due to States’ 4-H Office
Late Spring: States’ 4-H Group Conference Call
Summer: Students fly to a U.S. gateway city for National Departure Orientation the day before the international flight.

*Some states may have an earlier timeline set in order to approve documents before they are forwarded to the National Office.

**First payment check will not be deposited until applicant is accepted in January.

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.*

Lunch not included on weekdays during language classes ($7-10/ day).

4 WEEK HOMESTAY PROGRAM

Dates: July 8 - August 6, 2020
Capacity: Maximum 30 delegates
Cost: $2,725 + 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 of the same gender and of a similar age. A group camp is offered through Labo and cultural excursions are offered by LEX. Program
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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:
  - Before January 31, 2020: $300 cancellation fee. The remaining amount of first program deposit will be refunded
  - January 31 - February 15, 2020: Cancellation will equal 100% of first program deposit
  - After February 15, 2020: No refund of paid deposits
- 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:

[www.states4hexchange.org](http://www.states4hexchange.org)

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