

What is the 4-H FLEX High School Exchange?

- The 4-H Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) High School Program is a scholarship funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.
- FLEX students live with American host families and attend public high schools.
- It enables young people of the former Soviet Union to learn about democracy and volunteerism through first-hand experience.
- Since the program's inception in 1992, thousands of young people have been awarded scholarships to participate in this exceptional program.

What is the Japanese/Korean High School Exchange?

- The 4-H Japanese High School Exchange has existed since 1972 and currently involves about 25 states and Canadian provinces.
- Students come from two youth organizations that teach children and families English and other languages while learning about cultures: Labo International Exchange Foundation; Institute for Language Experiment, Experience and Exchange – LEX.
- Originally started as a one-month summer exchange, the program has grown and expanded over the years to include a variety of international exchange opportunities.

4-H International High School Exchange Includes:

- Youth from Japan and Eurasia for an 11-month stay all over Wisconsin.
- Japanese students from the LEX and Labo programs and Eurasian students from the FLEX program.
- Orientation and cultural materials for host families.
- Russian-speaking or Japanese-speaking counselors available to students and families.
- Orientation classes, evaluation sessions, mid-term gatherings, and other 4-H sponsored programs.
- Regular 4-H contact with host families, students, and schools.

Goal

- These programs strive to enhance the 4-H program through international, cross-cultural experiences that enable young people to improve their leadership and communication skills, while increasing their international awareness and understanding.



4-H Youth Development Programs
UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension

University of Wisconsin-Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA.



2011 - 2012 Wisconsin 4-H High School Exchange Programs

**Host a young person from Japan,
Korea, or Eurasia for the school year!**

Who?

- Families who share a willingness to open their homes and their hearts in an exchange with students ages 15-18 from all over the world for 11 months, August through June.
- Urban families, rural families, single-parent families, older couples, singles, couples without children and families with varied religious and ethnic backgrounds all have something to offer visitors from other countries.
- The exchange students will want to join in everyday activities, help with chores, and otherwise fit in as a brother, sister, son or daughter.

What Should You Do?

- Carefully read the information on both sides of this flyer.
- Discuss your interest in hosting a student with your family.
- Talk with others who have hosted high school students or with other 4-H international programs.
- Call the county extension office and discuss your interest with your 4-H Youth Development Agent. Ask the county extension office to send you a host family application.
- Complete and return your application by February 15 along with two reference forms and a County 4-H Agent recommendation.

Application Process:

- Complete and submit a host family application to your 4-H Youth Agent including two reference forms and an Agent recommendation. All members of the family over the age of 18 must complete the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Protection Program screening.
- Returning the application does not obligate your family in any way, nor does it assure assignment of an exchangee.
- Following the receipt of your application, a home interview will be scheduled.
- Early applications will receive preference of age and gender requests. However, applications will continue to be accepted until all exchangees are placed.
- Families receive notification of selections and additional hosting information about mid-May. Selection is based on the application, references and how well the exchangee matches your family's preferences and interests.
- We try to give families as much time as possible so they can write letters and become acquainted with their exchanges prior to arrival.



Expectations:

- Host families are expected to make arrangements to pick up the exchangee at arrival and drop him/her off at departure.
- Host families provide the exchangee with meals and lodging and include him/her in all family activities.
- Host families are expected to read all 4-H materials sent by the county or state office and attend orientation(s) in the spring.
- Contact your local volunteer County Coordinator or the State 4-H International Program office immediately if illness, problems, or other major concerns arise.
- Be flexible, patient, and able to communicate, both verbally and non-verbally with your exchangee. Many of the participants will have limited English communication skills, at least initially.
- Although the exchangee does not necessarily need a private room, the program requires that he/she is provided with his/her own bed.
- The teen host sibling(s) matched to host the international student are expected to keep their exchange brother/sister in mind during the hosting period and help them adjust to American life, making sure the student feels comfortable around friends and is included in activities.
- No special activities need to be planned, although most families and visitors enjoy the opportunity to take occasional sightseeing trips to local attractions and landmarks during the visit.