

2012 Wisconsin 4-H International Programs Summer Host Family Description

Can't find the time and money to travel? Enjoy the exposure to different cultures which traveling brings? Looking for a low-cost project or experience in which the whole family can participate and grow together? 4-H allows families to gain the benefits of international travel right here at home by hosting an exchangee from Japan, Korea, Mexico or one of many other countries. Families often find they are drawn closer together and see their lives in a whole new perspective as they welcome a new son, daughter, brother or sister into their family circle.

4-H/Japan-Korea Summer Exchanges

Japanese and South Korean youth aged 12-18 visit from mid-July to mid-August. They are members of Japanese organizations devoted to the study of foreign cultures and languages. Youth are placed in homes where there is a host sibling of approximately the same age and gender.

4-H Finland Exchange

Norwegian 4-H youth aged 15-18 stay with a family for 4 weeks during the summer. Youth are placed in homes with host siblings of approximately the same age and gender. Note that Finnish 4-H'ers visit the U.S. on even-numbered years only.

4-H/Mexico and Argentina Exchange

Mexican and Argentinan youth aged 14-18 stay with a family for 4 weeks during the summer. Like the Koreans' program, LEX Mexico focuses on teaching multiple languages simultaneously! Youth are placed in homes with host siblings of approximately the same age and gender.

Adult Chaperones

Adult chaperones will accompany the month-long delegations. Adults will stay two weeks with two different host families during the exchanges.

4-H is seeking all types of families to give exchangees as broad a perspective as possible about life in the U.S. 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 cultures.

Other than having a genuine interest in other cultures, the main requirement is that all members of the host family over the age of 18 complete the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Protection Program screening. Being a 4-H International host family is easy, fun, rewarding, and educational. Welcome the exchangee into your home and treat him or her like one of the family.

The exchangees will want to join in everyday activities, help with chores and otherwise fit in as a brother, sister, son or daughter. 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.

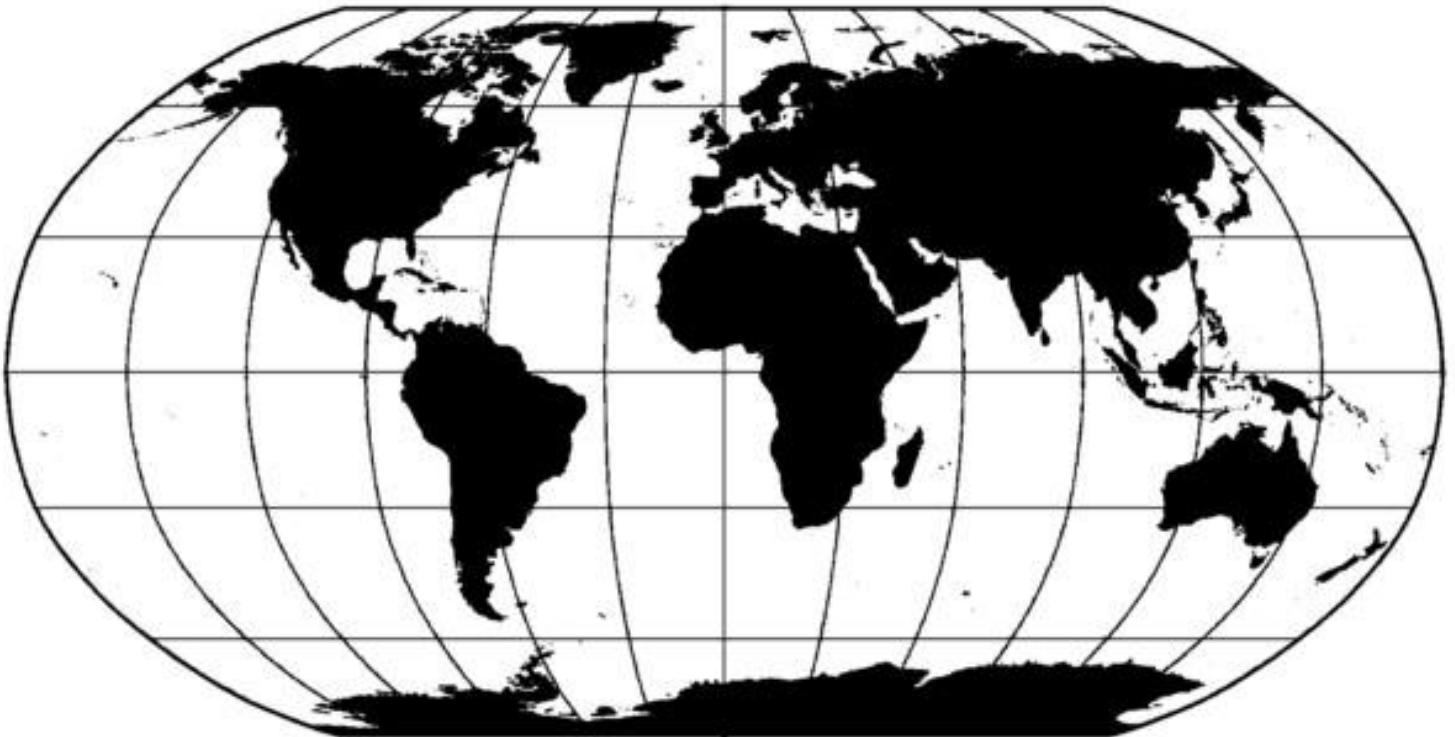
Host families appreciate the chance to develop friendships which reach around the world. They find that the exchangee teaches them not only to understand other ways of life, but to understand and appreciate their own way of life as well.

***An online version of this application will be available starting January 1, 2012. Please visit wi4hinternational.org for more information.**

EXPECTATIONS OF HOST FAMILIES:

- Read all 4-H International materials sent by the county or state office. Comply with the deadlines as noted.
- Participate in teleconference orientation in the spring and face-to-face orientation at the pick-up point.
- Families are encouraged to correspond with exchangees and get to know them before they arrive.
- Exchanging photographs of family members, pets, and your home are a good way to become acquainted.
- Make arrangements to pick up the exchangee at arrival and drop him/her off at departure.
- Provide the exchangee with meals and lodging.
- Include the exchangee in all family activities.
- Families are encouraged to learn about their exchangee's country, culture, foods, family and lifestyle.
- Families must attend a mid-point meeting half-way through the exchange. These are set-up in different regions throughout the state to minimize travel time and distance.
- Contact your local volunteer County Coordinator or the State 4-H International Program office immediately if illness, problems or other major concerns are evident.
- 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.
- 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 matched to host the international guest must keep this exchange uppermost in mind during the hosting period and make sure the exchangee feels comfortable around friends and is included in activities.
- Have fun!

The host family experience doesn't end when the exchangee returns home. Often the friendships formed last a lifetime! Host families find that exchangees really do become members of the family and sometimes are able to visit the family again on a subsequent trip. 4-H families also make efforts to visit their exchangee in their home country either through the 4-H Exchange or through private travel. For host families, the world suddenly becomes smaller!



Wisconsin 4-H International Inbound Programs 2012 Summer Host Family Application

How to apply to be a 4-H International Host Family:

Complete and submit this page and the attached application forms (with required signatures) to the WI 4-H International Programs address listed below. As of January 1, 2012, an online application form will also be available (visit wi4hinternational.org for more information). Please forward recommendation forms to the appropriate designees including your county 4-H Youth Agent.

Following receipt of your application, an interview may be scheduled. Early applications will receive preference for age and gender requests. However, applications will continue to be accepted until all exchangees are placed. Returning the application does not obligate your family in any way, nor does it assure assignment of an exchangee.

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. Placements are completed as soon as biographical information about exchanges is received from the cooperating organizations. We try to give families as much time as possible so they can write letters and become acquainted with their exchanges prior to arrival.

Please check the program preferences for which you would like to be considered:

4-H/Japan, Korea, Mexico, Argentina and Finland Exchanges

- Argentina Summer Exchange
- Mexico Summer Exchange (12-18 year old 4-H youth, 3 weeks, July 3-July 29)
- Finland Summer Exchange (15-18 year old 4-H youth, 4 weeks, July 3-July 29, odd numbered years only)
- Japan Summer Exchange (12-18 year old Labo or LEX youth, 4 weeks, July 22-August 18)
- Korea Summer Exchange (12-18 year old LEX Korea youth, 4 weeks, July 22-August 18)
- Adult Chaperone from _____

Due February 1st to
WI 4-H International Programs, 431 Lowell Hall, 610 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53703



WI 4-H INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS SUMMER HOST APPLICANT CHECKLIST

- Host Family Application

Original application must be completed and signed by all appropriate parties as indicated on the application. The application is not complete unless a family picture (or picture of the exchange host) is included with the application. **Mail or email to WI State 4-H Office, International Programs by February 1, 2012.**
- Photo

A photo or photos of the exchange host and family must accompany the application. Digital photos may be emailed to the state 4-H office at: kay.hobler@ces.uwex.edu
- Complete 4H Youth Protection Training and Background Check

All persons 18 and over living in the home during the exchange period must complete Youth Protection Training and background check screening through their county 4-H office. If anyone in your household over the age of 18 has not already completed this process, make an appointment with the current 4-H Youth Development Agent in your county to sign up for Youth Protection Training.
- Agent Confidential Recommendation

The host family must contact their current 4-H Youth Development Agent and have them complete this confidential recommendation form. If you have not been in the 4-H program or are not currently active in the 4-H program please contact a school teacher or principal, youth organizational leader (i.e. scout leader), or someone who is an authority figure who knows the family well.
- 2 Confidential Host Family References

The host family gives copies of this form to 2 individuals to complete and mail back to the state 4-H office. Forms should be confidential. **Do not have a relative complete this form.**
- Host Family "In-Home" Interview

Interested host families must contact the WI 4-H International Programs office at (608) 262-2491 or (608) 262-1557 or by e-mail to madisonhartup@gmail.com or lendved.nolan@gmail.com in order to schedule an in-home interview with a County Coordinator in their area.



STATES' 4-H INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS 2012 HOST FAMILY APPLICATION

Forms for selected hosts will be sent abroad: so it can be understood easily, do not use abbreviations. Print neatly or type neatly in black ink. Do not leave blank spaces.

Print neatly or type

HOST FAMILY INFORMATION				(FOR 4-H OFFICE USE ONLY)	
FAMILY NAME				ORGANIZATION	
STREET ADDRESS				NAME	
CITY		STATE		ID CODE	
ZIP		COUNTY		GENDER	AGE
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT)				Chaperone hosting dates:	
HOME TELEPHONE		FAX		EMAIL	
FATHER'S NAME		OCCUPATION Employer Name		WORK PHONE:	CELL PHONE:
MOTHER'S NAME		OCCUPATION Employer Name		WORK PHONE:	CELL PHONE:
EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME		RELATIONSHIP		PHONE NUMBER	

OTHERS IN HOME (Place an "X" to the left of the youth who will be hosting the exchangee.) *Age as of 7/21/11

"X"	Name	Gender	Birthdate	Grade	Age*	Hobbies/interests

Have you or your family been involved in 4-H? Yes No What languages are spoken in your home? _____

Are animals allowed in the house? Yes No

If yes, what animals & how many? _____

Farm/Outdoor Animals: _____

Location of Home: City Small Town Rural Non-Farm Farm Suburb Ranch

Smoking household Non-smoking household Smoking forbidden in our household

Single family house Apartment Other (describe): _____

If both parents work outside the home, who will assume responsibility when both parents are away?

Are there any physical, mental or emotional health conditions in your family of which a delegate would need to be aware (ex: physical disability, Down syndrome, hearing loss, ADD/ADHD, Autism, etc.)? _____

Optional: What is your family's religious affiliation, if any? _____

Optional: How often do you attend religious services? _____

Family Hobbies / Interests: _____

Has your family hosted an exchangee before? Yes No If "yes," name of program(s): _____

What Year(s): _____ Country(s): _____ Length(s) of stay(s): _____

How did you learn about hosting with the States' 4-H International Program? _____

Does anyone in the family follow dietary restrictions? Yes No

If yes, please describe: _____

Would you expect the delegate to also follow these dietary restrictions? Yes No

Would you be able to host a delegate who follows a dietary restriction (i.e., vegetarian, no pork, etc.)? Yes No

If yes, please describe: _____

Is your family financially able to provide the student a bed and three meals a day for the duration of the program?

Yes No

Do you have a home-based business? Yes No

If yes, please describe: _____

**PLEASE ATTACH RECENT FAMILY PHOTO IN SPACE PROVIDED, WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IDENTIFIED:
(If you prefer, you may send a digital photo to kay.hobler@ces.uwex.edu.)**

NOTE:
Don't delay processing of your paperwork – photos are needed to complete your application

Identify family members, pets, etc.
You may send more than 1 photo but no more than 3 please.

Why does your family want to host? _____

PREFERENCES FOR EXCHANGEES

(Please check the types of exchangee your family would be able to host)

Interested in hosting a student or chaperone from (you may check more than one):

- Japan
- Korea
- Argentina
- Finland
- Mexico

_____ Youth (ages 12-18) for **one month** (June to August)

Gender preference: Male Female Either is acceptable Age Preference: _____

If our first choice is unavailable, we will accept someone who is a different age: Yes No

_____ Adult Leader for approximately **two weeks** or **four weeks** (July or August)

Gender preference: Male Female Either is acceptable

Duration: Two weeks Four weeks Either is acceptable

WE UNDERSTAND/CONFIRM (Parent(s) and host brother/sister, please initial)

_____ If selected as a host family, our family will be expected to treat the exchange as one of the family members. The exchangee will be included in all family activities.

_____ No special arrangements for entertaining or traveling with this delegate are expected. The program emphasizes the normal family life experience that can be gained from a host family stay.

_____ Orientation session(s) will be held and orientation materials will be sent to us. We are expected to read the information and familiarize ourselves with this material in preparation for this exchange. We are required to attend an orientation session(s).

_____ All applicants will receive notification of selection as soon as possible by the state/local coordinator. Selection is based on references, application, and ability to closely match participants and families.

_____ Family must be flexible, patient and able to communicate both verbally and non-verbally while hosting.

_____ No member of our family has ever been convicted of child abuse, drug abuse, or any other felony criminal offense.

_____ Teen matched to host delegate must keep this exchange uppermost in mind during the month(s) of hosting. All family members should make sure that the delegate feels comfortable around friends and feels included in activities.

_____ We will contact state or county international exchange coordinator immediately if illness or problem/concern is evident.

_____ No member of our family has ever been convicted of a felony of any kind, a crime involving drug abuse, a crime of violence, a sexual crime, or any type of crime against a minor.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

County 4-H Youth Advisor/Agent Signature: _____

State 4-H International Coordinator: _____ Date: _____

List two people (not family members or relatives) who can be contacted for references:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Additional Information for Host Family Application Form Summer Inbound

What type of chores/responsibilities will the student be expected to have/do? _____

What are your family's expectations for hosting a student? _____

**To make the best match possible, please provide additional information about the hosting sibling.*

Name of hosting sibling: _____

What activities do you enjoy?

- Studying Shopping Walking Camping Tennis Eating Swimming
 Singing Cooking Music Sports Other: _____

Your Personality Characteristics:

- Tidy Curious Shy Emotional Cheerful Quiet Patient
 Talkative Laugh a lot Sociable Tolerant Serious Other: _____

What do you usually do in your free time?

- Movies Museums Read Study Shop Participate in Sports
 Spectator of Sport Events Other: _____

What type of TV programs do you enjoy watching?

- Educational Drama Adventure Musicals Comedies Game Shows
 Movies Sports News None Other: _____

What kind of books do you like to read?

- Classics Non-Fiction Poetry Mysteries Textbooks Science Fiction
 Biographies Other: _____

What type of music do you enjoy?

- Classical Disco Show Tunes Popular Folk Country & Western
 Jazz Rock Rap Alternative Other: _____

What qualities do you value most in other people?

- Loyalty Kindness Patience Honesty Intelligence Sense of Humor

Wisconsin 4-H International Programs

CONFIDENTIAL HOST FAMILY REFERENCE

Summer / Yearlong International Exchanges

(To be completed by someone other than a relative or family member of the host applicant.)

Name of Host Family: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: Home (_____) _____ Work (_____) _____

Name of person completing this form: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Home (_____) _____ Work (_____) _____

*This family has applied to host a participant in a 4-H Exchange Program. A host family represents the U.S. culture to the visitor and plays a very important role in determining the success of the participants' experience in the United States. The information that you give us will be useful in determining the placement of individual participants. Please answer all questions as fully as possible. **Thank you for providing this reference. All information is confidential and will only be used to select host families.***

How long have you known this family? From _____ to _____

How often do you see the family? _____

What is your relationship with this family? _____

What special interests (camping, horses, photography, art, cooking, sewing, sports, etc.) do family members have [especially the teenager(s)]? _____

How do you feel that this family will adjust to unexpected situations, different customs, etc.?

How do you feel that this family will welcome a visitor of a different religion and different ethnic background?

What are this family's greatest strengths? _____

What are this family's weaknesses? _____

Are you aware of any drug, alcohol, or child abuse on the part of any member of the family? YES NO

If yes, please explain: _____

In your opinion, would a young visitor find this family supportive and understanding of difficulties in adjusting to strange customs, new foods, interpersonal relationships, etc.? Please give an overall assessment. If you have a son or daughter aged 12-18, would you feel comfortable if your child were placed with this family? _____

I recommend this family to host an exchangee Very Strongly Yes With some hesitation No

Signature _____ Date _____

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Wisconsin 4-H International Programs

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: Home (_____) _____ Work (_____) _____

Name of person completing this form: _____

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Signature _____ Date _____

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Wisconsin 4-H International Programs Host Family Applications Agent Confidential Recommendation

Name of Applicant Family: _____ County: _____

- Check one:
- Yearlong FLEX or Japanese Program
 - Finland Exchange
 - Japan/Korea Summer Exchange
 - Costa Rica Exchange
 - Mexico Summer Exchange
 - Norway Exchange

This evaluation helps us confidently place international exchangees in Wisconsin 4-H host families. Please answer to the best of your knowledge.

Yes No

- 1. Family actively participates in community activities such as 4-H, scouts, sports, civic groups, etc. Comments: _____
- 2. Family is respected and known in community. Comments: _____
- 3. Family has hosted international guests and is interested in international and cultural issues. Comments: _____
- 4. Family appears to have a stable home life. Comments: _____
- 5. Family members are sensitive to others. Comments: _____
- 6. Family members are outgoing. Comments: _____
- 7. Family members are empathetic and understanding. Comments: _____
- 8. Family members are generally cooperative. Comments: _____
- 9. Family members appear to be open to new cultures and ideas. Comments: _____

In what capacity do you know or have worked with this family? _____

Please share other helpful information regarding the host family: _____

All household members 18 years and older must complete 4-H volunteer screening and training to be considered as a host family. Have all persons over 18 in this family home completed the WI 4-H Youth Protection process?

- yes no mother/guardian name : _____
- yes no father/guardian name: _____
- yes no other (list) _____
- yes no other (list) _____

I recommend this family to host an exchangee: very strongly yes with some reservation no

Agent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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