

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.
- The young people 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 first-hand through experiencing it.
- Since the program's implementation 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.

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2010-2011 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 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, 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 matched to host the international student must keep this exchange uppermost in mind during the hosting period and make sure the participant 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.