

2010-11 Wisconsin 4-H International Programs Yearlong 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 the US State Department Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX). 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.

Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX)

Students from Eurasia, aged 16-18, stay with your family from early August through late May or early June. Sponsored by the US State Department, the FLEX program serves as a method to teach people from the former Soviet Union volunteerism, free market methods, and life skills. Countries include: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Japanese High School Exchange Program

Students from Japan, aged 15-18, stay with your family from August through June. The Labo International Exchange Foundation and LEX Japan send the students to learn about American culture and enhance their language skills. Both programs are devoted to learning language through unconventional methods.

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.

Wisconsin 4-H International Inbound Programs 2010-11 Yearlong 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. Please forward recommendation forms to the appropriate designees including your county 4-H Youth Agent.

Following receipt of your application, an in-home interview may be scheduled by the State 4-H Office. Early applications will receive preference for age and gender requests. However, applications will continue to be accepted until all exchangeees 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.

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. There will also be two midpoints throughout the exchange as well as monthly teleconferences.
- 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. The student doesn't need their own room, but does need their own bed.
- Include the exchangee in all family activities.
- Families are encouraged to learn about their exchangee's country, culture, foods, family and lifestyle.
- Contact 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.
- 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. For host families, the world suddenly becomes smaller!

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



STATES' 4-H INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS HOST FAMILY APPLICATION

 FLEX

 Japan

Please attach a page with recent family photo(s) with members identified or email to kay.hobler@ces.uwex.edu
Print neatly or type

Permanent Host Family Temporary Host Family (Dates: _____)

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	WORK or CELL PHONE	
MOTHER'S NAME	OCCUPATION	WORK or CELL PHONE	
EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME	RELATIONSHIP	PHONE NUMBER	

OTHERS IN HOME

(If applying for Month-long program, place an "X" to the left of the youth who will be hosting the exchangee.)

"X"	Name	Gender	Birthdate	Grade	Age	Hobbies/interests

Have you or your family been involved in 4-H in the past? Yes No Foreign languages spoken: _____

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, etc.)? _____

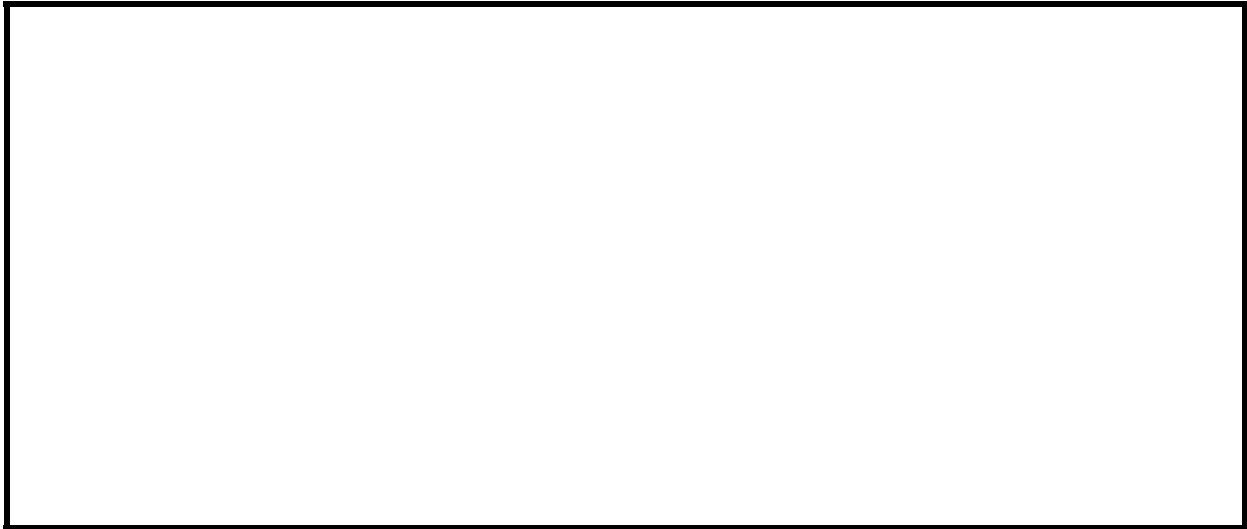
Would your exchangee be expected to attend church with you?

Yes No Optional Religion: (optional) _____

Family Hobbies / Interest: _____

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

PLEASE ATTACH RECENT FAMILY PHOTO IN SPACE PROVIDED: Be sure to identify family members. (If you prefer, you may send a digital photo to kay.hobler@ces.uwex.edu.)



Why does your family want to host? _____

What type of responsibilities/jobs will the youth be expected to have/do? _____

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

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/ provincial 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.

PREFERENCES FOR EXCHANGEES

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

Interested in hosting a student from Eurasia

Interested in hosting a student from Japan

Youth (ages 15-18) for **one year** (end July to mid-June)

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

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

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Host Brother(s) or Sister(s) Signature(s) _____

List two people (not family members or relatives) whom you will contact and forward reference forms:

Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I have read this application and will complete an Agent's Confidential Statement (either attach or send separately).

County 4-H Youth Advisor/Agent Signature: _____

State 4-H International Coordinator Approval: _____ Date: _____

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Information for Host Youth Applicants Only

What type of responsibilities/jobs 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 host sibling: _____

What activities do you enjoy?

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

Please check the items that best describe 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

What would you like to do with or show your exchangee while they are here? (i.e. activities, travel, things around the home):

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: _____

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: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

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Signature _____ Date _____

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



**4-H
Youth
Development**

Name of Applicant Family: _____

County: _____

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