

Expand Your Family's Horizons by Hosting a Japanese Youth This Summer

Looking for some new fun and excitement this summer? Host a new friend from Japan in your home this summer, July 23 – August 15. Kansas 4-H International Exchange Programs are offering hosting opportunities to 37 families this summer. We need host families who would be willing to host a Japanese boy or girl; aged 12 to 17.

We need to make host family assignments matching each delegate with an American same-gender host sibling as soon as possible so that families and exchange delegates can communicate and begin getting to know each other. Any Kansas family with children aged 10-18, who is interested in the Japanese culture, may host. A separate bed is required, but not necessarily a separate room from the host sibling. Delegates are 100 percent medically covered with 4-H insurance and bring their own spending money. They can go on host family vacations, camping trips, or join their host sibling for summer camps. The focus is *everyday family life*.



Contact: To host a particular youth from the attached list or if you have further questions, please call members of the Kansas 4-H Japan Exchange Committee:

- Susanne Hokett, skhokett@gmail.com; 785-643-6511
- Allison Lecklider, allisonlecklider@yahoo.com; 785-822-5125
- Pam Van Horn, pvanhorn@ksu.edu; 785-826-8917
- Deryl Waldren, dwaldren@ksu.edu; 303-349-7403

Benefits: Increase your family's cross-cultural and global understanding, broaden family communication skills, make a new friend from another country, and have fun while learning about Japan in your own home.

How to apply: Families may now apply on-line by visiting: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>. Upon completing the application, you will be contacted shortly by a committee member to finish the host family process. There is a required on-line application with references. In addition, there will be an in-home or video interview conducted as well as background checks conducted for all adults living in the household.

What you do: The host family treats the delegate as a family member (rather than a tourist/guest) and keep a "regular" family schedule. That could mean chores, fairs, camping, ballgames, etc.... very busy – or not so busy. It just depends on what your family likes to do! Most delegates will have studied English for one year in school. They are usually shy and don't want to make mistakes – so during the first few days you may need to encourage them to talk. The host family needs to be pro-active on ways to communicate without words, or using a Japanese/English translation dictionary, etc. We try to get all to attend a "mid-point" gathering – usually a picnic or swim party, so they can meet with other Japanese kids and their chaperones. Also, the host family can visit with the Japanese chaperones if they are having challenges and need assistance. Chaperones are always available by phone, when needed.

Please see the below attachment for a listing of Japanese youth needing host families for 2025. Our goal is to match the interests and likes of the Japan youth that will fit in well with a Kansas family.

Girls	Program	Name	Age	Interests & Likes	Health Items & Notes	Wants to Accomplish
G1	LEX	Saki H.	12	Riding unicycle, calligraphy, playing sports, dogs	Atopic dermatitis	Play sports with host, make friends
G2	LEX	Iroha S.	12	K-pop, make-up, fashion	Car sickness, allergies	Do make-up, hair and dress up with host
G3	LEX	Airi I.	12	Music, singing, playing piano, swimming, communicating, animals, small children	*See below	Ride a horse, go to 4-H fair
G4	LEX	Natsuki H.	13	Playing piano, manicures	Allergic rhinitis	Get along with host family, cook Japanese food, origami
G5	LABO	Meisa S.	13	History, video games, manga	None	Experience American culture, share Japanese culture
G6	LABO	Narumi F.	13	Drawing, comics, anime, manga	Ornithophobia (fear of birds, even pictures)	Experience American culture & school, participate in 4-H, share Japan school life and food, cook with hosts
G7	LABO	Mian G.	13	Watching YouTube, basketball, badminton	None	Experience American culture, help around the house
G8	LEX	Rinka W.	14	Pool, athletics, origami, cats, dogs, rabbits, cooking, amusement parks, chocolate, snacks	None	Be part of the family, make many memories
G9	LABO	Suzu O.	14	Music, playing drums, watching comedies	None	Communicate with host family a lot, get over shyness, make many memories
G10	LABO	Nana F.	14	Cooking, making cakes, reading, drawing	None	Share Japanese cooking, talk to host family, play tennis, take care of animals, play with host
G12	LABO	Nanami H.	15	Music, gymnastics, fashion, pop culture	Mildly allergic to cats	Become member of family, talk to host family
G13	LABO	Sawaka I.	15	Skiing, mountain climbing, camping, canyoning, nature, music, reading, Kendo, playing piano	None	Become family member, talk to host family, share Japanese cooking, origami, Kendo
G14	LABO	Yuna N.	15	Hanging out with friends, make-up, shopping	None	Make many friends, experience American culture, communicate with friends culture, communicate with friends
G15	LABO	Chisato M.	16	Puzzles, music, swimming, volleyball, traveling, learning about American culture	Lumbar disc herniation, allergies (preferably no inside animals)	Experience American culture, cook, play games, help with housework
G16	LABO	Chieri K.	16	Music, anime	None	Talk to host family, teach card game

G17	LABO	Wakana N.	16	Hiking, knitting, cooking, pop music, traveling	None	Make friends, experience American culture, try new things, teach Japanese culture
G18	LABO	Momoka O.	16	Games, YouTube, make-up, playing piano, origami, calligraphy	None	Become friends with host family and friends, share Japanese cooking, playing piano, origami, experience American culture
G19	LABO	Airi K.	16	Knitting, crafting, reading, running, sports	Sensitive scalp	Communicate with host family, experience American culture, share Japanese culture
G20	LABO	Momoko H.	16	Watching sports, acting, nature, crafts, reading	None	Become friends with host family
G21	LABO	Miyu K.	16	Video games, music	None	Make many friends, share Japanese culture
G22	LABO	Nayuki S.	16	Drawing, photography, anime, reading, museums, music, cooking	None	Experience American culture, try new things, make many friends, share art, share Japanese cooking
Boys	Program	Name	Age	Interests & Likes	Health Items & Notes	Wants to accomplish
B1	LEX	Yasuhito W.	12	Playing games, playing sports, watching YouTube, anime, movies, hamburgers, pizza	None	Playing games, volleyball, and soccer with host family, camping, go to amusement park
B2	LEX	Susumu N.	12	Baseball, basketball, anime, movies	Allergic to shrimp & crab	Make lots of friends, introduce Japanese culture, karate, Kendama
B3	LEX	Gen H.	12	Basketball, Marvel, eating	Hay fever, car sick	Play basketball and go for a walk with host family, shopping
B4	LEX	Tsukasa H.	13	Kendo, American food, baseball, cats	Hay fever	Good relationship with host family, make friends
B5	LABO	Hideo I.	13	Soccer, animals, anime, cats, geckos	None	Try new things and activities, make many friends, see many animals
B7	LABO	Wataru N.	13	Table tennis, swimming, sports, drawing, animals, traveling, games, programming, crafts	None	Become friends with host family, play games sports, talk to host family, write down Japanese games in English
B9	LABO	Minori S.	13	Kendama, sports, backflips	Ulcerative colitis	Make many friends, talk to others
B10	LABO	Soma H.	14	Games, volleyball, basketball, jogging, traveling, swimming, camping	None	Become member of family, play sports with host family

B11	LABO	Koki O.	15	Playing clarinet, music, calligraphy, nature, animals, laido	None	Share Japanese culture
B12	LABO	Haruki K.	15	Drawing, animations, video games, comics	None	Talk to host family, experience American culture and food, introduce Japanese animations and comic books
B13	LABO	Koki N.	15	Sports, video games	Ventricular septal defect (no restrictions)	Become part of the family, communicate with host family, find something in common with host
B14	LABO	Togo T.	17	Volleyball, table tennis, painting, music, social media	None	Experience American culture, teach Japanese culture
B15	LABO	Haruhito K.	17	Kendo, anime, looking at cityscapes	Mildly allergic to dogs	Share jokes, play video games, watch movies, teach Kendo, share anime

*Details provided, as needed.

Last updated: 5-14-25