

# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



**EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE**  
*Changing Lives*

***When you support Extension, Kentucky 4-H opens the world to youth and families by sharing culture, language and heritage.***

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*Kentucky families have a chance to share their summer activities with their exchange student.*

## **4-H Conducts International Exchange Program with Japanese Family-Oriented Youth Organization**

*In 2018, Kentucky 4-H celebrates 40 years of International Exchange Programs fostering global citizenship within Kentucky families.*



[extension.ca.uky.edu](http://extension.ca.uky.edu)

**“Participating in the 4-H exchange program was a great experience for our family. My son and our exchange student became instant friends. The cultural experience that both shared will last a lifetime.”**

*4-H Host Mother*

As American society becomes more globalized, it is imperative that as a community serving organization, 4-H provide opportunities for youth to engage in activities that will expand their worldview. Kentucky 4-H works with the States’ 4-H International Program to place youth in homes for both the Inbound Short-Term Program and the Academic Year Long Program. In 2017, Kentucky 4-H hosted fourteen youth and one adult from Japan for four weeks in the summer.

For the Inbound Short-Term Program, Japanese youth are paired with an American youth to spend four-weeks immersed in American culture. In 2017, at the end of the all the Japanese youth reported that they learned about American customs and practicing their English-speaking skills. In return, the American youth had the opportunity to learn about the Japanese culture.

American youth reported learning words in Japanese, trying Japanese food, learning Japanese games, and making origami. The American host parents noted the exposure to a different culture was a positive experience for their children. Also incorporating a family member from a different culture for four weeks family developed skills in adapting to differences in values and behaviors. Families and youth had the opportunity to make lasting connections with a child from a different culture. Families reported that their desires to travel and experience another culture increased due to the



*The Kentucky youth and Japanese youth have a chance to create friendships that last a lifetime.*



*Japanese youth share their culture with Kentucky families.*

hosting experience, and the hosting experience. One parent commented that the experience, “surpassed their expectations and they would recommend the program to other families!”