

Be a Host Family for 4-H International Exchange Program

So, it's a new year and you're seeking a new adventure for your family in 2024. If this is you, then we have a great opportunity for you! NC 4-H is offering two unique cross-cultural hosting experiences this year: the Summer Inbound (3.5 week) and Academic Year-long (10 month) exchange programs!

Each summer, NC 4-H offers families the opportunity to host a youth or an adult chaperone from another country. The delegates stay in NC for about 3.5 weeks to experience daily American life and culture. Special trips and tourism are not required to host a delegate. These young people are here to be a member of the family for a month, not a tourist. Take them to the grocery store and around the local area, let them do chores like feeding the animals, take them to 4-H club meetings, and much more! Countries participating in the Summer Inbound program this year include Costa Rica and Japan. Costa Rican delegates need host families from June 26-July 21, and Japanese delegates need host families from July 22-August 16. Host family selection is subject to the completion of the online application, an in-home interview, a background check, and delegate availability.

The Academic Year-long (AYP) program allows NC families the opportunity to bring a Japanese or South Korean high school exchange student into their family for a whole school year (10 months, they will arrive in August and leave in June). Students are enrolled in public high school and participate in school activities as members of their host families. 4-H staff provide support services for host families and exchange students throughout the school year. AYP students are provided their own medical insurance, have their own spending money, and are eager to immerse themselves in American life. Host families come in all shapes and sizes and reflect the diversity of the United States. Although students must attend public high school, they can stay with homeschool or private school families! Some of these students previously visited the USA as part of Summer Inbound programs. Host family selection is subject to the student's acceptance in a local public high school, completion of the online application, an in-home interview, background checks, and delegate availability.

Host family applications will be accepted until April 15 or until all students are placed. Host families do not need prior experience in 4-H to participate, but are required to be enrolled in Jackson County 4-H if they are accepted into the program.

To learn more about this opportunity and hear from some past and current NC host families, 4-H invites you to join an informational session on Zoom on Tuesday, January 23 from 6:30-8:00 pm.

The 4-H international exchange program is an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime experience for American families. I hope you will consider participating. If you would like to attend the Zoom informational session, have questions, or would like to apply to be a host family, please contact me!