

Department/Unit Name
State 4-H Youth Development
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November 30, 2007

Dear Previous LABO/FLEX Host Families:

Holiday greetings to you and your families! Looking back over previous years, I hope that you will consider your LABO or FLEX host experiences as one of your life highlights. It is now time to turn our attention to the New Year and recruiting 2008 LABO and FLEX host families. Enclosed with this letter you will find a copy of the 2007 Windows publications (created for host families and interested families), a host family referral form and a stamped envelope. **We are expanding our exchange program this year and need your help in finding future host families.** If you and your family are not interested in hosting for 2008, please pass this information along to other potential host families within your community and share with them what a great experience that you had. I would also appreciate your suggestion of one or more other families in your community, church or work that you think would be good candidates for this program. You can nominate these people using the enclosed Host Family referral form. I find that previous Host families are the best recruiters for the program.

Kentucky 4-H has made a commitment to host ten Japanese youth and one chaperone through the LABO program. We are also hosting ten Japanese youth and one chaperone through the UTREK program. As always we are looking for potential host families, couples or individuals for our year long LABO and FLEX youth. We want to show our partners that Kentucky can keep our commitments in a timely manner. Please help!

2008 LABO Host Family Information:

All forms and items **MUST** be **in my office by April 1, 2008**; however, we encourage their submission ASAP. That means that you will need to get this information to your County Extension Agent well before the April 1 deadline. Approximate time for arrival is third week of July and approximate time of departure is the third week in August.

Host family applications and paperwork can be found on the Kentucky 4-H website at: www.kentucky4h.org. On the right hand side is a link for global education. All materials are located here.

- 1) 2008 Host Family Application Summer Inbound and Photo – Please print clearly and make certain all signatures are present including the County 4-H Agent. Please note that all host brothers/sisters/parents need to initial the “We Understand/Confirm” portion of the application.

Digital photos are preferred and can be directly sent to me; however, hard copy photos are also acceptable. Pictures should reflect the youth/family planning to host and could include family photos, pets, hobbies, favorite activities, etc.

- 2) Confidential Host Family Reference Summer Inbound – This form should be sent or given to the two references listed on the bottom of page 3 of the Application Form. You or the agent should send these to these individuals. Ask the individual to return them to the County Extension Agent who will in turn send it to my office by April 1st.



- 3) Host Family In-Home Interview Report – Your County Agent will need to do an in-home interview with as many of your family members present as possible and return this form to me by April 1st.
- 4) Your County Agent will also need to do an Administrative Office of the Court background check and make sure that you and any adults living in your home pass through our Youth Protection Screening. We do this on an annual basis with host families as our global education program is such an intense living arrangements. Your agent will need to send me by April 1st a written statement or e-mail verifying that this has occurred.

Once we receive all of your paperwork in the State 4-H Department, we will review it and send a letter stating whether your family has been accepted into the program.

I know this may sound like a lot but we want to be certain that our youth are as safe and in the best families possible. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Future LABO Outbound Information:

In the past we have had Kentucky 4-H'ers participate in the LABO Outbound program. They spent four weeks in Japan with their LABO youth who had spent the previous summer in their home. Several of you expressed an interest in sending your youth on a future Outbound experience. I believe that any type of educational travel is beneficial to the child, family, and community.

Please contact me directly if you are interested in this experience for your children to discuss a timeline, fees, etc. Limited financial assistance MAY be available through the state office. Priority will be given to those youth that have been involved in hosting an exchange student in the past.

Best to you and your family!

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Enclosures: Windows, SASE, Host Family Referral Form