

After the Exchange

You had a great time on the exchange and learned a lot. Now what?

Consider studying a new language. In addition to private study, high school classes and college courses, the US State Department sometimes offers expenses-paid scholarships for high school students to travel and study languages, such as Korean or Arabic, which are often not taught in schools. Some government intelligence agencies and branches of the military also support language study.

Look into careers and volunteer activities which involve international travel.

Many colleges, including the University of Alaska, offer opportunities to study abroad at reduced tuition.

Remember to share what you have learned during the exchange. Please send us information about what you did, and copies of anything you have published.

Consider entering your photos and/or an essay in the contest sponsored by the States' 4-H International Exchange Program.

Send copies of your photos to Alaska 4-H at japanalaska@gmail.com. We would love to see them and need photos for our brochures, posters, etc.

Share your comments about the Outbound program to Japan with Alaska 4-H at japanalaska@gmail.com. You won't hurt anyone's feelings if you have suggestions for improvement! What advice do you have for future delegates to Japan?

Want to travel again?

As long as you will be under age 19 during the exchange, you can return to Japan with the 8 week Nihongo language program. You can also apply through 4-H to travel to a different country, such as Norway or Argentina. Longer-term exchanges are available through programs like AFS and Rotary.

When you are college-age, you can apply to be a Labo Intern. Interns study culture and language while working in the Tokyo Labo office, at Labo Camp, and assisting Labo Tutors in many parts of Japan. Contact the States' 4-H International Exchange Program through www.states4h.org for application information. Explain how the Intern experience fits into your career and life plans.

When you are a high school graduate and age 19 or in college, you can apply to serve as a Young Professional on the States' 4-H International Exchange Program Board of Directors and help guide the future of the exchange program. Board members participate in phone conferences and travel to two meetings each year.

Volunteer with the Alaska exchange:

Help recruit needed host families for the Japanese youth coming for a month in the summer.

Help with host family or inbound delegate orientation.

Help with outbound delegate orientation.

Share information about the outbound program.

Make a presentation about the exchange to your club, church or at another event.

If you or a member of your family are between the ages of 10 and 16, apply to host a Japanese youth for a month in the summer. If you are 17 or 18, apply early so that we can request an older delegate to stay with your family. Families with kids of any age, or without kids, can apply to host the Japanese chaperone.

If you are in high school, apply to host a high-school aged Japanese youth for a school year.