Participants sought for Japan youth exchange

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Fairbanks, Alaska—Youths ages 13-18 who are interested in Japan and its culture may request an application to participate in an Alaska 4-H exchange trip to Japan.

Applications must be received by Jan. 11 for the exchange, which is July 6 to Aug. 4, 2011. Applicants who are not currently 4-H members will be enrolled in 4-H prior to going to Japan.

Each Alaska youth will be matched with a Japanese youth of the same gender and similar age and interests. After orientation in the United States, participants will travel to Japan with a chaperone and join their Japanese host families.

Exchange coordinator Jill Holmgren said participants do whatever their host families do and experience life in Japan from the inside, rather than as a tourist or guest.

The exchange between 4-H and Japan has been ongoing for more than 40 years. For more information, e-mail japanalaska@gmail.com or call Holmgren at 907-455-6987. Participants pay a program fee that includes transportation, orientation and all other expenses except spending money.

4-H is a national youth development program and is administered in Alaska by the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service. Information about 4-H and the Alaska 4-H Exchange Program is located at www.alaska4h.org.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS: Jill Holmgren, Alaska 4-H Program coordinator, at 907-455-6987 or japanalaska@gmail.com.

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