Host families sought for Japanese youth exchange

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 15, 2012
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Fairbanks, Alaska—Alaska youth who are interested in Japanese culture may host a Japanese teen in their home this summer.

The Alaska 4-H youth program is seeking host families in the Anchorage, Kenai or Mat-Su areas from July 21 to Aug. 19. The Japanese youth are coming to Alaska through the Labo International Exchange Program, which is affiliated with 4-H.

Each family must have a child ages 10 to 16 who is willing to be the host brother or sister. The family will be matched with a Japanese youth of the same gender and similar age and interests as the hosting youth.

It is not necessary to initially be a 4-H member to participate. All Alaska youth who host will automatically become 4-H members and be eligible for 4-H activities. Youth in host families receive first priority and a discount for participation in the reciprocal exchange program to Japan, which has been ongoing for 40 years.

For details about hosting, contact your local 4-H office or Tony Nakazawa at atnakazawa@alaska.edu or 907-460-0825 or Marianne Kerr at mlkerr@alaska.edu. Exchange information is also available at www.uaf.edu/ces/4h/exchange.

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ON THE WEB: www.uaf.edu/ces/4h/exchange

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