



2018 4-H Inbound International Exchange Program Evaluation

The Michigan 4-H Inbound International Exchange program has welcomed Japanese delegates to Michigan for 45 years. In 2018, we also welcomed several South Korean and two Taiwanese delegates to Michigan. This one month exchange experience is unique and life changing. Delegates as young as 12 years old travel across the globe to live with a host family and learn about American culture.

Michigan youth are encouraged to travel to Japan the following year and live with their delegate's family to complete the exchange. This is not required, but is a unique opportunity for an unforgettable cultural experience.

During the summer of 2018, 44 families hosted 38 youth and 6 chaperones from Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. At the exchange send-off event in August 2018 35 youth and 33 adults completed post-event evaluation surveys to

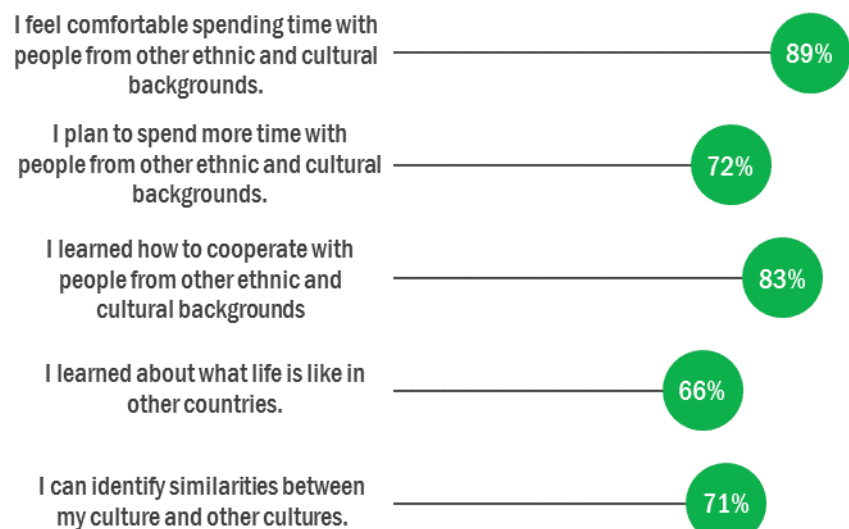
Youth survey

Of the 35 youth who completed these surveys, 61% said that they had decided along with their parents to participate in the exchange program. 29% percent of youth said it had been their parent's idea and 9% had the idea themselves. Surveys were largely completed by host siblings (88%), though several non-matched siblings also completed evaluations.

Overall, youth noted that the experience of hosting a youth from another country helped them build global and cultural competencies.

"The experience has paved the way for me to be understanding and accepting, and I will use the things I learned to be a better person." - Youth participant

Youth overwhelmingly agree that this experience built their global and cultural competencies.



International Exchange Evaluation

Parent survey

Of the 33 parents who completed survey, many noted that their goal in choosing to participate in this program was to expose their children to another culture, and to gain the experience of sharing their own culture with someone from another country.

When asked what their children gained, parents reflected that their child gained a better understanding of another culture, respect, communication skills, an appreciation for others, and companionship.

“...An impact was made in our household and on our children that will have a positive, deep and lasting affect on the benefits of knowing and learning from other cultures.” - Parent

Parents also discussed how this experience would impact their child’s future, with many reporting that their child now wishes to travel or participate in an exchange program themselves. Several parents also reported that their child is more open to new experiences. As one parent noted:

“They have a new love for other cultures and a desire to learn and grow, to explore and step out, putting beside fear of acceptance, and try, even being misunderstood– knowing it’s worth the risk.” - Parent

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