



# 2017 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 2017, we also welcomed several South Korean 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.

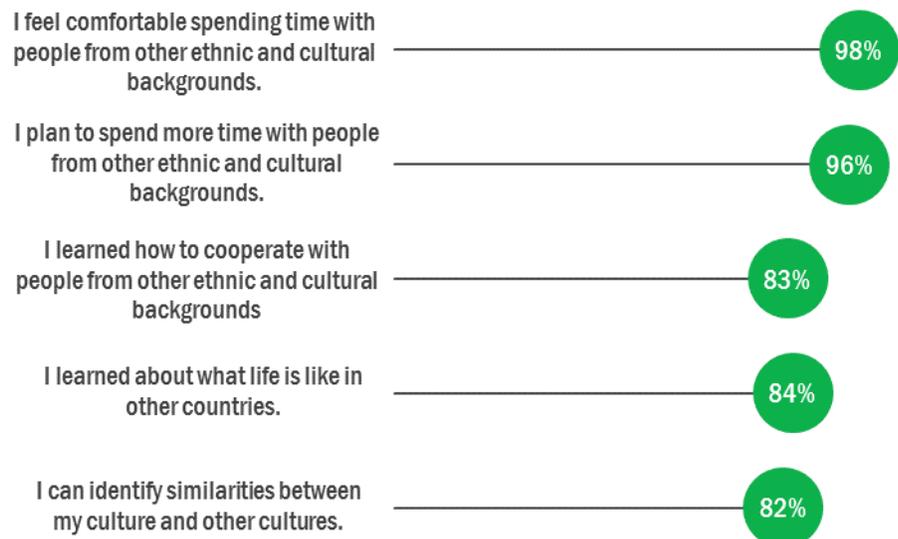
During the summer of 2017, 49 families hosted 41 youth and 5 chaperones from Japan and South Korea. At the exchange send-off event in August 2017, 51 youth and 40 adults completed post-event evaluation surveys to learn more about their experience.

## Youth survey

Of the 51 youth who completed these surveys, 51% said that they had decided along with their parents to participate in the exchange program. Thirty-nine percent of youth said it had been their parent's idea, 8% had the idea themselves, and 2% got the idea from their friends. Surveys were largely completed by host siblings (63%), 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.

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



*"I learned to not judge people by where they come from or what they look like... It was an amazing experience and will impact me forever."* - Youth participant

# International Exchange Evaluation



## Parent survey

Of the 40 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, patience, communication skills, an appreciation for others, and companionship.

***“The exchange experience helped my daughter develop communication skills, empathy, and patience. She was able to see first hand how her efforts to communicate/relate to a teenager from a different culture made an awkward situation into a positive and fun experience.”*** - 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:

***“My family will be more open-minded to people in general. My daughter easily learned how to speak/write the language. I believe this experience has opened many doors in her future.”*** - Parent



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