

## **Kentucky 4-H International Program**

Success Story 2020

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The goal of the Kentucky 4-H International Program is to enhance world understanding and global citizenship through high-quality 4-H international cultural immersion, global educational opportunities, and exchange programs. To compete in our changing world, individuals need to change their attitudes toward others and need to collect information about their cultures and values, and finally they need to develop skills to embrace the changes for the establishment of a tolerant society (Altun, 2017). Through the Kentucky 4-H International Program 23% of Kentucky counties hosted a young person from Japan or South Korea. Thirty-two families hosted 34 international delegates. Host parents reported that this experience provided their children the chance to critically think when there were communication barriers. The international delegates reported that they also learned the key aspects of how to verbally and non-verbally communicate in American culture. Kentucky 4-H youth reported that they feel more connected with people around them because they have experienced a different culture and understand what it means to find similarities and differences with others promoting tolerance and acceptance. The Kentucky 4-H International Program also increased the number of delegates traveling abroad for a homestay experience from one in 2019 (South Korea) to six in 2020 (Norway, South Korea, Japan). The program was able to sponsor \$1,100.00 in incentive funds to county 4-H programs because of their involvement in the program. Together with our partners the Kentucky 4-H International Program values: multiple perspectives, respect for others, cultural understanding, global connections, diversity, learning by doing, tolerance, innovation and engaged citizenship.