

ADAM RILEY (WISCONSIN), 2018-2019 LABO INTERN

The Labo internship is a unique opportunity to stay in Japan while being immersed in Japanese culture and life through homestays. While I first came to Japan four years ago through the 4-H/Labo Exchange, almost a full year in Japan has allowed my knowledge of Japanese culture and language to grow leaps and bounds. During my internship, I have stayed with seven different families. Saying goodbye to host families can be sad, but it also gives you the chance to gain another family here in Japan, as well as learn about a different culture.



One of your main responsibilities as a Labo intern is visiting Labo Parties. Each party is different, with ages between kindergarten and university students. Some visits may only have a few people, whereas others may have over fifty people! Nonetheless, the intern's main role is to interact with the Labo members. This usually entails sharing a photo album introducing your family, country, and culture, teaching a new song or game, or maybe, sharing a special skill or talent!

Labo has offices all over Japan. As an intern, you will likely have the chance to work in two of these district offices. The work culture has unique and interesting customs that you will be able to learn during your time in the office. The staff will be very friendly; don't be afraid to ask for help! One of the staff members will be directly assigned to you to serve as your resource and help you navigate your different responsibilities, such as organizing your party visit.



I have been able to see many different parts of Japan, meet many amazing people, and making great memories. I would never had had the opportunity to do so without the Labo internship. For that, I am eternally grateful. I encourage you to apply for the Labo internship; you will learn much more about Japan and, more importantly, yourself than you can imagine.