

What is Labo?

Your host brother or sister is a member of Labo and you will be attending Labo Party meetings and going to Labo Camp.

Each Labo club is called a Labo Party. (The word "party" is used like we use it to describe a group, such as the Republican Party.) Each Labo Party is led by an adult Labo Tutor, who is similar to a 4-H or Scout leader. Each Tutor may lead several clubs. For example, they may have a Labo Party for babies and their mothers, several Parties for young children, and one or more for teens and college students. They may even have an adult group. They also meet regularly with other Labo Tutors to plan new activities.

By the time that a Labo member comes to the USA, Canada, South Korea, China, Australia or New Zealand for a one-month homestay, their parents may have been saving money for 10 years. There is also an extra opportunity for a homestay during or just after high school, a one-year exchange attending high school with a host brother or sister.

While Labo does not offer a year-long homestay in Japan, there is an option for USA high school youth to study/homestay in Japan for 8 weeks, and for college students to apply for a one-year internship with Labo.

The Labo members who will be doing a homestay this summer will leave Japan the third week in July, so you might meet some of them. They will appreciate the opportunity to practice English by introducing themselves to you.

Labo meetings and camps include kids of all ages. Older members have a role in planning the activities. They find ways to include the younger members and they help the younger kids during the games and plays/performances. During meetings, they will take a small child by the hand and lead them through the dance or game. Other times, they might even carry the child. Those little kids grow up to be the next teen leaders and to help other little kids.

If you have room in your suitcase, you may also want to bring small gifts for the members of your Labo Party. You will want to ask your host brother or sister how many members are in the Party, and then bring a few extra, just in case there are visitors. If you don't have this information, we suggest bringing about 50 items. Some options of what to bring would be: individually wrapped hard candies, such as Jolly Ranchers (available at the supermarket or warehouse stores like Costco and Sam's--don't bring chocolate as it will melt in the heat) and/or inexpensive pencils or stickers (possible sources-- JoAnns, Oriental Trading, Michaels, teacher supply stores, garage sales, donations from agencies or businesses).

If your host mother is a Lueam /0Tm /Tam /0TmT 58 0 1 -1/Tamagbesses 40.8452cm BT :