

Labo Camp

During the exchange, you will go to Labo Camp with your host. At Tokyo orientation, Labo staff will tell you where and when you will go to camp. There are several camps around the country and each camp has several camp sessions. The camps are at beautiful locations in the mountains, often areas which are used for skiing in the winter. Your host mother will help you pack for camp. Be sure and bring your 4-H t-shirts, name cards, camera and photo album to camp.

Campers usually travel to a train station which also has a bus terminal. You and your host brother or sister will then get on a bus with other Labo members and a Labo tutor chaperone. Your bag will be stored in the bus luggage compartment. The bus will make a bathroom stop, but you should use the toilet before getting on the bus. Bring your name cards for trading during the ride, plus anything else you want for the bus ride in your backpack or day bag. If the ride is long, you will be given a box lunch. If you also bring snacks, be prepared to share them with others. Make sure you have access to your sun hat. At rest stops and at camp, you will wear your hat any time you are outdoors.

The other campers on the bus will want to trade name cards with you during the bus ride. This is especially important to the younger Labo members. Be sure and have your name cards “on you” when you board the bus.

When you get to camp, you and your host will take your bags to your lodge. The boys sleep in one room and the girls in another. During the day, the bedding and luggage are stored away. Although you are only at camp a few days, you and the members of your lodge become like a family. You will play together and work together. You will take turns to go get the food for each meal, set up and take down tables at meal times, put out the ohashi (chopsticks) and lay out and put away the futons .

Bring your photo album and let one of the lodge mothers or the Senior Mate who is your lodge leader know that you have it. They would really like it if you would show your album to the other lodge members. The Senior Mate and Lodge Mothers speak good English and are there to help you, so talk with them if you need anything. There will also be a chaperone or a Labo Intern at Camp.

together and go to the camp store together. Usually, you will always be with your host and with your lodge group, except when the USA delegates do something together or if you make arrangements to sign up for the mountain hike and your host does not.

During the camp bazaar, you and other USA delegates will take turns selling the items you brought. Most items cost about 10 to 50 Yen, so be sure and bring coins.

At the end of camp, the members of your lodge have a chance to talk about how much camp has meant to them. When people ask you for your "opinions" or "impressions", they are not