

Taking Photos

Before you leave for Japan, think about what kinds of things you will want to photograph for the presentation you will make when you return.

Make sure that your camera has enough memory and that you have spare batteries.

Be sure and try to bring your camera whenever you leave your host home. You never know what you might see. Many delegates either bring a pocket-sized camera that fits in their pants, or they carry it in a purse or messenger bag or small backpack they take wherever they go.

Make sure your name and address is on your camera.

Some delegates like to make “photo collections” as part of their exchange, with themes such as: manhole covers, umbrellas, dogs, vending machines, bicycles, buildings, etc. It gives you another way to take a closer look at Japan.

In addition to taking photos of the interesting places you visit, don’t forget to photograph your every day life in Japan, such as meals, laundry, watching TV, the bathroom, etc. Japan is a “camera culture” and your hosts will understand.

If you are in a place, perhaps the inside of a store, a museum or a temple, in which you are unsure if it would be rude or allowable to take a photo, ask your host.

You will want to have a few photos of yourself, so don’t forget to hand your camera to others and to ask them to take photos of you with your host and new friends.

After you return from the exchange, there is a national 4-H photo contest and an essay contest. You can enter photos which you have taken, and also photos which others have taken of you and your host doing something together. The theme of the contest is the friendship between you and people in Japan. When taking photos, try to make the main image at least a third of the photo, so we can see the people well. Alaska 4-H would appreciate receiving copies of your photos for our posters and orientations.