

Spring 2022 Pen Pal Program



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

About

The Spring 2022 Pen Pal Program connected twenty-four Wisconsin youth (from twenty different counties) and nineteen youth from Indonesia. The Indonesian participants are members of "Tabur Kencana Nusantara", a youth organization formed by a previous 4-H academic year exchange student who stayed in Wisconsin. Participants were between the ages of 14 and 18 and were matched based on self-identified interests.



"(The program) helped me improve my presentation and speaking skills, as well as taught me a lot about Indonesia."
-Youth Participant

Program Overview

Participants were asked to write to their Pen Pal "match" at least two times each month during the three-month program. Most participants chose to use email to communicate with their "match". In addition, six synchronous sessions were held via Zoom, which alternated between being led and facilitated by youth in Indonesia and youth in Wisconsin. The first two sessions focused on language, the third and fourth sessions gave participants an opportunity to share an aspect of their own culture that was important to them and engage in discussion regarding the similarities and differences of schooling between Indonesia and the United States. During the final two sessions, Wisconsin participants had the opportunity to cook Perkedel, a type of potato croquette common in Indonesia, while a Wisconsin participant led everyone in making homemade caramel apples and caramel apple sundaes.



Tabur
Kencana
Nusantara

Impact

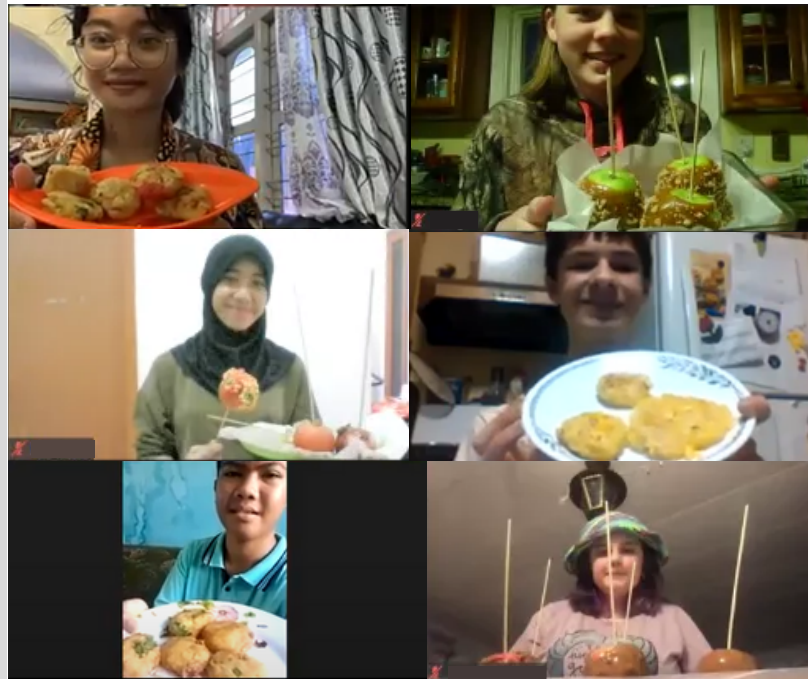
77% of Wisconsin participants responded "yes" or "maybe" when asked if they planned on **continuing to communicate** with their Pen Pal following the completion of the program.

When asked "What did you learn about yourself from this experience?"...

77% reported learning that they very **curious about other cultures** and enjoyed learning more about them.

62% reported learning that they can **communicate with someone with a different native language** than themselves.

53% reported learning that their life is interesting to other people who like to hear about their **experiences and perspectives**, and that they have opportunities that their Pen Pal doesn't have.



A few participants sharing their finished potato croquettes and caramel apples.

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