

Life After Youth Exchange

RYE and my life of travel and language,
with Danielle Robert

Rotary Youth Exchange :

Summary

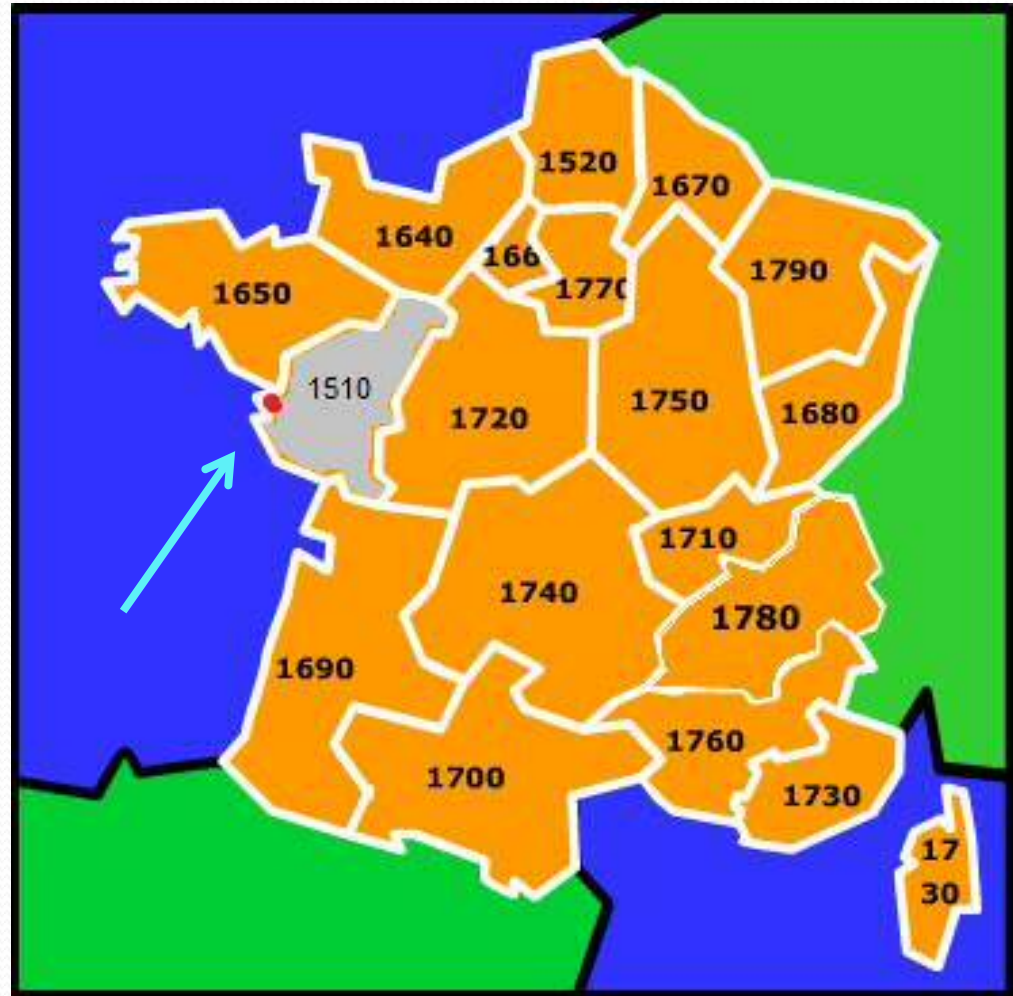
1. Students apply, and attend an interview with local club. Successful students attend an Orientation weekend.
2. Students are connected with a Host District and Host Club in foreign country of choice.
3. Students go overseas for ~11 months, attend a local high school, rotate through ~3 host families. Students are expected to integrate their host families as a family member, learn the local culture and language. Students are supported by local Host Club, and host families.
4. GOALS: Gain independence, world awareness, knowledge of a foreign culture, learn a foreign language, connect with people across the globe, and have an amazing and unique experience.



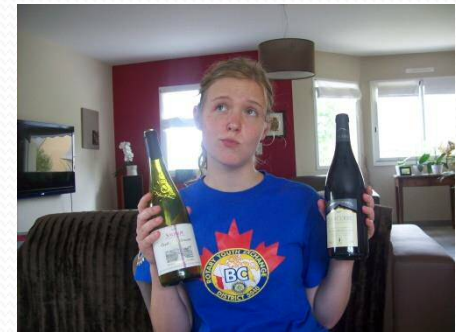
District 5040 Outbounds 2011-2012

Danielle Robert: RYE 2011-2012

- Host District 1510
 - Guérande Pays Blanc.
- Host club, Ville de Guérande.
 - Medieval city with fortified walls, near the west coast.
- Studying in “Terminal L”, or Grade 12, Literature Specialization.
- Four amazing host families in four rural villages in a 30km radius of my school.



Highlights of Exchange: my families, my club, other students, and food...



After Exchange: What Next?

Autumn 2012 – Summer 2015

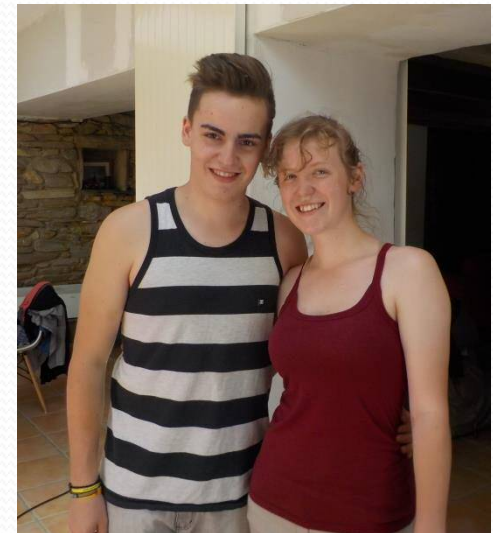
- Grade 12 in Quesnel, Graduated with a Bilingual Double Dogwood.
- Entrance scholarship to Simon Fraser University, for academic excellence and community engagement; also many community grants and awards.
- 1st and 2nd year Bachelor of Arts at Simon Fraser University; French Cohort Program, intended Major in French and Minor in Political Sciences.
- Summer employment with Parks Canada at The Forks National Historic Site as a bilingual interpreter.



Exchange 2.0 and 3.0!

Autumn 2015 – Summer 2016

- Required by my SFU program
- Fall semester (4 months) at Université de Montréal.
 - Full course load in Political Sciences and French.
- Spring semester (6 months) at Université de Lausanne, Switzerland.
 - Full course load in French Foreign Language and Linguistics.
- Decided to continue my degree in French Switzerland, leaving Political Sciences for Linguistics.
- While in Europe, I visited my host families and French high school.



New language, new continent...

Autumn 2016 – Spring 2017

- Pit stop in Iowa, USA to see Emily Taylor
- Headed to Argentina for a break from academia
 - 6.5 months
 - Volunteer exchanges and staying with host families or volunteer communities.
 - Lean Spanish by living and travelling with the locals, community engagement.
 - Backpacking, Couch Surfing, Hitch hiking, wild camping
 - Travelling, to travel.



Today: What now?

Summer 2017 and moving forward...

- Back in Quesnel working this summer.
 - Caregiver; Administrative Assistant for the West Quesnel Business Association.
- Back to university in September, at Université de Lausanne, Switzerland
 - Three disciplines: Spanish, French Foreign Language, and Linguistics.
 - Two years left to Bachelor of Arts
- Aiming for Bachelor of Education and Teaching English Foreign Language certification “soonish”, Masters of Education “eventually”.
- **ULTIMATE GOAL:** Language teacher, certified to teach any language I speak, anywhere in the world.

And now.. A Brief Reflection on RYE

- Recap from RYE to present:
 - RYE in France, 2 years at Simon Fraser University, Exchanges to Montreal and Lausanne, backpacking in Argentina.
 - Constant travelling, adapting, cultural learning.
 - Educational, employment, and funding opportunities made available to me thanks to my language skills and experiences.
 - Entering into my dream field in a reputable European university...
- Rotary Youth Exchange: a gateway, the beginning.
- Some of what I learned.
- Would I tell someone to send their youth on Exchange? YES!

Thank You, Rotary Club of Quesnel and District 5040!

And please continue to do all the amazing work that you do.