

A Message from Miquel in Switzerland

Story by Ed Kolybaba on Nov 26, 2018



The club's 2018-19 out-going Rotary Youth Exchange student, Miguel Lefevre has been experiencing an exciting and very busy time with his host Rotary club and family, school and new friends. In a recent message, Miguel shared that his RYE experience has been nothing but enjoyable, enlightening and favorable for the past three months.



Miguel arrived in Luzern, Switzerland on August 14th, and quickly became part of the Bokorny host family of four. Actually, his host mother serves as the Inbound Coordinator for Rotary Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Miguel enjoys being part of the family that includes two host brothers and a family that is providing him with support and guidance and fantastic travel experiences, which have enabled him to visit such places as Munich and Frankfurt in Germany and Salzburg in Austria.

Miguel's host Rotary Club of Luzern-Seetal, a club of 67 members, including 59 men and nine women, has welcomed him and provided him with opportunities to explore his new city, the surrounding countryside and other parts of Switzerland. Miguel shared that the club had provided him with a GA train ticket, which has enabled him to travel for free anywhere that the SBB has trains, boats and busses. During the fall break, he travelled to Geneva, Bern, Basel, Zurich, Emmen, Freiburg, and Zug. He adds that on the November 23-25th weekend, he will spend a Rotary weekend with other RYE exchange students in Zermatt.

It appears that attending classes and participating in band and orchestra, has limited his social activities and sleeping in. He explains that band every Tuesday and Friday night from 8:00 to 10:00 pm, orchestra every Saturday morning at 9:00 am, and classes from 7:45 am until 3:45 pm or sometimes even to 5:10 pm, have particularly limited his free time. "My one day to sleep in is Sunday, and during the past two, I've woken up even earlier than I would on weekdays," stated Miguel. But, he adds, he still does have some

time to “more or less keep up with has Swiss friends,” continue to work at this fencing skills, and read.



In sharing his thoughts about a European experience while still at home in Kelowna, Miguel says *“I imagined myself walking around Europe with all the old buildings around me, speaking in a new language, biking places, and not relying on my parents for much or anything at all.”* Now that he has settled into the Swiss culture, he expressed, *“I’m happy to say that that’s mostly been my experience. The only thing that gets in the way of that perfect European lifestyle I had in mind, is going to school, but it doesn’t totally ruin it because the school is so beautiful that I can let it slide.”*

Check out Miguel's Profile under RYE found within the New Generations Committee/Youth Programs site found within the Service Areas and Committees.