

## Local Student off to France for an Experience of a Lifetime

Story by Ed Kolybaba, Aug 28, 2017



Jenelle Dougan, Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise's sponsored Out-Bound Rotary Youth Exchange student, departed for her 2017-18 experience in France at 9:00 am on August 28<sup>th</sup>, via Vancouver, Paris and Luxembourg. Jenelle will be hosted by the Rotary Club of Langres in the town of Langres.

When asked why she had applied for the Rotary Youth Exchange Program experience, Jenelle shared that she had longed for an experience of this type for some time now. *For the past six years I have been interested in going on a cultural exchange somewhere across the world. When I was ten, I met a girl in my class whose family originated from Australia and had come for the year. I became very close with her and got to learn things about her culture and I taught her about my own. This was when I first became interested in a yearlong cultural exchange. After many years of volunteer work I chose to apply for the Rotary Youth Exchange program. Rotary International's views on volunteer work and making connections around the world, really correlated with mine as I truly do believe in "service above self".*



Jenelle is excited about her new adventure and is looking forward to the experiences that she will encounter as she spends almost a year in France. *"I am so excited and thankful that I have been given the the opportunity to live and experience another culture first hand for ten months," expressed Jenelle, She then added "What I am most excited about for my exchange in France is making friends and connections around the world; and yes I am also excited for the culture shock and learning French."*

Jenelle is expected to return home to the Okanagan in June of 2018.