

Short Term Youth Exchange Program Testimonials

Isabel Dube's in December 2023 reflecting back on her 2019 Short Term Exchange to France



My experience as a short-term RYE student has made great impacts on my life, not only back in 2019 in France, but still four years later, as a college student. Although I have always wanted to travel, a short-term exchange is never something that I would have seen myself doing. I was very reserved and shy, and I was afraid to do things alone. Choosing to participate in RYE, and going through the full process has changed my outlook and goals in life more than anything else.

Before going on exchange, Rotarians told me to be open and say yes to every new experience. In La Ferté Bernard, France, my host family encouraged me to step more outside my comfort zone and try things I never would have imagined. And after the exchange, still to this day, I am more extroverted and excited about meeting people and trying new things. The memories that I made, and the people I met encourage me every day to do more things I wouldn't usually try. I am very proud that I stepped outside of my comfort zone to try something so different for me, and I am glad to be the person that I am after my Rotary short-term exchange experience.



Maya Weil-Cooley in 2018 reflecting on her summer in Italy

“Living in another country, getting to see buildings that were over a thousand years old, and making friends with people I would never have gotten to meet ordinarily was truly magical.”

