

Dear Adventurer:

Congratulations on being selected as a participant in the 2017 Rotary Adventure in Citizenship Program. On behalf of the Rotary Club of Ottawa, let me say how much we look forward to meeting you and the other 200 Adventurers from all across Canada, when you arrive on SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017.

I am writing to you at this time to provide a few details on what you can expect.

PROGRAM: We have organized a busy and exciting program for you. We will provide you with a fully detailed schedule when you arrive. As you are aware, our goal is to send you home with a better understanding and appreciation of what it means to be a Canadian citizen. Your days will be devoted to the learning aspect of the program, but your evenings are all fun and social!

The Adventure begins Sunday morning, with an inspirational keynote address – this year by Mr. Majeed Mogharreban, Author of “Winning at Life”. Other program highlights include: an exclusive audience with the Speaker of the House of Commons, a visit to the Canadian War Museum and its’ “Witness to History” program, and an opportunity to meet and discuss current issues with leaders from our First Nations community. You will participate in interactive discussion panels concerning current Canadian issues such as, “Women in Politics”, and “Canada in the World”, and finally, witness the pride of new Canadians becoming part of the Canadian family during an actual Citizenship Ceremony.

Please note that throughout each day of the Program there is a FAIR AMOUNT OF WALKING. As a result, you are strongly encouraged to bring comfortable walking shoes an umbrella and/or raincoat, and be prepared to get lots of fresh air between sessions.

If you plan to carry a backpack or purse during the program, please note than bags larger than 46cm (18”) long x 36 cm (14”) wide x 20 cm (8”) deep are not permitted in some government establishments.

Furthermore, in the interest of being a plastic bottle free zone, we encourage you all to bring your own reusable water bottles to be used throughout the program.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS: Your sponsoring Rotary Club will inform you of your travel arrangements to Ottawa on SATURDAY, APRIL 29th and for your return trip home on WEDNESDAY, MAY 3 OR THURSDAY MAY 4TH. (Flights/Trains/Buses etc are currently being planned for you and you should be made aware of these arrangements by April 17th. You will be met in Ottawa (at your point of arrival) by members of the Rotary Club of

Ottawa and by your host family (who we will advise, by us, of your arrival time and method of travel).

Please put identifying tags on your luggage. Many people use brightly coloured scarves around the handles of their luggage to set their bags apart from any others. There will be a time in the program (on the day of your departure) when your bags will be stored en masse... and you will have to locate your bag among many others.

ACCOMMODATION: We hope to place all students in private homes, either with Rotarians or friends of Rotary (host families), throughout the Ottawa region. In all instances, there will be a fellow Adventurer hosted in the same home. We will inform you of the name, address and phone number of your hosts immediately before your departure. While in Ottawa, we ask you to spend some time getting to know your hosts, and to treat them with respect. They are interested in you and in ensuring that you are enjoying your time in Ottawa. They are opening their homes to you and in most cases will be driving you to and from the events during your stay.

You and your parents will be advised of your Host Family prior to your departure, via EMAIL during the week of April 24th. (PLEASE ENSURE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS FOR BOTH YOURSELF AND YOUR PARENTS ARE LISTED CORRECTLY ON THE ATTACHED INFORMATION SHEET). If you or your parents would like a more detailed explanation of our Billeting process, please refer to our website www.rotaryottawa.com under the Adventure in Citizenship tab "Billeting Overview".

We encourage you to prepare a Thank You card for your Host Family. Or if you prefer you can bring a small gift to leave with your hosts before your departure, in appreciation for their hospitality. A small book or a distinctive souvenir from your region of the country is always appropriate. (no more than \$5-\$10).

ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION: In the unlikely event that insufficient host families can be found, we will accommodate you in a dormitory setting at a local university or at a local bed and breakfast, with Rotarian supervision.

NON-SMOKING: The Rotary Adventure in Citizenship Program is considered to be a non-smoking program. No concessions will be made for smokers either during the program or in host family homes.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Social Media will be used frequently before and during the Program. Be sure to join the "Rotary Adventure in Citizenship Program 2017" page on Facebook to connect with other 2017 Adventurers and get all the latest news before arriving. You may also ask any questions through the FB page.

Facebook

Students can request to join this closed group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/237116383424296/>

Twitter

Students can follow this Twitter handle: @AIC_Ottawa and use the hashtag: #AIC2017. The club administrator will retweet some of the students' tweets if they use the hashtag.

Instagram

Students can follow this Instagram handle: @rotaryottawa and use the hashtag: #AIC2017. The administrator will repost some of the students' posts if they use the hashtag.

We also ask all students to endeavor to bring their cell phone with them to Ottawa. While texting is not appropriate during keynote presentations, we hope to use some texting and social media during specific segments of the program. In most instances free Wi-Fi is accessible. A cell phone is not a necessity to the program.

FOOD ALLERGIES/DIETARY CONCERNS: We have instructed our caterers that we require a “nut free” menu. However, we cannot guarantee that the meals have been prepared in a “nut free” environment. You must be the judge of the severity of your allergy, and use precaution. We will routinely provide vegetarian options for those that have indicated that preference, and in some instances gluten free. Please ensure that you have clearly informed us of your dietary requirements prior to your arrival. (See attached personal information sheet).

WHAT TO BRING: The Ottawa weather in early May can be quite variable. While it is usually warm and sunny for the Adventure program, it is possible there could be some cooler weather and rain. Since we plan to be outside and walking a fair bit of the time, it is recommended that you bring a choice of clothing including rain gear and a small umbrella. Informal clothing such as what you wear to school would be appropriate for most of the program. For our visit to Parliament Hill and the Citizenship Ceremony, we encourage you to dress a little more formally (i.e., no “short” shorts, tank tops, etc.). The best advice is to bring clothing that will provide you with some flexibility.

MONEY: You will not have any major expenses while visiting Ottawa. Bring some spending money, if you would like, for such things as souvenirs and any personal items you may want to pick up. If you bring a camera, bring extra batteries or memory cards from home as there will be few opportunities to shop during the program.

YOUNG CITIZENS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY – GRADE 12 STUDENTS ONLY: As a participant in our program, you have the unique opportunity to apply for one of three \$1,000.00 scholarship for first-year tuition to a post-secondary institution of your choice, courtesy of the Young Citizens Foundation. The scholarship is for graduating students who are entering directly into a full program of studies at a post-secondary education institution in Canada. Deadline date to apply is April 14, 2017. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of Secondary School scholastic achievement, combined with evidence of past citizenship participation. Your submissions can be mailed or scanned and emailed to admin@rotaryottawa.com. The application can be found on our website www.rotaryottawa.com under the Adventure tab on the Home page. More information on the Young Citizens Foundation can be found on their website www.youngcitizensfoundation.ca. (Please scan and email your applications to admin@rotaryottawa.com).

PREPARATION FOR THE PROGRAM: We do not expect you to spend a lot of time

preparing for this program; however, in the weeks prior to coming we ask you to reflect on what Canadian citizenship means to you and to come to Ottawa with an open, inquisitive, and reflective mind.

IN CONCLUSION: Although we have planned an interesting and educational program for you, it is what you do with your time here that counts. This is your opportunity to make many, many new friends from all parts of Canada. Please don't be shy!

Take every opportunity to meet your fellow Adventurers. Discover more about yourself and what it truly means to be a Canadian! I can guarantee you will return home with lifelong friendships! Embrace the Adventure!

See you on SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH

Safe Travels!

Rotarian Charles Melchers
Chairman
Rotary Adventure in Citizenship 2017



PS: You will receive further correspondence from us by mail, about one week prior to your departure confirming your travel arrangements and a few more details about your arrival in Ottawa. (i.e. where to meet us in the arrival section of airport, train or bus station).

Please review the attached information sheet and let us know of any errors or omissions **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**.