

The Adventures of the Club's Out-bound Rotary Youth Exchange Student in Denmark

Story by Ed Kolybaba on Feb 06, 2024

Layla, the Kelowna Sunrise's Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) student, recently shared her exciting and adventurous experience during her first six months in Denmark while being hosted by the Rotary Club of Hobro. *"I am having the year of a lifetime!"* stated Layla. She offered words of appreciation sharing that *"I was welcomed to Hobro with the most open arms, and I could not be more grateful for my placement. I am reminded every day of how lucky I am to have this experience; RYE really is the best program!"* Layla's experience began on July 31 when she departed from Kelowna to Denmark.



As Layla now continues into her seventh month of her RYE adventure, she is being hosted by a second family which includes her host mom and her two twin 13 year old sons. Even though she is being hosted by a second family, she continues to be close with her first host mom and dad and their two girls, both girls who have become close friends. Both homes have provided her with two busy and supportive households which have made her continuing RYE adventure very special.



Layla has been receiving her education at Mariagerfjord Gymnasium, a school with 700 students, which has been organized into three levels (years). Within this organizational structure, she attends classes in the first year of their program. Following the first three months of attendance, she had the opportunity to join another class that specialized in a subject of her choice, in this case a bio-chem class. She also participates in classes in social studies, beginner Danish and mathematics.

Developing friendships, social activities, travel and immersing in the culture of the Danish peoples have all made Layla's RYE experience very special.



I have the absolute best friends here! I was so surprised by how open and welcoming everyone here was to me at the beginning of the year. Danes have been stereotyped to be a little less outgoing, and that you have to reach out to them, never the other way around. Not true at all! These words from Layla reflect her heartfelt appreciation for her new Danish friends, host families, Hobro club Rotarians and others she frequently meets and communicates with day after day.



While venturing out beyond Hobro has only been within Denmark, she has still been enjoying new experiences in cities such as Aalborg, Aarhus and Copenhagen where the visits *"have been a blast."* Notably, visiting the carnival called "Tivoli," particularly when it was all decorated for Christmas, was outstanding. Her favorite city was Aarhus which she describes as *"such a beautiful city, full of culture, with her favorite museum called ARoS!"*

This story is but a glimpse into Layla's exciting experience in Denmark. If you have access, you can read further about her host family, developing friendships, social life, school experiences, Christmas in Hobro, the coronation of Denmark's new king and much more, all in her own words, simply by going to the subpage entitled Rotary Youth Exchange Program under "New Generations Committees" found in "Service Areas and Committees" on the left side of the Opening Page of this website.