The first District meeting

On the 11th December 2016

So it’s gonna be quite long so you can sit comfortably in your sofa and take a hot beverage. ;)

The day I had waited for had finally came. (I can’t find the text I had written about this day, the first one as « an official exchange student ») Ha. Yes. ‘Cause they didn’t send me an email or something to say « congratulations, you’re part of the RYE ». No, nothing like that. When I asked « When will I know if I’m going or not ? » they answered with a big smile « Well, if you’re here today it means that you’re in the program » WELL THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME KNOW.

This day was in fact a forming, integrating, discovering day, a day to meet, enjoy, and learn. It was everything that you want, in fact. Wow, I learnt so much in only one day !

Sunday morning, I woke up at 6am to get ready for 7:20. My Rotary counselor came to pick me and my mum up to go to the meeting point of the D1510. It was around two hours far from my city. I sat next to the Australian Inbound (Vanessa) and the Mexican Inbound (Natalia) in the car. That was pretty funny, even tho we slept half the time. We arrived in an old middle/highschool, lent for the event. There, the Outbounds (me and the other french, the ones about to go abroad) went with our parents in a big classroom ( ?) I don’t really know exactly what room it was. At the same time, the Inbounds went in an other room together. Our Yeo explained to us how the day would go.

After, we (Outbounds) left to an other room (again) to do the interview (the famous one). Some students had already done one with their club but I didn’t because I was the only student in my City club. Anyway, that was pretty stressful both for the students and the parents (let’s not lie).

We waited for like two hours and a half in a freezing corridor (I can’t lie, that was pretty fun at the end) There were two activities at the same time. On one side, Rotary people were calling out each name, one by one. The student entered a room for the interview, that’s how it went. At the same time, other adults were measuring us for the blazer size (you know, the jacket every Rotary ES has ! In France, ours is « king blue » they say).

At first, nobody dared to talk. That was literally complete silence. But after a few minutes, some were already talking together. I spoke to some, but I felt uncomfortable, I didn’t feel natural. It felt like I was forcing myself to talk. When I entered the room to pass the interview, there were four or five judges I think (can’t remember clearly I was really stressed). They asked me different questions about my country choices, my personnality,… They tried to make jokes to make me feel less nervous I guess, it worked tho. I left the room around fifteen minutes after and almost everyone had been measured for the blazer, except me and an other girl. A woman started shouting « Elsa ?! Where is Elsa ?! Is there an Elsa here ??? » I WAS SO EMBARASSED DAMN IT. The fact that I said « that’s me » and she hadn’t even seen me like I was invisible. The other students told her to turn around, that I was JUST BEHIND HER. Omg I wanted to hide myself :’) Anyway, I went for the blazer size with Alice, the other girl. After that, they told us to wait for the last people to pass the interview. We sat on the floor (oh you thought we had chairs ? lol) and started talking together. She was really nice. After, we met two girls (Lauriane and Lucie) and we got along real quick so we decided to eat together for lunch. I was really happy because I wasn’t even forcing myself, I was myself, I could talk freely, that’s how I knew they were THE ONES hehe. That’s how we became friends.  I really wanna see them again on the next rotary weekend in May !

When everyone was done with the interview, we went trought the room where our parents were being informed about being an host family, we were told that we could go with the Inbounds. There were grouped by nationality. For example, Asian group was on the left side, Latino group were at the middle of the room, etc…

I came to see the Asian group and they were all so adorable. That was kinda intimidating at first but still really interesting. I regret that I haven't talked more but nevermind ! We didn’t have much time to start a real conversation…

Then , we came back with our parents (not me, I stayed with my new friends) and we went to the cafeteria. We could hear every language : spanish, english, portugese,… That was paradise for language lovers (it does exist)

The Inbounds didn’t really go with The Outbounds at first but after, some were already talking together. We came back to the main building and one of my friends had to go pass another interview (it does happen when judges are not sure about the country the student chose or they have to choose which student will go to which country). We got nervous for her but it went really well. At the same time, the Inbounds started to introduce their birth country

We learned so much , like, really. That was funny and interesting at the same time. I loved their friendship, they seemed like a real family. I can’t wait to feel that too ! After, we had kind of a « international snack » (no idea how to call it), some foreign students had prepared special cakes from their country and made us taste it ! That was really nice ! I loved it !Event tho there was a real bad weather outside, that didn’t matter because it was shiny inside : everybody were talking and laughing together… I keep really good memories of that day. At the end, I could talk with the korean guy (the only one in my district) and quickly with some other Inbounds. Then we had to go. The day has been so short but at the same time really long (I couldn’t forget the time in the corridor lol). So we went to the car, after taking some photos, we talked much with the Mexican and the Asutralian , that was really nice.. I totally loved it..