**Rotary Youth Exchange – Monthly Report**

**Aiden Coolidge – Cremona Italy**

I can’t believe I’m already a month into my exchange, it has felt like a just a week with so many amazing things packed into it. I left JFK airport on August 31st and arrived in MXP airport in Italy on September 1st.

This month has been filled with many great memories. The first week I was here we went to a Medieval festival with another exchange student and took part in a flag display. Then we had a full day of Rotary orientation in lago, Moro where I met everyone from my district in Italy and we hiked around the lake.

Then school began, it was a different setting than I was used to. The students don’t move from class to class, the teachers do, and I am still not used to it. I’ve made tons of new friends in my school and in my city. I’ve done some traveling since I’ve been here. The host parents in my city brought us to Casalmaggiore which is a city about an hour away from Cremona where I am living. We went to Casalmaggiore for ‘festa della zucca,’ a Pumpkin festival in which we ate pumpkin bread, pasta and many other pumpkin inspired foods. Just yesterday I returned from the international Rotary Youth Exchange meeting in Venice, Italy. It was an amazing weekend where I was able to meet in person all the students that I have talked to for months online. There were many hugs and Rotary pin trading. One day we even had free time to explore Venice on our own without a set schedule. It is an amazingly beautiful city and we took many pictures!
On the way home we stopped in Verona, Italy, ‘the city of love’ and we got to explore for two hours. I was able to see a balcony typical of that portrayed in Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet. I’m still dumbfounded that I am now living in Italy thanks to the amazing Rotary Youth Exchange program, grazie mille to all the Rotarians who have made this adventure possible for me.

**District Youth Exchange website:** [**www.district7040ye.com**](http://www.district7040ye.com)

**Plattsburgh Rotary Youth Exchange email:** **Rotary12901YE@gmail.com**

**Chair: Shelley Fracalossi 518-645-3475**

**Info Night: Thursday, October 25th, Plattsburgh Public Library, 6:00 PM**

**It’s the opportunity of a lifetime!
Are you ready for it?**

Rotary International has the best administered and lowest cost International Youth Exchange program in the world, allowing over 8,000 students to exchange annually to around 60 different countries. And, since this is a Rotary International program, you will have the opportunity for more experiences at your destination, with the Rotarians in the Rotary Club hosting you. You will also have the support of those same Rotarians to help deal with any unusually difficult situations.

Whether you participate in Rotary’s Long-Term or Short-Term Youth Exchange Programs, you’ll learn a new way of living, a great deal about yourself, and maybe even a new language. You’ll also be an ambassador, teaching people you meet about your country, culture, and ideas.

If you’re ready for the challenge and the rewards of living in another country as an exchange student, then you’re ready to discover new worlds through the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

A year of study overseas as a Rotary Youth Exchange student gives you –

* an opportunity to develop your personal self confidence and maturity
* an opportunity to develop a lifetime of international friendships
* an opportunity to develop a real understanding of many different cultures
* an opportunity to develop new language skills
* an opportunity to develop a base for future education and career goals
* an opportunity to develop in many ways

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