

Good Evening Everyone! I hope you are all having a fun night. My name is Jamie Lemus and I am 18 years old I am currently a senior at Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy in La Canada. I would like to wish all of the other candidates the best of luck; you are great eagle teammates and anyone of us will all make an amazing **ambassador** for this great organization. This position requires perseverance, dedication and leadership skills. I stand before you this evening because I want to be Miss California Ranger 2012.

I have grown up around the barn and began riding at 4 yrs old. My dad used to play polo and every weekend we would load the trailer up with the horses and drive to a local polo arena in Lake View Terrace. Little did I know that next door to the arena was the home of the California Rangers.

Five years ago one of my dad's polo friends, Captain Marcus Kimura encouraged me to join the Rangers. I was initially hesitant about Rangers because they used rental horses. In 2007 I had earned Rider of the Year for the California, Nevada, and Arizona region by competing on my own horse in Morgan Horse Circuit. I thought a rider without her own horse was less committed to riding. Turns out I was wrong. Riding rental horses has made me a more skilled rider.

With some encouragement, I became a remount of troop B. I have learned more than just adapting to different horses; I learned values such as team work and respect and how to put these values into action. Currently I am cadet commander of Troop B, which is definitely the best troop in the regiment.

After about a year in rangers my captain encouraged me to try out for the Eagle team. The team is made up of the most skilled cadets in the regiment and represents the Rangers at outside drill competitions. Prior to joining rangers I had seen the Eagles compete at the ETI show. At the end of their drill four riders went charging through gaps between horses. It didn't look like they would fit, but somehow they made it through. I turned to my mom completely pale and said, "there is no way I will ever do that!" Again I was wrong. In 2008 I made the Eagle Team and I have loved every single moment; even the tough moments like doing two-point for a half an hour or switching onto a fourth horse in a practice ride. I even became one of those riders charging through the small gap between horses.

The tag line of the organization is "the magic between the kid and the horse." As a ranger, I have realized that my love for these four legged animals is truly magical. This past year I lost my eagle horse and my best friend. She

helped me to understand how special the connection between horse and rider really is. This experience, although painful, has helped affirm my decision to become an equine veterinarian. In the fall I plan to major in equine Animal sciences pre-vet at Auburn University in Alabama, unless I hear from Cornell in New York. I have chosen this profession because it will allow me to give back to the creatures that I have come to love and who have taught me many life lessons.

The three main values rangers has taught me are hard work, perseverance, and dedication. As a ranger, one is expected to give 100% to everything one does, whether one is riding a horse, writing a research paper or a Miss California Ranger Speech. In high school I keep busy with five honors and AP classes, maintain a 4.5 GPA and participate as member of the equestrian and Cross Country teams. I firmly believe that the reason why I am able to run a three mile race and keep a high GPA is due to the values of hard work, perseverance, and dedication which rangers has instilled me. Joining Rangers was ONE, if not THE best decision of my life. Rangers has given me the support I need to become a confident rider as well as a productive individual.

Rangers has also taught me how to be a leader. Through the respectful atmosphere and the ranking structure of this group, I have learned how to effectively lead my peers. Within the Ranger community I hold four leadership positions, cadet commander of troop b, Eagle troop member, Colorguard rider , but first and foremost a Cadet in Rangers. By simply being a cadet in rangers each one of us becomes a leader in our schools and community. I have taken the leaderships skills that I have learned from Rangers and applied them to my school life. I am a Kairos leader, the Yearbook editor and a Cross Country captain. I do not believe I would be able to hold all of these leadership positions successfully without my experiences in Rangers.

Being Miss California ranger is also a leadership position. Her role epitomizes this organization. She is someone to look up to, someone to trust, and someone who sets the standard for her fellow cadets to exceed.

Because of all the great experiences Rangers has given me I want to be able to give back even more to the organization, which is why I want to be Miss California Ranger.

I have been challenged to go above and beyond what I think I can do and I realize that I am capable of so much more than I ever thought possible. My goal as Miss California ranger is to help each cadet **to learn something new every time they place their foot in the iron and swing into the saddle.**

Besides focusing on equitation, which refers to a rider's position while mounted and encompasses their ability to correctly aid their horse, I hope to impart some of the knowledge that I have acquired throughout my years in the organization.

Should I be selected as Miss California ranger 2012, and attend an out of state University, I fully intend to return to California when necessary to fulfill all of my obligations and to inspire each cadet to become the best person that they can be.

Thank-you and I hope you all enjoy the rest of the evening.