

Good evening everyone, my name is Stable Sergeant Nicky Douglas, and I'm standing before you in the hopes of becoming your 2012 Mr. California Ranger. Now, before I begin on that particular topic, I think I should tell you a little bit about myself.

I was born in Guelph Ontario, up in Canada, in 1995 but moved to California at age three not long after that I started school. Now I'm 16 and attend Crescenta Valley High school as a junior, where I get A's and B's. I play soccer and I practice martial arts, but Rangers is what I love most. I joined rangers five years ago, just after I turned 11 and have been a member of troop B under Captain Kimura ever since. To be honest, joining rangers is the best decision I ever made. Everything about the California Rangers was and still is fantastic and awe-inspiring and what the group has given to me is unforgettable. The friendships I have made are indestructible, the lessons I have learned are invaluable, and the people I have met and had the honor to call my teammates are incredible. My love for rangers began immediately after I joined, I loved the military structure, the riding techniques, and the great feeling you get knowing you and all your teammates are striving to accomplish a single common goal. Most of all I loved the values that the California Rangers instill in cadets, the values of honesty, hard work, and respect for everyone. Then, about three years ago, I joined the Eagle troop, and everything I loved most about rangers seemed to increase exponentially. Now for those of you who do not know what eagles is, it is the team that is comprised of riders from throughout the regiment who have shown incredible skill and determination, but who, most of all, have shown that they truly encompasses the values that rangers teaches. The Eagle troop is tasked with representing the organization and competing outside of rangers, and bringing back to their troop the skills that they have learned in eagles. But Eagles is so much more than that. Eagles is a family that is always there to

support each other both inside the arena and out. In Eagles, we share everything: the work, the fun, and feeling of accomplishment in everything we do. We know that without our teammates, we are nothing, but that together, we can accomplish almost anything. When we ride, we become a single body, we mount up together, and get off together. During drill we know where everyone of our teammates is, and we often communicate without words. If joining the California Rangers is the best decision I have ever made, then joining the Eagle troop is definitely a close second. Over all, Rangers has transformed almost every aspect of my life. Rangers has made me less timid, more helpful, and, most of all, a more respectful and productive member of our society. I see the opportunity to become Mr. California Ranger, as an opportunity to give back to the regiment, and to try to repay the huge debt I have toward the organization. If I do become Mr. California Ranger this year. I would make visiting the troops and establishing a personal relationship with every rider I can my very highest priority because being Mr. California Ranger is not a privilege, it is a position with very high expectations. I see it as the duty of Mr. or Ms. California Ranger to teach their more junior riders all that they have learned throughout their ranger career and proven in the Mr./Ms. competition. They should be a role model for all others to follow. I would also plan to continue the effective recycling program which has been so well run by previous Mr. and Ms. California Rangers. A final idea of mine stems from what I have seen about various other drill teams. I have seen that we the California rangers have one great advantage over the teams against which we compete. That advantage, quite simply is that we are rangers, we hold and ourselves to a higher standard. Our military structure give us the discipline and respect to understand that everyone of us, at some point needs to just get the job done, quickly and effectively, without complaining or taking shortcuts, all the while maintaining a respectful manner. We do this not because

we expect or even want any attention or thanks, but because it is our duty to our great organization to do so. This is the attitude, which has always been at the center of the Ranger spirit. To keep this spirit alive is to keep the California Rangers alive, and I promise that as Mr. California Ranger, I would maintain and promote this idea to the utmost degree, by taking steps toward enforcing our unique and valuable military heritage, and by stressing the importance of our rank structure. Now I would like to leave you with this: I do not hope that I or any other specific candidates in this competition end up winning. I only hope that whoever wins, does so because they are best suited to meeting the needs of our wonderful organization at the present time. Thank You and Good Night.