

Miss California Rangers Speech 2014

You never know how good you are until you try. We all have heard these words at some point or another. These words give hope, faith and inspiration which, I believe, are key to being successful in this organization.

About 4 years ago my family and I moved here from South America. I didn't know what to do or how to react when people spoke to me. Everything was so new and I was so young, everything scared me. Thankfully I was introduced to the California Rangers by my aunt, 1st Lt. Legge.

Now, before I continue talking about how amazing and life changing this organization has been for me, I should probably introduce myself. Hi, my name is Maria Martinez also known as Katniss. I am 18 years old and currently a freshman at Cal State Northridge majoring in Biochemistry. Because I am 18 I graduated out on the program but have proudly come back as a 2nd Lt. Junior Grade Officer for Troop A.

This past year, by far, has been the most amazing year of my whole ranger career. **At Troop**, we were able to recruit new cadets and ride some of the best drills we have done in some time, as well as, grow stronger as a team. With this and the multiple volunteer time we've done, I truly believe Troop A is the Best Troop in the Regiment. **At Eagles**, though we had a small team, we did what has never been done before. We are both California State Grand Champions and WSEDTA champions. And, last year I was able to expand and continue my California Ranger Dog Tag Fundraiser. I began this fundraiser on 2012 and decided to try something new for last year. This allowed me to raise more money to give back to the regiment.

All of these are just a few things that happened last year and I would have probably never experienced any on it if it weren't for the support of my captain and my family. They are always pushing me to do my best and that has led me to try out to become Miss California Ranger.

This is my third year trying out. Each year I've been able to gain more knowledge and experience that would help me be a good candidate for 2014 Miss California Ranger. Who knows, maybe third time's the charm?

Even though I graduated out of the program and won't be judged any more I will not stop riding to the best of my abilities or stop trying to be a great junior officer. I will always strive for this because, if cadets want to look up to me, I would be able to show and teach them with experience how good they can be when effort is put into their actions.

Last, but not least, I would like to give special thanks to my officers. To 1st Lt. Legge, thank you for bringing me into the organization and personally teaching me how to ride. And to Captain Frothinger, thank you for always being there to show me how to ride stronger, for giving me so many opportunities that helped develop my horsemanship even further, and for trusting me with the crazy horses at Troop night. Also, thank you to all officers and parents involved in Rangers. I've had the pleasure of meeting many of you, and you all have helped me build my character and confidence in some way or another and I will always be grateful for that.

Finally, I'd like to wish good luck to all cadets trying out for Mr. and Miss California Rangers and may the odds be ever in your favor.

Goodnight Everybody!!