

## Natalie Cetina-Huchin - Jefferson

### **Inspiring, Tradition, Evolving. How do these three words describe the Rose Festival?**

Ever since I was seven years old, I had the opportunity in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade to be part of *girls on the run*, which is a program that promotes girl's empowerment. The program inspires girls to be healthy and helps embrace young girls to find their strength. The biggest run took place during the Starlight Parade.

For three years, I felt the warm welcoming, I felt the vibrant energy, and I found myself. I remember turning to my running buddy and telling her that I wanted to be more involved, she said, " There's this Rose Festival Court, you can try in high school" I honestly didn't know what that was & at that moment, it felt far away, but here I am today.

The Rose Festival is wonderful, it means so much to me & to other people. The Rose Festival is Inspiring, Traditional, and it's evolving to the max, I know that others feel the same way about this wonderful program.

The Rose Festival can be described in many ways, for everyone, for me, it's Inspiring. It's Inspiring in many ways because of all the opportunities it gives to the youth, the good times it gives to everyone, the women's empowerment the Rose Festival embraces, the ways it makes Portland stand out, and the fact that it brings the community together.

The Rose Festival has been around since the first decade of the 20th Century, making Portland a special place for many people. Making and planning events that will forever live in Portland and mark people's lives. It's traditional, the Rose Festival has had a huge impact in many ways that I will never forget. Rose Festival will always live and symbolize hard work as well as celebrating together.

The Rose Festival has made so much progress throughout all these years, it has expanded throughout Portland, it has found new ways to make the Rose Festival events better and has gotten more people to be interested in it. Rose Festival is evolving, The Rose Festival has been moving forward, with new things everyone wants to try and be involved in.

I've been inspired in so many ways, I've been looking up to Rose Festival since my freshman year. I've been lucky enough to see other young women get elected to represent their school, it's truly amazing. Since my freshman year, I've been doing research to find out more about this program, I've been waiting for this moment to show others that I am a person they can look up to & someone who can inspire others to try their best on anything *Life* puts their way.

Rose Festival has brought my family and I together even more, and I know that it has done the same thing to other families, *Rose Festival is filled with such a good impact will forever live within me.*

I really want everyone to know that I will work really hard to make everyone proud, I will try my best to accomplish everything I put my mind to. I will make sure to be there when I'm needed, I will be a good leader and just overall be the best person someone can turn to.

Yo quiero que todos sepan que trabajaré muy duro para que todos se sientan orgullosos de mí, haré todo lo posible para lograr lo que me proponga. Me aseguraré de estar allí cuando sea necesitada, seré una buena líder y seré la mejor personal que alguien pueda pedir y ser.

Todo es posible, si lo crees, y si lo sueñas. To everyone out there chasing their dreams, don't give up.

Once again, I'm really thankful for this opportunity, thank you.