

Dyllan Newville – Roosevelt

Inspiring. Tradition. Evolving. How do these three words describe the rose festival?

Each generation provides a stepping stone for the next. The importance of learning and respecting the past is intrinsic in order to create a better future, an ideal that is woven into the fabric of the Rose Court and life itself.

The fondest memories I have as a rosy cheeked, frizzy haired little girl was holding onto my mom with one hand and with the other ecstatically waving to the Rose Princesses, gliding by in their shiny sports cars.

Although they seemed so far my spot on the sidewalk, they were still the girls I knew, who went to the school up the road from me, the girls who played in the jazz band, volunteered at the local retirement home, who you could always count on to have a smile. I watched them earn their crown, not only by waving on their parade float but also, the hours spent in their community, uplifting those right alongside of them, including that cherub faced version of me.

The Rose Court taught me the real definition of what being a princess is beyond the Disney characters that I often sported on my t shirt, during my time at Chief Joseph Elementary school. A Princess is when one is willing to do their part to make their community a better place. Their actions deem them a Princess whether or not they are bestowed an official crown or title.

This recurring representation led myself and so many other citizens of Rosaria on a long path of service. With generations of Portlanders influenced by the Rose Court to engage within our city, has allowed Portland to flourish into the wonderful place we know today but it still continues to bloom, adding more petals as each generation is inspired by the last.

By traditionally celebrating these Princesses's acts of service, the Rose Court inspired and continues to inspire young faces across the state, just like I once was, to evolve their community into the best place possible.