



Monday
May 13, 2019
7:00 pm

Town of Southwest Ranches Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

Town Hall
13400 Griffin Road
Southwest Ranches, FL 33330-2628

Board Members

Christina Brownlow	Leah McDonnell
Francesca Case	Jennifer Montgomery
Page Giacin	Priscilla Prado-Stroze
Debbie Green	Kathy Sullivan
Rosina Marrapodi-Bove	

Council Liaison

Doug McKay, Mayor

Staff Liaison

Ivette Solera

- A. ROLL CALL**
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- C. AGENDA AS FOLLOWS**
 - a. Excuse Absences**
 - b. Approval of Minutes**
- D. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Review Scholarship Applications**
- E. OLD BUSINESS**
- F. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**
- G. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**
- H. STAFF COMMENTS**
- I. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- J. ADJOURNMENT**

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES 286.0105, THE TOWN HEREBY ADVISES THE PUBLIC THAT IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THIS BOARD OR COMMITTEE WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING OR HEARING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THE AFFECTED PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE CONSENT BY THE TOWN FOR THE INTRODUCTION OR ADMISSION OF OTHERWISE INADMISSIBLE OR IRRELEVANT EVIDENCE, NOR DOES IT AUTHORIZE CHALLENGES OR APPEALS NOT OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY LAW.



Town of Southwest Ranches
Schools and Education Advisory Board
Scholarship Application
2018-2019 Academic Year

10. **Essay:** Include your essay of 250-300 words with this application.

Please respond to the following in the space provided or you may attach a separate sheet if necessary. If you focus on one feature of Southwest Ranches that has had an impact on your life, what would that be?

If I had to focus on one feature of Southwest Ranches that has had an impact on my life, it would be our rural lifestyle.

Southwest Ranches is the only place I have ever lived and I can confidently say I would not be where I am today had I grown up anywhere else. During my childhood, I was able to safely play outside, fish in my lake, play at neighborhood parks, visit and feed horses and cows at nearby farms, and enjoy the nature and landscape that the Town provides. I was surrounded by caring neighbors and community members with a similar appreciation for our lifestyle. I had the ability to attend exceptional schools with extraordinary teachers, coaches, and staff. I had the ability to participate in a high school veterinary assisting program, which is unique and made possible because we live in a rural area.

All of these experiences provided a strong foundation for my future. I had a childhood filled with wonderful memories, developed lifelong friendships and received an exceptional education that prepared me for college. I was able to regularly interact with domestic animals and wildlife. I rescued, cared for and rehabilitated dozens throughout my childhood. I was able to learn how to care for a mare throughout her pregnancy and birth, and the foal once it was born. I learned how to work hard, have compassion, be a good neighbor, and be a responsible adult who truly cares about, and gives back to, her community.

I feel extremely fortunate to live in such an extraordinary town and I am so grateful that my family chose Southwest Ranches to call home.

Christina Harrington

Fellowship in the Ranches

Throughout my 18 years of living in Southwest Ranches, a feature of this town that has impacted and been an essential part of my life has been the community and fellowship I have experienced through the relationships I have built with my neighbors and others in the area through town gatherings. From the beginning of my childhood, the fellowship that I have found within my town has impacted my life considering that our first neighbors when moving into Southwest Ranches became my godparents. Along with the guidance of my parents, having another set of role models just doorsteps away helped to appreciate the beauty of having a loving community that would shape the way I approach life. Also, I have experienced much of the beauty of the Southwest Ranches community through the relationships I built from attending both middle school and high school in Southwest Ranches. While some of my friends did not live in the Ranches, I appreciated being able to explain to them the unique culture that is a part of living in this town. Additionally, during this past year, I saw the beauty of the Southwest Ranches community through the opportunities I had to serve at the town events. In January, I attended my first event to serve at the Hawks Bluff elementary school Food Truck night, and at this event, from the moment I walked to the main entrance, I found my place to serve. I was greeted with warm welcomes and was able to learn more about my town in the few hours I spent volunteering. From having spent the past 18 years in Southwest Ranches, I am forever grateful to have called this town my childhood home, and I hope to represent the town well as I advance to the university.

Anthony Garcia

AG

The Peaceful Town of Southwest Ranches

One of my favorite things about the town of Southwest Ranches that has really impacted my life has been the area around my house, everything is so quiet and peaceful, nothing is too close together so I always feel like my family and I have all of the privacy we need. Our neighbors are kind, helpful, and friendly and I know if we ever needed them they would be there to lend us a hand. There is a cute little pond behind my house, when my sister and I were younger we would always sit on our back porch and watch the ducks; sometimes we would go and even feed them bread. There's always plenty of space in the area for me to take our dogs on a walk in the neighborhood or just let them run around on our back porch. I always feel safe in my neighborhood. My friends and I used to go jogging throughout the neighborhood and we never felt threatened or like any stranger would come to harm us, since everyone in the area knows each other and looks out for others. Being raised in an area that everyone respects each other's privacy yet at the same time will look out for their neighbors has made me value the community as well as the people whom occupy the area. I have grown to appreciate the values that the citizens of the town uphold and when I am away at college, I know for a fact that I will miss everything about Southwest Ranches. I am already looking forward to coming back to the area and visiting the town that I have grown up in throughout my entire life.

Luisa Kippel

LK

10. Essay: If you focus on one feature of Southwest Ranches that has had an impact on your life, what would it be?

The aspect of Southwest Ranches that has had the most impact on me is its parks. For many years I have been a member and leader of the Boy Scouts of America's Troop 224, who has their weekly meetings at the Southwest Ranches Equestrian Park. Consequently, I have spent countless hours at this park, making unforgettable memories and developing as a leader. When I was a younger scout, I would always look forward to going to the meetings because of the park. The park has a great playground, extensive trails, and a large open field. All of these factors came together every week to make a perfect setting for fellowship, which has led to many long-lasting friendships. Along with the fun of scouting, the program has also given me many opportunities to give back to this park, and many others. In order to obtain the final rank of Boy Scouts you must plan, organize, and lead a service project of your own. My service project entailed giving back to the park that watched me develop into who I am today, as well as bring attention to the other beautiful parks in the town. I achieved giving back to the Equestrian Park by adding a monument and a hosting a park clean up; and increased attendance in the other parks by hiding geocaches, which are game pieces to a worldwide treasure hunt, in most of the other town's parks. The project was a complete success; it taught me about how to be an effective leader as well as closely connected me with my community. From the friendships to the lessons about leadership, the parks of Southwest Ranches have made an exceptional impact on my life.

Tyler Taparowski



ESSAY

The slogan, Preserving Our Rural Lifestyle, never really made sense to me as a child. What rural lifestyle? There literally is a mall less than 10 minutes away and that does not even include the Publix, Dairy Queen, Subway, etc. Maybe this was because when I pictured the word 'rural' as a little town in the middle of nowhere with nothing to do. To anyone who has lived in Southwest Ranches, you would know that is not the case. Southwest Ranches is a town that has been constantly working on preserving its rich and natural beauty, both inside and out. It is a town where you will casually see horses parading down the streets. It is a town where peacocks love to chime in either in your driveway or on top of your roof. It is a town that may be really dark at night, but once you take the time to look up, stars light up the night sky. It is a town where you are welcomed to walk to your neighbor's just to have a conversation. It is a town that plenty others and I have grown up in and it has influenced our living habits more than anyone could ever know. Because of Southwest Ranches, I believe in old school hospitality. I believe in delivering a batch of cookies to my new neighbors. I believe in building relationships with the people in my community whether it may be at town events or at Town Hall. I believe in the tranquility and peace of a quiet and sound neighborhood. I believe in all that Southwest Ranches stands for. Since its founding in 2000, Southwest Ranches has remained to be my home and the epitome of the lifestyle I wish to preserve no matter where I end up later in life.

Vivian C. Martinez



Town of Southwest Ranches
Schools and Education Advisory Board
Scholarship Application
2018-2019 Academic Year

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Horses have been a massive focal point in my life. The Southwest Ranches community has granted me the opportunity to not only have horses in my backyard but to be more involved in my sport. In the equestrian community, many young riders do not take the time to properly learn horsemanship. Having the ability to have my horse at home has ~~helped~~ impacted my relationship with my horse. ~~and more~~ In addition, many of my neighbors share similar interests. I have met many lifelong friends who I know would give me the shirt off a their backs. Whether you have a furry pet or a scaled pet, the Southwest Ranches community has taught me ~~how~~ to help my neighbor no matter the circumstance. Unlike other cities, there is a special bond and patriotic vibe that citizens in Southwest Ranches share. Many of the pets I have now have been rescues that my neighbors have found. By working together, as a community, Southwest Ranches has taught me hundreds of life lessons in which I will carry with me through my college and so forth.

Brooke Thier

10. Essay

The one feature of Southwest Ranches that has had the most impact on my life is the town's rural setting. People say that home is where the heart is, and while at college I have realized that this could be no truer for me. I have lived in the small town of Southwest Ranches since I was born and have called the same house my home for my entire life. The rural lifestyle of Southwest Ranches allows one to be close to nature and gives you an opportunity to retreat into a more serene world away from the hustle and bustle of the typical more densely populated towns. You can ride your bike, go to one of the many parks or just lay out in your backyard looking up at the sky without worrying about privacy because the large lots protect your privacy. This last is especially beautiful at night when you don't have to worry about street lights diminishing the brilliance of the stars.

Retreating to the outdoors has always been my way to destress. Now at college with all the stress college life places on us, the rural lifestyle is one of the things I miss the most. Though my college has many outdoor places to sit and relax in, the small green areas surrounded by buildings can never compare with the open areas of Southwest Ranches. They always feel crowded and unfamiliar.

Coming home to Southwest Ranches, no matter whether for spring break, Christmas vacation or summer vacation, it always makes me feel like I have been holding my breath and I can breathe again.

Kaidyn Andetta

KA

10. My parents initially moved to Southwest Ranches in search of an area where they would have at least an acre of property. After looking in Plantation, Davie, and as far as Jupiter, they happened to stumble upon Southwest Ranches and fell in love with the area. Due to its close proximity to the suburban areas such as Ft. Lauderdale/ Miami, as it turns out the house, they chose was midway between both of my grandparents. After moving in, I fell in love with the peaceful nature of this area. As a little girl, my father would take me down the street on our John Deere lawn mower to visit the neighbor's cow. I also from time to time see people riding horses down our street, this experience has given me an appreciation for the animals around us such as; peacocks, horses, deer, goats, chickens, emus, turkeys and even a wild boar. One of my most vivid memories is when I was with my dad and I passed by Mary Gay Chaples and on her property was an elephant, now none of my friends can top that experience. I live in an area where we might not be on top of our neighbors, but when one of them needs help the neighborhood bands together to assist. A great example of this would be after Katrina when some neighbors lost electricity due to fallen trees and were informed it would be at least three weeks before FPL's tree trimmers could clear the fallen trees to run new powerlines. My dad and all the neighbors got together and cleared the area in about 8 hours and the next day FPL was able to repair the lines and restore electricity. In my opinion, this is the best town because of our rural lifestyle.

Karina Tiano

KI

Scholarship Application Essay:

Throughout the last fifteen years that I have lived in Southwest Ranches, there have been numerous occasions that have contributed to having a positive impact on my life. The most important thing that I have learned is to give back, be humble and always assist others in times of need. This has steered me in the direction of having a career where I can make a difference, which is why I have decided to become a teacher. Throughout the last few years, I have noticed that it has been far too evident that getting caught up in everyday life can make not only myself, but others forget about helping someone else through what could be a difficult time in their life. The citizens and my neighbors in the Town have taught me how important it is to put myself aside and care for the well being of others. For example, Three years ago, my grandma passed away, this was a very difficult and shocking time for me. All of my wonderful and helpful neighbors decided to cook food for my family and I to help us get through that very tragic time in our lives. By my neighbors taking the time out of their busy schedules to help my family, it really showed me how amazing our town is, that a group of people who had never met my grandma would be willing to give their time and effort to help us. This is an excellent example of the selflessness that those who live in the Town of Southwest Ranches show and something that I have learned from growing up here.

As an education major, a lot of my time is spent in various classrooms working with children from many backgrounds who also face numerous challenges in their daily lives; whether at school or at home. As a future educator, it will be a priority of mine to go above and beyond to show them that I will always be there for them; not only as their teacher, but as a human being. In conclusion, growing up here in the Town of Southwest Ranches has taught me many traits

Kaitlyn Rodgers

KH



Town of Southwest Ranches
Schools and Education Advisory Board
Scholarship Application
2018-2019 Academic Year

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I am so fortunate to have grown up in Southwest Ranches, one of the last rural communities in South Florida. Living in this town has afforded me so many opportunities growing up that my "city folk" friends have missed out on. Such as fishing, hunting, riding ATVs and horses. Being able to live in a rural community has given me the chance to grow up with so many pets such as dogs, cats, horses, all kinds of reptiles, rabbits, and chickens, just to name a few. Growing up with all these animals has convinced me to pursue my life-long dream of becoming a veterinarian.

For the last 3 years I have been pursuing that dream attending Santa Fe College in Gainesville working on my Animal Science Degree and then Vet School After. While keeping up with my studies and my passion for animals I am fortunate enough to find time to volunteer and Mystic Jungle, a Large Cat and Exotic Animal Sanctuary. Where not only do I get the opportunity to learn but help teach young people how to take care of their animals. From preparing the different diets and nutritional needs to their individual habitats.

I am so thankful that I was able to grow up in this town where the community comes together. Here in the Ranches we know our neighbors and know they are always willing to help one in other, no matter what. I was able to come home after the last hurricane hit to actually see neighbors helping neighbors. I feel that this town has really helped me develop in to a better young man.

Dylan Saunders

*Dylan
Saunders*

Southwest Ranches Essay

Southwest Ranches has been a place where people always look at in awe, for our land, for our lifestyle, for our homes, and for the way we act towards one another. But that's only the perspective of an outsider, looking in through a little window into our beautiful town. They won't know what it's like to grow up here, to live here, to witness the coexistence of nature and man within our rural community. I do. The beauty of Southwest Ranches isn't just that it's a town with big houses and a bunch of land, but that it's entirely built and created to what it is now, because of our people and because of who we are. The name Southwest Ranches isn't well-known, and isn't huge like "Weston," because our name doesn't detail what our town is actually like, or what kind of hideaway that we live in, but that we allow our reputation as a community to dictate how people see us and how we act as a whole. The one thing that I love, is that I can proudly say that Southwest Ranches is MY home, and will forever be just that. MY home. It's not huge like Weston where the phrase "I live in Weston" could mean a million places. When you say "I live in the Ranches," people look at you differently subconsciously, and I love it. They don't know that I grew up nextdoor to Mayor Mecca, they don't know that my best friend's dad is Doug McKay, they won't know that I can remember every neighbor's name on my street, or that all the kids on the street know the names of fishing spots based on made-up names pertaining to what we catch there or what we do there, i.e. the peacock spot (because of all the peacock bass). The outsiders of this great town won't know what it's like to be able to call their singular street their home, they won't know the feeling of coming home after a long day of work and making the turn onto your street and knowing that you are safe, and that you are home. It's actually beautiful to see the darkness of our areas, because in the darkness of the Ranches, it's safe. And in the daylight, it's magnificent. There are so many things that I love about Southwest Ranches, and it's difficult to say the one thing that I love about it. So I'm going to say, I thank god that I was blessed enough to be given a life in this beautiful town and that the thing I love, *is* the town of Southwest Ranches, that I can proudly call my home. The impact that the Ranches has had on my life is astronomical, if I was

Nick Hurst
(page 1)

given a life in any other city my life would be entirely different. I know that as a man, it has shaped me in beneficial ways because I have so many genuine people around me that care about my safety and my future, half of them I only know because they live near me! I know that if anything goes wrong in my life, all I have to do is dial up a neighbor and ask for help and it will come. I know that we as a community have each other's backs, and that as we grow as a town and as a rural community we will only continue to prosper and that I will only continue to learn. There are so many different backgrounds of people that contribute to this town, and to my life. And it was only possible because I was given the chance to live in this wonderful place. I grew up with my best friends living 2 or 3 houses away, and I had the ability to walk over whenever I wanted so I could play outside with them. In 6th grade, one of my newer best friends moved onto my block. The next day, him and his dad walked over and introduced themselves as our new neighbors and I had no idea what to expect of this kid. They walked in and we immediately went out to go play, go hang out while our dads talked and that's when I knew that this was an amazing place. That day we went to his new house, (Mayor Mecca's old home) and played football, we played games, and we played with the other neighborhood kids that live around us and from that day forward we started our little friend group, all because of the Ranches. Unironically, today we call our friend group the SWR Crew, or the Southwest Ranches Crew, and we are proud to call ourselves that. That is how Southwest Ranches has impacted my life, and how much pride I hold towards my town and my home. I love this place, I love the people. I love the air, I love the trees, I love the animals. Everything about Southwest Ranches has been a blessing, both blatant, and in disguise, and I cannot wait to see what the future has in store for us as a community, and as a family.

Nick Hurst (page 2)



Town of Southwest Ranches
Schools and Education Advisory Board
Scholarship Application
2018-2019 Academic Year

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Scholarship Essay

I am very grateful for growing up in the town of Southwest Ranches. I am grateful because the neighbors here are super nice the yards are amazing. The neighbors here are like family we all help each other when we need help. For example after the hurricane all the neighbors got together and help one another clean up their yards. Another reason as to why I love Southwest Ranches is because we have an acre of land. Being that we are on an acre of land a lot of the neighbors have many different animals. It very common to see people with horses, goats, pigs, tortoise, turkeys, chicken, and a lot of dogs. Since animals are abundant in are community it help me find a passion in taking care of animals. I love watching my neighbors dogs; The acre of land also affected my life because I got to grow up with my parents breeding golden retriever and dalmations. Southwest Ranches is also great because the town gives back to the community. For example the ranchers of distinction which was banquet for active members in the community who help raise money for the scholarship. The scholarship is also a great way that the town give back to the community. All of the events the town does is amazing from food trucks to the hay ride. Living in Southwest Ranches helped shape who I am today. I am so lucky to have grown up in Southwest Ranches. I hope my kids get to grow up in a town like Southwest ranches. I am lucky to have grown up in such a great town.

Respectively,

Scott Stevens

Scott S

The one feature of Southwest Ranches that has had an impact on my life would be the atmosphere. The Southwest Ranches I know is one where after a hurricane, neighbors would brew coffee by generator power and give the whole street a cup, as we all helped clean up each other's downed trees and debris. I was born and raised here, and my childhood was one where I would climb the huge, mature trees in our yard and ride bikes through the quiet neighborhood with my friends. I grew up around animals that I raised, and gave each one a name. I have a horse, ducks, chickens, geese, turkeys, and a peacock. I have had the opportunity to work with animals that people would only otherwise see online. I was shocked to discover many of my co-workers did not know why or how a chicken produces an egg! The people of the town are like family, they always have each other's backs, and lend a hand in times of need. The space I had growing up allowed me to build treehouses in the backyard, and invite all my friends. When my family and I would go to town events, you could name just about every person there. When driving into our town, you feel the pace slow down, and you see familiar faces and sights, like the neighbors gardening or riding their horses. All these sights and experiences and more have made such an impact on me, I hope to offer such a great childhood to my future kids and grandkids. The town of Southwest Ranches has an atmosphere that can't be beat!

Grace Wither

GW

Essay: Include your Essay of 250-300 words with this Application.

How living in Southwest Ranches has impacted me:

Living in Southwest Ranches(SWR) has given me a safe, secure place to call home. I've always grown up knowing my neighbors and going to events put on by the town, and as I've gotten older I've learned that not all of my friends had that. Some of them hardly know anyone in their town and that is odd to me, considering I've grown up in this loving environment. Southwest Ranches has impacted my life greatly, I always know I can count on my neighbors or the town itself if I really need it, everyone here is so compassionate and treats everyone like their own. This town has showed me how to give, and how to care for others.. Southwest Ranches has affected me more than an average town would affect its citizen. SWR has shown me what the ideal town is that I want to live in when I grow up and start a family of my own.

Southwest Ranches has shown me how blessed I am to call this place home. I have more freedom and possibilities in this town than others, and I never realized how significant the little things about this town are. I've learned that none of the things offered through this town should be taken for granted, and that it shapes and impacts all of us who call this community home.

Sierra Stevens

Respectively,



Sierra Stevens



Town of Southwest Ranches
Schools and Education Advisory Board
Scholarship Application
2018-2019 Academic Year

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Please respond to the following in the space provided or you may attach a separate sheet if necessary. If you focus on one feature of Southwest Ranches that has had an impact on your life, what would that be?

My family has been living in the town of Southwest Ranches since just around the time the town incorporated, and because of that, I have been fortunate enough to have lived the greater part of my life here. I was raised a homeschooled student, meaning my mother was my primary educator from childhood up until early high school where I finished my schooling online. Because of this, I had more opportunities than most to grow ~~in other aspects~~ ^{in other aspects} of my life from an early age.

When I was young, my family began raising chickens. The moment we brought them home, my life lessons and responsibilities began. By the time I'd turned 12, I was almost entirely responsible for the feeding and care of our flock, which had grown in numbers. These birds were never simply farm animals or livestock to me, instead they were like any other family pet; I'd rejoice when chicks would hatch, and grieve when age took them. There have been a select few, which had been hand-raised indoors as chicks, which are so precious to me that I house them in my bedroom at night.

(Continuation on the back)

While I have always had an affinity for birds, Chickens will always have a Particular fond place in my heart. Through my responsibilities, I have learned many useful and important life skills and grown immensely as a person. Empathy, compassion, patience, and the power of hard work were only some of the valuable lessons taught to me simply by tending to and growing alongside our flock. My home shaped me into someone who I am proud to be today, and it was all made possible by what I believe is the most impactful aspect of our town. That aspect, which is dear to my heart, is our rural lifestyle.

LP

One feature of Southwest Ranches that has impacted me a lot in my life, is the ability to have a close community even when there is so much space between houses. This space has given me the freedom to do lots of things like ride horses and ride four wheelers. This judgement free town has given me the space to be how I want to be. Having lots of land has made it easy for me to hang out with my friends in my backyard. Not many people live on enough land to have a full out kick-ball game.

Going to Hawkes Bluff elementary was a very important part of my life. Even though I only went there for elementary school, I still learned what it was like to have a small town feel. After going there for a couple of years, I was put in private school. This was a completely new feel. It was not the same and I hated how everyone lived so far apart. Even to this day, when I am super close to graduating high school, I still feel connected to the kids that I went to elementary school with.

While volunteering for this community, I got to reconnect with a lot of the same people that I started my life with and it is a great feeling. Even though the last time I have seen some of them was at a extremely young age, we still had no problem figuring out who each other were and even remembered what classes we had together.

Dylan Schneider

Dylan Schneider



Town of Southwest Ranches
Schools and Education Advisory Board
Scholarship Application
2018-2019 Academic Year

9. Essay: Include your essay of 250-300 words with this application. Please respond to the following in the space provided or you may attach a separate sheet if necessary. If you focus on one feature of Southwest Ranches that has had an impact on your life, what would that be?

I love our great neighbors. SW Ranches is a place where hard-working people come to settle down and raise their family. It is not a transient area. Most of our neighbors have been here for over 30 years. It's a place where neighbors become part of your family and when you need help they are always there to lend a tool or a hand. People here are like no other, there isn't a lot of competition over material things – you are truly happy for your neighbor when something good happens for them. I have noticed that life is evolving and our neighbors are either moving to a smaller house as they retire or they are passing away. This is not something I was expecting, but with each day I know that we are truly blessed to have gotten to know them like we have.

Living here has allowed me to duck hunt, fish, motocross and relax with friends that have the same values. Once I graduate college I hope to come home and afford a house in SW Ranches so I can raise my family with the same lifestyle I had growing up, wide open spaces!! Growing up I have watched all the other communities to the right and left of us build homes so close to one another and pack the people in like sardines. I do not; want to be able to borrow soap from my neighbor while I am in the shower, like most other communities. Or have to wait in a line at a gate to get in or out. I know that our town will stay true to our wide open spaces. When I think of Southwest Ranches, I think of pick-up trucks, riding lawn mowers, open land & horses walking down our streets, I think of home and my rural lifestyle.

Ryan Williams



Town of Southwest Ranches
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2018-2019 Academic Year

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Please respond to the following in the space provided or you may attach a separate sheet if necessary. If you focus on one feature of Southwest Ranches that has had an impact on your **life**, what would that be?

If I had to focus on one feature of Southwest Ranches that has had an impact on my life, it would have to be the fact that I got to grow up on a farm with a lot of land and animals. Growing up on a farm has been so beneficial to me in so many ways. Having the opportunity to grow up with lots of animals has aided me in deciding that I want to be a veterinarian when I am older. Being lucky enough to own ATVs and golf carts has taught me how to hold a wrench and be able to fix small things on my own and not to be afraid to get your hands dirty. Southwest Ranches is definitely a town that teaches you to be tough and never be afraid to get back in the saddle.... literally. From riding my horse in the Rolling Oaks park to the holiday parties in the Neighborhood, skim boarding in the yard after it rains, to just fishing in my backyard, Southwest Ranches has allowed me to have an amazing childhood. I am lucky enough to say that I have been able to take something away from being a resident here and be able to apply it to my future. Growing up here has taught me a lot and I want to be able to give that same gift to my kids one day. This town has taught me so much and living here my whole life has definitely been such an amazing experience and I am forever grateful to be able to call this town my home.

Amber Saunders

Amber S

Town of Southwest Ranches Scholarship Essay

Southwest Ranches is an amazing town that has lots to offer. No matter who you ask its beauty and charm is unparalleled. While the spaces in town are large, we know it's all about the little things that matter to each resident. This town has a special place in my heart from the friendly neighbors to the open green fields.

Biking on a summer afternoon with my best friend to the grocery store, only one and a half miles away, gave me some of my favorite memories. Even though everything in this town is spaced apart, that really brings it all together. For me, the experience of being able to enjoy that distance, it gave my friend and I more time to talk and really brought us closer together. From having fun talking to the cows, or laying in a grassy field, we talked about everything and anything. Moments like this gave me the appreciation of how simple but amazing our town is. I wouldn't have had experiences like these if it weren't for our big and unique spaces.

I'll never forget the lion encounter I had at Mary Gay Chapel's house. My father took my sister and I to her house with the surprise of interacting with a playful baby lion. Who can say that they've done that? Moments like these are the ones that show me how unique the experiences I've had in this town are.

While volunteering at town events, I've met some of the nicest people around. My life has been inspired by these remarkable people who have dedicated their time expecting nothing in return. The experiences have taught me how to work with people and time management. Every friend and neighbor that volunteers has made our town a better place to live. I'm thankful for the opportunity to have volunteered at our town events with some of my closest friends throughout the years. I will remember these moments for the rest of my life.

Jessica Hartmann

Southwest Ranches, while it a small South Florida town consisting of a mostly rural area and suburban homes, it holds a special place in my heart. Growing up here, it was a simplistic neighborhood where it was relatively peaceful throughout the day, seldom were there much of any noise disturbance such as the sound of cars constantly passing by or construction going on in the dead of night. During the night, artificial light is at a minimum, allowing for the night sky to be seen. Seeing the stars up in the sky on a clear was not something everyone had the opportunity to experience in their hometown, so for someone like me who has always had an interest in outer space, this was always a great place for star gazing or to look at the moon during certain events.

Along with this, Southwest Ranches was always in touch with nature. With the quiet atmosphere and the closeness to the Everglades, it's never hard to find various different animals everywhere you go. From small insects like the various butterflies I used to catch or the many geckos that run across the pavement. Like the birds, such as the occasional peacock, geese, and the large community of ducks that come and go as they please. With the reptiles such as the snapping turtles or the famous alligators, and the mammals such as the farm animals or even the neighbors' pets, there isn't a place quite like Southwest Ranches to experience this all.

Sophia Morales

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