



2024 Lindsay Orange Blossom Festival
Queen
Miriam Gonzalez

Miriam Gonzalez was born in Porterville, CA, to Alfredo and Teresa Gonzalez and raised in Lindsay, CA. She was raised in a traditional Mexican household and was the fifth among 10 siblings, where she was taught family values, work ethic, and accountability. Her parents are immigrants who moved to the U.S. to create a better future for their family as farm laborers. As a child, Miriam and her siblings accompanied her parents to work in the fields, which taught her to appreciate her parents' sacrifices at an early age. As a result of her exposure to those sacrifices, she learned the values of perseverance and motivation.

Miriam has lived in Lindsay her whole life. She attended Jefferson Elementary School, where she was recognized consistently for her academics, and moved on to Lindsay High School, where she graduated in 2019. In high school, Miriam was a part of AVID, the Spanish Honors Society, and the California Scholarship Federation (CSF). She also participated in sports, including soccer and track. During her senior year of high school, she enrolled in dual courses that gave her high school and college credits. She also participated in a teaching internship at Lincoln Elementary, giving her an insight into the career that she wanted to pursue.

During her education in Lindsay, she was a part of the Migrant Program, where she attended college readiness trips across California with Youth 2 Leaders, and even had the opportunity to visit Washington D.C, during the presidential inauguration and personally met former senator, Devin Nunes. The migrant program also allowed her to participate in work-study, where she worked as a teacher assistant and in the STARS after-school program while in school.

Miriam has always wanted to become a teacher. As a child, she always attempted to teach her grandmothers, Elvira and Rosa, English. After graduating high school, Miriam joined the Lindsay TSL program and continued her education at California State University, Bakersfield. During her education at CSUB, she commuted to stay close to home and support. During her time at Bakersfield, Miriam faced some hardships, including the pandemic. Her courses transitioned from in-person learning to online, something that she wasn't used to, where she struggled to become self-motivated. While participating in online learning, she was also working. She worked in the fields, as a waitress, and at a retail store. Ultimately, she graduated from CSUB in May of 2023, obtaining her Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies with a Minor in Child Adolescent and Family Studies.

Miriam is now a part of the Lindsay Alder Teacher Residency program, where she is working on obtaining a master's in education with a concentration in teaching and a multiple-subject

teaching credential. She is completing her residency at Lincoln Elementary School and looks forward to obtaining a teaching position. Her goal is to advocate for her learners academically and emotionally. She wants to ensure that she offers learners a safe environment where learning is tailored to their needs, cultures, and beliefs.

Beyond academics, Miriam is an active member of her church, contributing to youth retreats, and serving as a catechist teacher. She aims to help students understand their faith and strengthen their connection with God.

Amidst her achievements, Miriam is beyond honored to be chosen as this year's Orange Blossom Queen. She holds dear the core memories of family and community in Lindsay, including the Orange Blossom Parade. She remembers participating in the orange blossom as a child at Jefferson Elementary. She also remembers watching the parade alongside her siblings and cousins. These cherished memories, coupled with her dedication, reflect Miriam's unwavering commitment to her roots, faith, and the community she holds dear.