2026 Lindsay Orange Blossom Festival
Queen:
Nataly Mejia-Saldivar

Nataly Mejia-Saldivar was born and raised in Lindsay, California, and is the daughter of Leticia and Rosario Mejia. As the youngest of three with two older brothers, she grew up surrounded by strong role models who set meaningful examples for her. Much of who she is today has been shaped by the sacrifices her parents made and the resilience, kindness, love, and unity they modeled. Her parents immigrated from Mexico to the United States in hopes of providing their children with opportunities they never had. From a young age, Nataly made it her mission to honor their sacrifices, make them proud, and fulfill the dreams they envisioned for their family.

She attended Lindsay High School, where she participated in the healthcare pathway, further confirming her desire to pursue nursing. Choosing this career has never been a question for her, and from an early age, she has known nursing is her calling. During high school, she was actively involved in several clubs, including Link Crew, HOSA, and Key Club, and was also a member of the school's swim team. These experiences strengthened her work ethic and deepened her commitment to serving others.

Halfway through her junior year, the COVID-19 pandemic shifted her education from in-person to online learning, altering the path she had originally planned. Instead of moving away after graduation, she chose to remain at home and continue her education at College of the Sequoias. Although this transition was challenging, her long-term goals never wavered. Watching many of her friends move away while she stayed behind was difficult and, at times, made her feel as though she was missing important life experiences. However, this journey allowed her to rediscover and deeply appreciate her hometown. She was reminded of the love Lindsay carries and the close-knit community that has supported, encouraged, and shaped her throughout her life.

When Nataly was seventeen, she attended a religious retreat in Lindsay that became a turning point in her life. Through this experience, she was opened to God's love, and it deeply changed her perspective and strengthened her faith. After this, Nataly decided to actively practice and grow in her Catholic faith. She returned every year to support the upcoming confirmation classes, experiencing the same retreat. She felt called to show others the love and strength God provided to her and began teaching first-year confirmation. She had the opportunity to connect with the youth and guide them through their own spiritual journey. This has been one of the most meaningful ways for her to serve her community and share the faith that has

shaped her life.

After high school, Nataly earned her CNA license and began working to gain hands-on experience in patient care. In this role, she connected with fellow CNAs and nurses while deepening her understanding of the nursing profession. Most importantly, providing one-on-one care allowed her to build meaningful and trusting relationships with her patients.

She is currently in her second semester of nursing school at College of the Sequoias, where she proudly serves as her cohort's treasurer and secretary. Nataly plans to continue her education by obtaining her bachelor's degree and pursuing a future in nursing education. Her goal is to teach and inspire future generations of nurses, sharing the importance of unity, service, and the joy that comes from giving back to others and to one's community.

Nataly has always had a deep love for people and a strong desire to serve others, which has inspired her to give back to the community that has given so much to her. She has volunteered at multiple community events, particularly serving the elderly population, and continues to seek experiences that will strengthen her future as a nurse. Serving her community has been both humbling and rewarding, reinforcing her compassion and commitment to service.

She is deeply grateful to her parents, her brothers Carlos and David, her sister-in-laws Stephanie and Andrea, and her friends who have supported her through every stage of her journey. Above all, she thanks God for His guidance and for the opportunities He has provided. She knows that without Him, none of this would be possible. Nataly is truly honored to serve as the 2026 Orange Blossom Queen and hopes to continue making her family and the Lindsay community proud.