

## Ruiz, Nina

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**From:** Colorado Kids Ranch <Hello@coloradokidsranch.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 2, 2023 2:06 PM  
**To:** Ruiz, Nina  
**Subject:** Fwd: Colorado Kids Ranch

FYI



**Colorado Kids Ranch**  
**719-799-6708**  
**18065 Saddlewood Rd**  
**Monument CO 80132**  
[www.ColoradoKidsRanch.com](http://www.ColoradoKidsRanch.com)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Abram Taft** <[abram@adamtaft.com](mailto:abram@adamtaft.com)>  
**Date:** Sat, Sep 2, 2023 at 1:58 PM  
**Subject:** Colorado Kids Ranch  
**To:** <[HollyWilliams@elpasoco.com](mailto:HollyWilliams@elpasoco.com)>  
**Cc:** <[Hello@coloradokidsranch.com](mailto:Hello@coloradokidsranch.com)>

Dear Commissioner Williams,

I am writing to you in regard to the Colorado Kids Ranch and Pumpkin Patch located off of Highway 105 in El Paso County. It has come to my attention that there is a danger of the Colorado Kids Ranch being shut down, and I was asked to write an email describing my experience working at the Pumpkin Patch and my point of view regarding the benefits of the Colorado Kids Ranch.

I first worked at the Pumpkin Patch in ninth grade, after knowing the Chapman family for three years prior. This was my first ever real job and was probably one of the best experiences I could have had at the time, as it gave me critical fundamental skills in communication, customer service, sales, and teamwork. Not only was this my experience, but also the experience of countless other unskilled teenagers both then and now. Because the Chapman's are willing to employ young teenagers for their first jobs, I believe that they are providing the community with an extremely valuable service by teaching these young teenagers such as myself valuable lessons and skills that can be used as they enter the workforce. When I was applying to more traditional jobs, I was able to include my experience at the Pumpkin Patch on my resume and this was the only thing of substance that I was able to put on the resume. I truly believe that this is the reason that I was selected for my first job, and I am equally sure that this has been the experience of many other people who have worked at the Colorado Pumpkin Patch and Colorado Kids Ranch.

Not only is my personal experience working there positive, but a quick Google search reveals that the experiences of their customers are mostly positive also, with a 3.7/5 star rating for the Pumpkin Patch, and a 4.2/5 rating for the Colorado Kids Ranch. This alone shows the support that the community has for this

business and the positive impact that it has on so many people every year. The managers of the Colorado Kids Ranch are very active in responding to reviews, both positive and negative, and I have seen firsthand the work that they put into fixing any problems that occur over the course of the season, and they are constantly trying to do the best that they can. I believe that one reason that it is so popular is because it is one of the only major recreational activities in the Monument area, providing families with a fun, locally owned business near Monument, one of the few in the area.

It is of my understanding that the major complaint threatening the Colorado Kids Ranch is from a small number of the residents surrounding the property, particularly complaints of noise and traffic. While no one will argue against the fact that there is elevated noise or traffic, these complaints are really not as serious as some may want you to believe. First, the noise is not that of heavy machinery, nor of disruptive equipment, but of children playing and families spending time together in a safe and enjoyable environment. Second, the Colorado Pumpkin Patch's hours of operation is from 9am-5pm during the busiest times of the season, which shows that it will not be extremely disruptive to anybody with a "regular" schedule, such as working a regular job or going to school. This exhibits a minimal impact to these people, and the hours of operation are such that they will not disturb the sleep of anybody in the area, something that I would be strongly against. Finally, the traffic that the Colorado Pumpkin Patch attracts is rarely disruptive to the roads surrounding the property, due to the layout of the property being such that all traffic is directed to the far side and flows into a moderately well organized parking area.

The Chapman family who owns and runs the Colorado Kids Ranch and the Colorado Pumpkin Patch are some of the best people that I have ever had the privilege of knowing and working with. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman are some of the most kindhearted and wonderful people that I have ever met, and have raised amazing children that have their parents dedication, faith, work ethic, and kindness. They are dedicated to providing people with the best that they can offer and work tirelessly to give their community everything they have, whether it is the Pumpkin Patch or volunteering at a local Awanas club.

Not just in my opinion, but evident to any who care to look, the Colorado Kids Ranch is a fantastic asset to the El Paso County and Monument area because not only does it provide the people of the area a fun, safe and accessible recreational activity, but it also provides the young teenagers who work there the opportunity to learn important life skills that can be used and expanded on in future employment opportunities, which can only benefit the community as a whole.

I apologize for the length of this email, but feel very strongly for the Colorado Kids Ranch and its benefits to the community and wish to express the extent of my affection for this place. I have also CC'd the Colorado Kids Ranch email address, so please feel free to contact me or them if necessary. Thank you for your commitment to the people of El Paso County.

Sincerely,

Abram Taft