

**RESPONSES FROM WOMEN APPLICANTS TO DEEP SPRINGS, AFTER
REJECTION IN JANUARY 2013**

Many people have asked us about what response we received from the women applicants who were rejected after the court's ruling earlier this month.

To inform them, Deep Springs sent an email letter, cosigned by the College President and the Chair of the Applications Committee, to all 110 of the women applicants. That letter, which is also posted on our website, invited reply.

Below we have reprinted 100% of the replies we received to that initial letter. The women whose emails are reprinted below have given Deep Springs their permission to share their words, but not their names.

Applicant 1

I'm sure it goes without saying that I was very disappointed to receive your email yesterday about the latest ruling on coeducation. I have been looking forward to the opportunity to apply to Deep Springs for more than a year now. From everything I've read and heard about the school, it would have brought me into the kind of lifestyle and community that I have always searched for, and the chance to at least apply meant so much to me. I suppose the most disappointing part of this news is that Deep Springs is now not an option because of my gender, something that I consider an arbitrary and comparatively small part of my identity, as opposed to the deeper parts of my personal philosophies and values that I hope were expressed through my application.

That being said, I would like to thank the application committee and everyone at Deep Springs for the consideration and the opportunity to apply. It seems like the move to coeducation has been a fight from the beginning, and Deep Springs' commitment showed me how much it was truly desired among the staff and student body. Even though it seems your hands are tied now, I truly appreciate the time and energy that has gone into coeducation in the past few years.

I will definitely consider re-applying to Deep Springs next year if coeducation is to become a reality, and if there is anything I can personally do in the meantime as a prospective student to assist Deep Springs in its efforts, I am more than happy to lend my support.

Applicant 2

Needless to say, I am shocked by the court's decision. From what I understood from the updates on the website, there was close to absolute certainty that women would be admitted to the college this year, and what the court was ruling on had more to do with the transfer of endowments than the actual legality of coeducation. When I read this email update, I was crushed. I have been interested in Deep Springs since before it was announced to be coeducational in September, and the decision to admit women the very year I was applying to college seemed to be both a blessing and a sign. I truly thought I had found that for which most people search for longer than I have been alive- a place, an idea that excites them beyond anything they have before experienced. My friends and family have all listened to me talk excitedly about the school for months, probably to the point where I have begun to annoy them with the topics of self governance and the jobs I'd like to take on the ranch. My brother even suggested last night that I "pull a Mulan" and try to make it to the second round anyways, disguised as a boy. They know I am heartbroken by the court's decision, and understand my frustration over feeling powerless because of my gender. They also know that I will be just as successful somewhere else, and will try to remind me of this fact frequently over the next few weeks.

Is it unfair that my anatomical differences make it impossible for me to do something?
Yes. Having been to both co-ed and single-sex schools in my life, I know that I gain so much more from being among peers of both genders. But even so, I do not wish that I had never had the chance to apply to Deep Springs. Even though I have never met any of you, I am grateful for the chances you have given me to show my passion for your school, connect with others like myself through the co-ed google group, and learn more about alternative educational paths. I am grateful that schools like yours exist, and that you are trying your hardest to make the opportunity to attend them open to everyone. And while I am deeply saddened that I will not be able to attend Deep Springs, I remain hopeful that future young women just as passionate as myself are allowed to. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for the young minds of the world.

Applicant 3

First and foremost, I strengthen your battle in making one of the most rigorous, radical education institutions in the world to be co-educational. It is a worthy struggle.

Despite my aspirations to be a student in Deep Springs, I do recognize the value of a one gender education. Still, this value follows the archaic idea that two opposite genders can be distracting to each other rather than inspiring. Women and men are wrongly perceived in society to be different. Awarding them equally is essential to reinforcing how their intellect and achievements depend more on the person rather than on their gender and disproving this social construction. Moreover, having a co-ed in a distant place from society such as Deep Springs, allow both gender students to construct their own social dynamics. This dynamics will not only generate strong leaders from both genders but will also generate the profound understanding of how social thinking is constructed and WRONG.

Beyond the fact I obviously won't be able to transfer to Deep Springs, the thought of it being beyond reach to women makes the judge's decision to be extremely unjust. As I know justice is of your highest priorities, I would like you to keep on fighting for this cause as rigorous and unique education is for all who deserve it and are capable of it, with no discrimination of any kind.

I would like to support the Coed-Admission committee in any way I can assist for the challenge.

Currently my idea is contributing to this battle using my photography- portraying how and why women in Deep Springs are needed.

This is not about luck, but about justice.

...Thank you for responding to my email with such kindness.

It is important for me to emphasize that I am completely certain that the team of Deep Springs experienced true disappointment and discontent following the judge decision. I am fully aware that this decision was not made or supported in anyway by the college.

I also really appreciate the college efforts to stay in contact with the female applicants and not dropping it at once. I think other applicants very much appreciate it as well as it really shows your recognition of our efforts and passion towards the school.

You can use my email as you suggested. [I.e. anonymously in this document.]

I must say that I am more concern about other and younger female applicants than me. I am already enrolled in a very good education institution but I think that the judge's decision negative effects are amplified towards younger girls, who can't fit in other institutions due to their skills, intelligence and vision on right and fulfilling ways of living.

I would be happy to support your battle in any away.

Best wishes.

Applicant 4

I just wanted to thank you for letting me know about the change of course.

Deep Springs has such a unique concept and philosophy that has always inspired me to be my best - and that's why I've always wanted to go to Deep Springs. It is with great regret to know that women will not be part of the college for this coming freshmen class, but I am also grateful

to know that you will keep on fighting for the cause. Deep Springs is so amazing that I think it should be open to everyone, girls and boys alike, whoever has a passion for Deep Springs' philosophy.

I also wanted to let you know that writing the essays and filling out the application has been fun (I actually enjoyed myself writing those essays). I hope you had as much fun learning about me as I had telling you about myself. I truly will keep on telling everyone I know about Deep Springs, and hopefully one day you will let girls in as well - since I know so many that would love to join you.

I truly hope I will, one day, be able to come and visit Deep Springs, or in the future, come teach or work. I'd really like to experience Deep Springs. I am deeply regretful to learn this news, since Deep Springs has been my top choice from the start.

I hope you have an amazing new class this coming July (which I'm sure you will).

Applicant 5

Wow! I barely know what to say, except that I would like to thank you so, so much for the opportunity and the experience of applying to Deep Springs. I am heartened to read that Deep Springs remains committed to coeducation, because I believe, in this particular case, for it to be important.

At my previous school, we talked a lot about coeducation. I felt ambivalently, but I have great respect for many of the arguments that were made in favor of remaining a women's college. The strongest of these emphasized that gender inequality was alive and well in our culture, and women's colleges elevated women and emphasized self-reliance and empowerment. The curriculum and outcome of Deep Springs is similar, and could encourage in women the exact traits that will ultimately make their lives, and the lives of others, better. I understand the almost sacred quality that gender separatism can produce. I lived and breathed it for two years. However, I don't think I'm creating a double standard. We used to say at Sweet Briar, Mount Holyoke, Smith, etc., that we would go coed when women's college was outdated and irrelevant and didn't serve the needs of women anymore. I hope Deep Springs will go coed in the coming years, because it would be relevant and important and help women to find their voices in this strange world.

I will not reapply next year, but only because I need to keep going and graduate from college next May! I feel strangely like I want to emphasize that I will be okay, because I know that right now those who fought for coeducation must be upset and disappointed on our behalf, and that must feel terrible. I have a lot to look forward to in the next year and a half - fulfilling work this summer, fulfilling research at school, and great people at school and back at home. Maybe you'll even see me down the road at Deep Springs in a different context... I still want to teach college in a few years!

Thank you again. Keep it up. I think you're on the right side of history here.

Hoping our paths will cross some other time and best wishes.

Applicant 6

I would very much like to write a rather potent email about the abomination of continued sexism in the twenty first century, the hypocrisy of attempting to prepare students to excel in the real world without the presence of females, and general anger at the inability to evolve from the stone age. However, such an email still would do nothing to assuage my horrible disappointment and sadness that I simply won't have the opportunity to come to your school this year. As I have been traveling these last few months, I have (for better or worse) seen Deep Springs as a type of final resting place where I could Be after such a year of constant Becoming. It is rather hard to have such a hope be so destroyed not on merit of my application (such a rejection I was willing and prepared to take), but through other such schemes I have no power to control. However, such things are as they are, and from here I have a series of questions and proposals of how perhaps to move forward.

First of all, is it not true that the judicial problem was over the money of the trust? Could it then be a possibility of me being able to attend outside of the financial trust messiness? Could I simply pay to attend just as any other college, and thus attend the school and not disturb the male-centric nature of the protected money?

Or, could I somehow lurk around Deep Springs incognito, such as living in a tent a mile away living off skinned rabbits and rainwater? Perhaps then I could be allowed the occasional honor of being allowed to sit on the floor during the discussions, immediately after which I would return to my lonely camp to think over the concepts in bestial solitude?

Or, is it at all possible I could be allowed to be a part of the school without being one of the students? I have been working on many different farms these last months in exchange for food and lodging. Could Deep Springs be the same type of deal, where I could weed the garden and do general farm work, without participation in the academic sphere? I would be extremely pleased to be a simple laborer until the judicial measures were sorted out and I could commence the intellectual sides of things.

Or, on the same note, I could be employed to do simple womanly tasks that the deemed more deserving male students were unable to do, what with becoming the leaders of tomorrow and all that. I could cook and mend socks and wash floors and iron sheets.

But, if all of these proposals don't work out, my question then is (as the question always is) what do I do now? I am willing to wait as long as it takes to come to the school. If I have to wait another year, I can definitely do that. If so, would it make any difference to you if I went to another college for a year before again attempting to apply, or if I simply continued traveling for another year?

Another query- would it at all be possible for me to continue with the application process even without the hope of being able to attend? I mean this in the way that Deep Springs has been something I have hardly dared to invest my hope in, for fear of not being accepted. For over two years it has been in the back of my mind as an uncertainty, a strange possibility. There are enough uncertainties to be plagued by, and I would very much like to put this particular one to rest. Therefore, can I continue to write the essays and interview and all that, whereupon you fellows will decide if I am accepted or not. With the knowledge of rejection, I can then move on my way, and let bygones be bygones. However, if you do indeed deem me worthy, could you then perhaps give me some type of waiting pass, which would ensure my admittance whenever it was judicially sorted out? This way all the efforts I have put into the application process would not go to waste, and I would then not have to bank my plans on something that may or may not happen. You see, if I was given such a pass, I would then travel or do some other such activity with my year, but if I was politely rejected I would probably search out another school to attend next year and thus continue my education.

Finally, please let me know if there is anything I can possibly do to change the course of events for the coming year, such as petitioning the judge or writing aggressive emails to people or laying siege to the campus with an army of other disappointed and disillusioned females.

I very much hope that something can be done, and perhaps a sliver of possibility still exists that Deep Springs lies somewhere in my future. In the end, I will put aside all disappointment and anger, and I do not mean to express anything in this letter other than my continued desire to attend the school, whatever difficulty or patience that might entail. Please let me know your thoughts on all of this whenever you are able. I hope it is a beautiful winter day in the desert.

Applicant 7

Thank you for your email. I also apologize for not having able to receive the call since I am currently abroad right now and will stay abroad next semester, thus I had to terminate my phone plan temporarily, but I'd love to share my thoughts with you through email.

Somehow the news of inability to admit women in 2013 feels worse than a rejection, although I had previously thought otherwise. I thought that an outcome like this would save me from the embarrassment of realization that even after two years in college, I am still not good enough for

my dream school back when I was seventeen. But now that the news has been sent out, I felt nothing other than a great tide of irony.

For the past five semesters of college, I have heard nothing else than feminism, women power and advocacy of gender equality. Being in an all women's college, it's inevitable to be surrounded by constant discussions of feminism and gender issues. Personally, I am not an avid supporter of feminism. I have never understood these issues or the importance of them because I had never been affected directly by the fact that I am female. However, the news is the first of the many to come that penetration and burst of the bubble of my current school. Am I angry? No. Disappointed? Very, to be denied of the same opportunities because of my gender.

Back when I was in high school, Deep Springs was only admitting men. Many times I have told myself that if only I was born a few years later. Coming from an all women's college, I understand nothing less than what it means for legacy. I am sure that it is the very same for Deep Springs, but now I have to come to a point where I am beginning to doubt legacy and traditions. Should it be kept if it was based on a time period and social background of gender inequality? But then again, history has proven that nothing is solely black and white. I am very sure that Deep Springs and the court has its reasons for the final outcome and I am also extremely touched by all the effort that every DSer has put into trying to make admissions possible for women.

Thank you again for keeping us updated and informed. Hopefully that some day in the future a group of young women would have the same opportunity to live, work, study on the ranch as their brothers.

Applicant 8

Thank you for the challenge that was your application process. I won't deny my disappointment with the ruling by the court, but having some familiarity with odds, I can appreciate that the wheels of justice grind slowly. Our world seems to get smaller as information is more accessible; I suppose that some comfort can be gleaned by the diligent, sober, and pragmatic review of the terms of the trust, which created Deep Springs College.

For what it is worth, Deep Springs represented an unparalleled opportunity to me. I greatly admire the pillars as I understand them. Too, as a 17 year old, and I believe regardless of my gender, I really am uncertain as to the direction that the remainder of my life should take. I often think that this is a particularly cruel expectation to have our lives mapped out at such a young age. I looked forward to the cooperative work and the chance to explore subjects in a much more thorough manner than in a nameless and faceless lecture hall. My greatest personal fear about attending Deep Springs was the public speaking component, as I see myself as being rather shy.

There have been a number of prominent women within the last 50+ years to sever the apron strings that have traditionally bound women to the kitchen. My personal list of inspirational women includes Sandra Day O'Connor, who grew up on a ranch I might add, and Julia Morgan. Justice O'Connor was initially unable to find work as an attorney despite having received her law degree from Stanford and having served on the Stanford Law Review. Julia Morgan, having obtained a BA from Cal in civil engineering in the late 19th century then traveled to Paris to study architecture at *École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts*. Miss Morgan was denied admittance twice, but ultimately was successful in her bid to acquire a coveted certificate in architecture from the school, the first woman to ever do so. Both women, to me, exemplify dignity, strength, and perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds. In a world of shameless self-promotion and when 15 minutes of fame is often based upon some dubious achievement, some anachronistic part of me longs for quiet contemplative thought and purposeful actions that I imagine Deep Springs might also appreciate.

I do not mean to have this evolve into 2500 word essay. I thank you for reaching out to me. I would encourage you to stay on course and fight the good fight.

Applicant 9

First of all I must confess that when I first heard that no girls were going to be accepted this year I thought it was some misunderstanding, but when I finally received the president's email I could not suppress my disappointment. Reality hit me like it had never had and the disappointment rapidly transformed into tears of rage and of anger against a decision that, although legal, has been so unfairly taken. Thus, and although I know that you all have been working really hard to be able to accept women this next year, I want to share with you the reasons for my unceasing indignation and my thoughts about the irrevocable loss that by not accepting women Deep Springs will experience.

I applied to Deep Springs because I thought their educational approach was absolutely revolutionary and it seemed to me like the most progressive school in the United States, and almost all around the world, where not only developing your mind and acquiring unflinching knowledge was required but also it was extremely important to learn that no kind of wisdom is useful if it serves no purpose. I wanted to go there because it seemed to me like an incredible opportunity to grow as a person, to seek for myself and for a better understanding of the reality surrounding me, to respect others and be equally respect, and to attain self governance through endless hard work both academically and in the ranch. I mainly applied because the idea of such a small community where there are no excuses to not act according to what you preach as others are dependent upon your actions, enormously appealed to me as the best way of achieving integrity. Indeed, I thought Deep Springs was a place where equality was one of the pillars of its functioning. But, how can you grasp what equality implies if your school is an unequal

institution in the first place because ONLY men are allowed to go there? How can you talk about equality and try to prompt your students to aim for a more equal world if studying there means ignoring equality of opportunities, if being there implies that certain people, equally prepared and equally capacitated for that intensive experience are being discriminated because of their gender?

It is very ironic, and incredibly sad, to find that a school that claims to be forming leaders of the future, people who will excel in the fields they choose to dedicate their lives to at the same time that will use that excellence and passion to improve, or at least to try to improve, the current state of unfairness and corruption in this world, is only forming male leaders. At the time that L. L Nunn created the school I have no doubt that, unfairly, the men were the main leaders of society and, therefore, it was reasonable to create a school where their skills and their human perspective could be furthered in an incredible way. However, almost 100 years after that, in a century where men and women are finally considered intellectually equal and where we have enjoyed that equality for decades, it makes no sense to continue with such a discriminatory policy. Furthermore, if a person fails to see that defending exclusive male education is like going backwards in time, then he or she would be considering men above women and that person therefore deserves nor my sympathy neither my respect.

Having said this, I want to clarify that this does not mean that I cannot understand the claim that accepting women will alter the quality of the education in Deep Springs. Indeed, it will change the Deep Springs experience significantly but this change will be incredibly positive. It will enrich the community enormously as it will include thousands of different perspectives and a new way of looking at world problems. Most importantly, it will bring reality and equality, because in the real world there are men AND women and they are considered equal. Furthermore, the argument that the presence of women in the school will alter the men's concentration is an old discriminatory argument that has been used by many societies in the past to deny certain rights to women, like the implementation of the burka in the Irani society as according to many, women prompted men to act sinfully by showing them their arms or part of their legs. Of course that this is putting the example to an extreme, but, to me, the argument that men will be altered or distracted by women is invalid as by that principle women could also be distracted by men, and the point is to learn to coexist with each other and not to blame any of the parties. In my opinion we are just people, any of us is as human as the other and although, yes, women have several characteristic that differentiates from men but that does not make us unequal.

I was particularly struck by the Deep Springs legal inability to accept women because I have never been denied an opportunity because of my gender. Three of my school mates have applied to Deep Springs. We are, the four of us, quite similar and different at the same time as we all come from different cultures with the particularity that one applicant and I share the same language, Spanish, and the other two are both American. Although I have always considered

ourselves equal, the fact that the two men are still eligible to go Deep Springs and the other woman and I are not puts them in a certain superior position to us because they have been granted an opportunity that the two of us have not. And it is not about getting into the school, because no one knows if we would have actually got in, it is about not even being able to try. They will enjoy an experience, if they get selected, that us, although the student body and the majority of the trustees have voted for coeducation, will not be able to be part of because we are women.

Furthermore, this gender discrimination has made me wonder about all those countries in the world where women are being denied the same rights that men enjoy. Countries, like that of another of my classmates who is from Saudi Arabia, where women are not allowed to go outside their house without the company of a man nor can they talk to a man or be seen talking to one who is not either their father, their brother or in case they are married their husband. It has made think about the struggle that women have gone through during the past century, to finally be recognized as equal to men, to finally be allowed to work in the same conditions and with the same salaries than men did. A struggle, that ignorant me that I have never truly considered as I have never experienced it, that is still going on in many countries around the world and about which we cannot turn our backs to. History is there to learn from it. We cannot permit that a democratic society like that of America allows a practice against which so much energy, thoughts, and time has been put to eradicate. Deep Springs has to fight for coeducation because what you are missing right now is extremely valuable, because men and women are equal and because you are stuck in the past if your trustees are not able to see that today the leaders of society are both women and men.

After reading about the ongoing litigation and the unfair recent decision of the court to stop the school from admitting women in 2013 I cannot understand what are the motivations of the two trustees who so selfishly and still legally attempt to prevent coeducation. What are they moved by? Do they really think that women are inferior to men, is it all about the donations and the money that they could obtain by it, or do they really think that the school is better off without women? I cannot understand and I do not share their conviction. Furthermore, that people like these exist all around the world deeply disappoints me and makes wonder about the kind of future that we are heading towards.

Although it is really sad to realize that I do not have the opportunity to study in Deep Springs because I am a woman, this realization has opened my eyes to the current situation of gender discrimination. We must fight, not only to attain coeducation in Deep Springs but to ensure that this kind of discrimination is not experienced by anyone anywhere in the world. Women cannot be considered inferior to men and cannot be deprived of rights just because they were born in that way. Our gender is not a choice and therefore we should not be conditioned by it.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for all the effort, time and work that you are putting in to make coeducation a reality. Although I do not regret in the least the time and dedication that I put into completing my application as I have learnt a lot in the process, I still think it is extremely unfair that women are not allowed to study in Deep Springs. Indeed, it will be a great loss for the school to miss the 6 women applicants that would have been selected if the court had not prevented you from it, because we, all the girls who had applied were brave and defiant enough to be willing to be pioneers in a school that had never had women before. Sadly, and as it happens in some cases, judges are more focused in legality than in fairness. Hopefully, the future will bring the yearned justice.

I hope my opinion and that of many other girls will encourage you to continue fighting this battle. I am also sorry for the length of my mail but I felt that the louder and broader we raise our voices against this injustice the greater impact it will have and the more hope it will give us. I hope coeducation becomes a reality soon, as I am sure there are plenty of girls who like me, cannot wait to become part of Deep Springs.

All the best,

A disillusioned person.

Applicant 10

I was very sorry to learn of this decision and disappointed to learn that females would be declined a year of incredible experiences and learning at Deep Springs College. I was excited to participate at the forefront of what I thought would be a great change for this school and its students. I'm sorry that this change has been declined and will have to be postponed until later years.

Deep Springs College is perhaps unrivaled in its uniqueness and education in the United States. I was drawn to the close community, the vast learning experiences, and the responsibility that is placed on the students. I think all of these factors contribute to make strong, independent, and capable individuals. I saw this school as a challenge but definitely a challenge that interested me because it inspired in me a sense of adventure and offered unforgettable learning. Also, as someone who loves the outdoors and gardening this school seemed the perfect learning environment because it would allow me to develop skills in and out of the classroom.

I'm glad that this school is finally undertaking measures to become a learning place for the other half of the population and I'm glad that I had the opportunity to participate at the forefront of this change.

Thank you for taking the time to review my application and I wish you all the best.

Applicant 11

I am sorry that the court ruled against the admission of women to Deep Springs. I had been following the case and reading the briefs with my father, and though not surprised when the ruling did not come out in Deep Spring's favor, I was disappointed. I appreciate the schools commitment and believe that your hard work will eventually pay off.

I still have hope that I will be able to have the Deep Springs experience. I am interested in transferring to Deep Springs in my sophomore year (legal issues permitting.) Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist the school or express my interest in attending Deep Springs.

Applicant 12

Thank you also for the kind words -- Deep Springs has done an impressive job of supporting its female applicants throughout this entire process. While the coeducation ruling isn't ideal, being able to cope with rejection is a part of applying to college, and since I'm established at a four-year school already I think the blow was less crushing to me than to the applicants who are currently high school seniors.

Although I am moving towards a degree here at my current school, I plan on reapplying to Deep Springs if there comes a year in the near future when women may be admitted. Although 2013 cannot be that year, I am intensely grateful for the efforts being made by the college to push towards coeducation. Being excluded from such a unique and valuable opportunity because of the organs in my body is not a good feeling.

Though many of my thoughts have been directed towards Deep Springs in the past months (a saga that must, for the time being, end) I feel positively about the application experience. Seriously considering your college has in itself prompted realizations about how I want to live my life and receive my education going forward. At this time I am considering alternative options for next year (looking into a job with the National Park Service or NOLS if I can rustle up the funds) before I return to school -- wherever that may be -- and if you have any suggestions for experiences similar to the one offered at Deep Springs I'd love to hear about them.

Right now I am receiving training for my Wilderness First Responder certification, so generally I won't be reachable by telephone during the day. However I try to check my messages and email on a daily basis if you do want to reach me.

Thank you again for your time and sensitivity, and if I think of any further questions I will be sure to let you know. For now, I just want to wish you and the rest of the Deep Springs community all the best for 2013.

With any luck perhaps I will be given another chance to see your school someday.

...Hello again, sorry I've been out of touch for a while; with the WFR wrapping up (finally certified!) and the new semester rolling in, things have been hectic.

I would consider myself incredibly lucky to have the chance to talk with either of you about opportunities for my education. Whenever/however you're up for that I could definitely work it in to my schedule. Both of your backgrounds sound phenomenal, and any advice you can give me on how best to move forward would be more than welcome.

As for why I was interested in the school, that's a pretty loaded question. Deep Springs first came up on my radar in a big way during 2011 when two of my close friends applied. One of them made it to the second round and the other to the waitlist, and I kind of rode out the admissions process with them. I think that the three of us have always been very dedicated to self-improvement -- not through books titled "3 Easy Steps to Becoming Well-Liked and Successful" or "Change your Appetite, Change Your Life!" but in a way that felt a little more organic and a lot more personal. Watching them fall in love with the college, and realizing that I shared many of the values that made Deep Springs a dream come true for those two boys, made my own choice to apply last fall an easy one.

For the three of us, and probably everyone else, navigating the transition into adulthood has absolutely been an exciting time; personal exploration has taken center stage and for me it feels like the first authentic opportunity I've been given to pursue my own interests. I think what's often overlooked about pursuing interests is that it before that can happen one must have an idea of what his or her interests *are*. Acutely aware that choosing one path would eliminate many others, I, for one, never had a concrete certainty of which "track" I should set myself on. I don't think many people do at 17 (which is one of the bones I have to pick with the education system), but at this time I can say definitively that Deep Springs would open more doors for me than it closed, not the least of which would be the personal growth I think I could experience in that environment.

In the past few years (with the companionship and support many friends) I have crafted a rough image of where I want to go and what I want to place value in. The outdoors became something sacred, and we idolized people with backcountry experience. More abstract things like being articulate, well-versed in literature, and crossing defined gender roles (the boys were proud of their cooking and sewing; the girls built bikes and could tie a good clove hitch), became admirable too. Being open-minded, self-assured, independent, discreet, and kind were things we aspired to and extolled in each other. Our small community of friends constructed an environment that fostered the skills we found important, and I will always be grateful for having found my way into it. As we began to consider the next step in our educations and lives, Deep Springs presented itself as the culmination of our efforts, as well as a resounding step in the right

direction towards becoming who we wanted to be. At least I felt that way. I think the two young men -- and probably many of the other young men -- who applied did as well.

That was the long answer. I'm sorry if it was unwarranted, but I don't have many chances to share my story with people directly involved in the school, and that in itself seems like a reason to explore my explanation a little more fully. The short answer is that I fell in love with the desert a long time ago, I'm craving independence, and -- somewhat paradoxically -- a tight-knit community of peers, Deep Springs would offer me an education that I feel would be more substantial and captivating than the average university, I would have more options after finishing my time there, and it would be awesome not to pay tuition. I also think that the labor component is something that was central to a lot of my backcountry time, and that physical work fosters self-esteem and creative thinking. Most of all, I feel that surrounding myself with intelligent and driven individuals, who have their own unique own perspectives, objectives, and passions, would create an environment in which I would be able to more fully realize my own potential. I want to find my own path as well as the confidence to follow where it leads. I had hoped this college would help me to do that. And I hope this explanation helps you understand a little better where I am coming from.

Thank you for hearing me out.

Deep Springs would have been an extraordinary opportunity for me, but it's my hope that I can have an experience elsewhere that could be just as enriching. Maybe you can help me find some alternatives. As always, thank you for your time.

Applicant 13

Thanks for letting me know about the ruling. I'm wondering if there is any way to find out why exactly it is such an issue.

Thanks for spending the time with my application anyway!

One from a parent:

Yes; I am very disappointed that female applicants will not be admitted to Deep Springs College in 2013. Though I am grateful to the Deep Springs Community for all their hard efforts, this is not the outcome I had hoped for.

When I learned in early November that Deep Springs College was accepting applications from women for summer 2013, I felt as if Providence was at work. I was so happy that my daughter, Anna, was given the opportunity to apply to such a unique and special school. Our family was hoping that she would be able to visit you and learn more about Deep Springs and that you would have the chance to get to know her.

I know that my daughter would have been happy at Deep Springs College so I am sad that Deep Springs College has been forced to turn away her and all the young women whose hearts heard the *voice of the desert* calling them to apply. And, unfortunately, as Elif Koc wrote in her article *My Dream School Won't Accept Me Because I'm a Woman* "...there is not [another] school like Deep Springs that is available to young women." A lot has changed since 1917, and I look forward to a future that allows any student, who feels the pull of a Deep Springs education, a fair chance to attend. I am sorry that my daughter will not be given this chance in 2013.

I want to thank you for keeping us so well informed, and I wish you well in your ongoing efforts to move towards coeducation at Deep Springs College.