



# Space Coast Pride Randall D. Kelly/Kelli Randell Memorial Scholarship

## **Mission Statement:**

Space Coast Pride is a wholly volunteer-managed non-partisan, tax-exempt, not-for-profit corporation that organizes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride events throughout the Space Coast of East Central Florida. We welcome the participation of all, regardless of age, creed, gender, gender identification, HIV status, national origin, race, religion, sexual origin, and regardless of ability. Space Coast Pride is governed by the Board of Directors.

Space Coast Pride, Inc. is the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, and Transgender community organization for Brevard County, Florida, and a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization. Its primary focus is to foster a sense of community among the LGBTQ+ community and to bridge the divide within all aspects of our lives. The Space Coast Pride Festival & Parade is the pinnacle of our efforts. Space Coast Pride is committed to upholding LGBTQ interests in Brevard County.

## **Overview of Scholarship:**

The Space Coast Pride Randall D. Kelly/Kelli Randell Memorial Scholarship is an achievement-based award that aims to support the members of our community with their educational development. **This scholarship is for Senior high school students who will be in the graduating class of 2023. This year, Space Coast Pride will award two \$1,500 scholarships to two applicants.**

## **Eligibility Requirements:**

Applicants to the Space Coast Pride Scholarship **MUST:**

- Identify as LGBTQ+.

- OR identify as an ally to the LGBTQ+ community (*additional documents required*).
- Be a resident of Brevard County, Florida.
- Have a minimum of 3.0 High School GPA.
- Be accepted and plan to enroll in an accredited college, university, or technical school in the Fall of 2023.

**Application Deadline:**

All required application materials must be submitted via email to Mary Beth Laburda at [vp@spacecoastpride.org](mailto:vp@spacecoastpride.org) by May 1, 2023.

**Application Process:**

Applicants must submit their application along with all required additional materials via email to Mary Beth Laburda at [vp@spacecoastpride.org](mailto:vp@spacecoastpride.org) by May 1, 2023.

Once all applications have been received, selected members of our Grant & Scholarship Committee will review the applicants' documents and select five semi-finalists for an additional round of interviews with Space Coast Pride executive board members.

All semi-finalists will be notified via email that they have been selected for an interview on **May 15, 2023**, along with the date and location of the interview. The recipients of the scholarship will be notified via email that they have been selected for the scholarship via email no later than two weeks after the interview.

**Required Documents:**

All applicants are required to submit the following documents:

- An application to the Space Coast Pride Scholarship.
- An unofficial copy of your high school transcript.
- A letter of recommendation from your teacher or high school counselor.

- A personal essay (1000 words max) answering the following prompts:

(1) Describe your experience coming to terms with your LGBTQ+ identity. Were there any struggles and obstacles that you had to confront? What did you do to overcome those obstacles?

(2) What do you think is one of the most critical issues that LGBTQ+ individuals face today? What can you do to help resolve this issue?

(3) Which figure of the LGBTQ community do you look up to, and why do you look up to them?

**Applicants who identified as an ally** to the LGBTQ+ community must also submit one of the following document:

- A short essay (300 words max) describing why you consider yourself as an ally to the members of the LGBTQ+ community.
- OR a document that shows that you have completed a minimum of 20 hours volunteering for LGBTQ+ causes.

**Selection Criteria:**

Scholarship recipients are selected based on the following criteria:

- Academic excellence and potential.
- Commitment and service to the LGBTQ+ community.
- Ability to represent the value of Space Coast Pride.

All information provided by the applicants will only be used solely to select the recipients for Space Coast Pride Randall D. Kelly/Kelli Randell Memorial Scholarship. In other words, we will not be sharing any personal information of our applicants to any third party.

**If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Mary Beth Laburda at [vp@spacecoastpride.org](mailto:vp@spacecoastpride.org).**

2023

SPACE COAST PRIDE

*RANDALL D. KELLY/KELLI RANDELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP*

OFFICIAL APPLICATION

**Date of Submission:**

**Applicant Name:**

**Date of Birth:**

**Mailing Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Current School you attend in Brevard County:**

**Guidance Advisor or School Contact Information:**

**Name of School you wish to attend:**

**Contact Address for Bursar's Office:**

**Major:**

**Year in School:**

**GPA:**

Reference Information

**Reference Name:**

**Reference Email or Phone:**

**Letter of Reference: *ATTACH DOCUMENT***

Application Questions:

1. It is often said that you must “learn from the past to improve the future”. Please select an individual or organization that has been at the forefront of the LGBTQ+ civil rights movement, and explain why you chose this person (someone such as Harvey Milk, but please do not use Harvey Milk for this question).
2. Are you currently involved in the LGBTQ+ community here on the Space Coast? Please give examples.

- 3. How will you use your post-graduate career to contribute back to the LGBTQ+ community?**
  
- 4. What do you consider to be your greatest achievement to date, and why?**
  
- 5. If selected for this scholarship, are you willing to work with Space Coast Pride, and act as an advocate for LGBTQ+ youth on the Space Coast? Please share ideas of how you would benefit our organization.**

## A Tribute to Kelli Randell



When someone holds a special place in your heart, makes an impact in your life, and changes the community for the good, it is only fitting to honor their contributions. From countless benefits and fundraisers, to mentoring the lives of LGBTQ+ youth, there is no one more deserving of this distinction.

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On June 28, 2020, our community suffered the tragic loss of a legend. What is a legend, and how do you adequately express the qualities of a life well-lived?

**Randall David Kelly**, better known to us as “**Miss Kelli Randell**”, exemplified a life full of humanity, humor, generosity, grace and passion. A truly “one of a kind” person, who was a beacon of love and light, both on the stage and off. Every aspect of her amazing life carried the message of love and unity, and it showed.

For over 30 years, **Kelli** gave selflessly by entertaining countless fans-young and old-gay and straight-on the Space and Treasure Coasts, central Florida, and across the nation, bringing love and laughter wherever she went.

It is estimated that **Kelli** raised over 1.5 million dollars over the course of her career. It is well known that whenever someone needed support, **Kelli** was the person to call. She hosted, organized, performed in numerous benefits, pageants, and fundraisers in support of the LGBTQ+ community-from HIV/AIDS events to memorial celebrations in the aftermath of the PULSE tragedy. She also helped to raise money for victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Irma, and for survivors of cancer.

Although her kindness for all was apparent, it is no secret that **Kelli** held a special place in her heart for children, and she gave her time and talent to raise money for children's charities, including Toys for Tots. **Kelli** was most proud of her work in hosting an annual fashion show that featured and benefitted Transgender kids.

**Space Coast Pride** was honored to showcase **Kelli's** work by awarding her our **Lifetime Achievement Award** in **2018**, for her dedication and support of our LGBTQ+ community. She also served as Grand Marshal at the **2018 Space Coast Pride Festival**, and graced our stage again last year as a performer-coming out of retirement.

Our lives are richer and our world is better because of **Kelli**. She made us laugh. She made us cry. She was a genuine, beautiful soul, and we will feel this loss for many years to come. We grieve her passing with her husband Danny-and her family, both biological and chosen.

It is time to remember and celebrate the magic and love of **Miss Kelli Randell...fly high amongst the rainbows, Love.**

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*On behalf of the Board of Directors of Space Coast Pride, it is with great honor to announce the 2023 Space Coast Pride Randall D. Kelly/Kelli Randell Memorial Scholarship.*