

11/20/16

Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation
59 Northshore Drive
Burlington, VT. 05408

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my support of Andie Creel's application for the Flyin Ryan Scholarship opportunity with your foundation. I believe Andie to be a person of tremendous character with significant leadership skills, who possesses many of Ryan Hawk's core values.

First, Andie embodies Ryan's core value of "Be the Best Friend You Can Be." I first met Andie in 2009, when she was a student in my 8th grade English class. Over the years we have remained in contact and I consider her to be a good friend today. She inspires me to be strong, both physically and intellectually. She is loyal and honest and she's always there when you need her. Andie cherishes her friendships and doesn't take them for granted. Relationships are important to Andie.

Next, Andie personifies Ryan's core values "Look Out for Others and Look Out for Yourself." She started a club at Montana State University called, Back Country Squatters. Its purpose is to connect women who love the outdoors and promote female involvement in the Bozeman outdoor community. If you peruse the website, backcountrysquatters.com, you will see dozens of photos of young women, all shapes and sizes, actively involved in sports such as skiing, biking and climbing. What resonates with me most are the smiles and faces of young empowered women. I like to think that Andie's passion for women's equality began in my classroom nearly eight years ago, when she was in eighth grade. We watched the movie Iron Jawed Angels in History class and she was hooked. She began writing for social justice. In high school Andie actively participated in a club called Project X2, which had a focus on empowering high school students, especially girls, to stand up for themselves and be strong and confident in who they are. In other words, Andie looks out for herself and others by generating opportunities for camaraderie and community while showing acceptance and compassion for all.

Finally, Andie represents the core value of "Never Stop Exploring Life." Andie is currently studying abroad in England this semester. She was nervous to go because

her travel experience is largely limited to the mountains and crags of our beautiful state. Nevertheless, she packed her bags and left to experience a new adventure and as soon as she landed she joined a women's rugby league. At the same time, core value "Never Lose Your Adventurousome Attitude" rings true. Hardly a day goes by when Andie isn't on some adventure. She is an avid runner, rock climber and skier. She's run the Ed Anaker Bridger Ridge Run, one of the most technical trail runs in the United States, every year since age requirements allow. She holds multiple high school distance running records and shreds the slopes of Bridger Bowl all season long. She does all these things without taking herself too seriously. She enjoys the people she's with and lives in the moment, soaking up all that this magnificent state has to offer.

In conclusion, Andie Creel deserves the scholarship from the Flyin Ryan Foundation because she lives the core values and ideologies that Ryan Hawks stood for. She is compassionate, caring, and selfless. Her desire to learn and lead in world of outdoor adventure makes her a worthy candidate. Please contact me with any questions and let me know if I can provide any additional information in support of Andie Creel. You may reach me at 406-581-5000 or bstevens33@gmail.com

Regards,

Becca Stevens