

## Personal Essay:

One of my signature quotes is, "skiing saved my life." Skiing has always been a sacred escape where the pressures of real life do not apply. In high school I was exclusively enrolled in advanced classes. I remember navigating treacherous social waters. I felt the pain of friends and family suffering from addiction and depression. However, I was able to handle all of this because every weekend Arapahoe Basin offered me an escape in the form of skiing.

In my last two years of high school I did the Team Summit big mountain team in Colorado. I can still remember the feeling of my favorite turn. There's a long ridge, and the wind forms a bowl that is constantly replenished with wind-buff. There are no moguls, only creamy smooth textures. This means that speed builds quickly. There's a five foot air over the rock band. Before I have time to think, I am riding up the side of the bowl. It's an easy smooth carve, gravity forgets to pull me down. In the next second, my body wills me to slash a hard left footer. Muscles strain with effort, trying to slow down the body that is hurtling through the air. The force of my trusted left ski causes the snow to become airborne and it flies right into my face. The turn has been a success. A laugh bursts from my chest. I wipe the snow off my goggles and keep skiing.

Last year I took my Avy I in Jackson Hole. This year, money is a little tighter because I decided to go to school in the spring. However, I would love to continue my snow education. In an ideal world, I would take an AIARE Avy II in Dillon, MT. The price for the specific class I would be able to attend is 550 dollars.

The mountains that we ski in deserve the utmost respect. I remember meeting Matilda Rapaport in Innsbruck, Austria. She was this vivacious little blond that was followed by smiles and admiration. Two years later she was ruthlessly killed by an avalanche in Chile. This heightened my fear of the mountains. A fear that can be combated through knowledge. An Avy II certification would help me feel safer in the mountains. Furthermore, it would promote the safety of those around me.

I decided to ask Flyin' Ryan for a scholarship because of the things I have heard from my peers. I first learned about the scholarships from Siena Teare. She was my primary ski buddy in Summit County, and claimed that she could not have moved to Colorado without the help of Flyin' Ryan. Then I moved to Bozeman, MT for school. I heard about all the work that the foundation has done from Carter Snow and Ben Goertzen. The foundation has profoundly impacted the lives of these three skiers. I would love to share in that.