

All my life, the biggest adventures have always taken place with snow (and ice) covering the trails in the Mount Washington Valley of New Hampshire. It is here, where my biggest lessons have been learned, where my fondest memories are, and some of the most difficult trails you can find lie. I started skiing when I was 5 years old. I didn't really have a choice, my mom skied as a kid and wanted something for our entire family to do. My dad, little brother and I all learned on the same trails, and at the same time. We still compete to be the best skier of the bunch. My competitive nature with my brother was the start of my adventures in skiing.

My parents signed my younger brother David up for the RAD (Racing and Development) program at Attitash Mountain, in Bartlett, NH when I was 12 and he was 9. This meant every Friday, my family would drive 3.5 hours from our home in Franklin, Massachusetts to North Conway, NH, a drive that, after so many years, you get used to. Of course, I felt pretty left out, I mean, now I was stuck skiing with my parents every weekend while David got to learn how to race. Finally, I asked my parents if I could join a seasonal Program as well. They agreed and in January 2013 I joined the Teen Mountain Training Program, which taught 12/13-year-old skiers how to become coaches. The next year, my adventure as a ski coach began and unfortunately contained lots of spilled hot chocolate and crying 4 year olds as I taught for the Buddy Bear day program at Attitash (think "Pizza" and "French Fry" type-nightmares). The next year I got promoted! I was now the coach of a seasonal program group, meaning I had the same kids every weekend. Everything was great, easy, and then things changed.

Around February break of 2015, I was approached by my boss, Doug Avery. The girls' freestyle coach had fallen at a nearby resort and injured her shoulder. With plenty weeks left in the season, he needed a replacement and I was the best fit. I should probably mention that to this point, I had never really entered a terrain park. Up until this point I took my group of 6/7-year-old girls around the mountain having fun and teaching them basic skills. Suddenly, I have a group of 11 and 12-year-old young women eager to learn. I was no Lynsey Dyer or Devin Logan. I had always looked in awe at those women, and never felt as though the freestyle world was a very inclusive community. That is until I discovered Ryan Hawks.

After accepting my position, I googled every possible aspect of freestyle skiing to try and understand the basics. I found myself on SkiTheEast.com, one of my favorite companies, and saw their Flyin' Ryan tee-shirts. I googled the foundation, read Ryan's story, and was moved to a point where I knew that sticking with this team and with skiing is what I had to do. I wrote down his core principles in my agenda, and for the rest of the year dedicated myself to being the best coach I could be.

Outside of skiing, I've applied Ryan Hawks' principle of looking out for others in my community in the offseason. I am very involved with my local YMCA, and served under my advisor Connor Spilman as an executive board member for the Franklin, MA branch's Teen Leadership Club. The Leaders club consists of high school students who participate in leadership rallies with clubs across the Northeast as well as complete community service for the local area. With the Y, I have completed well over 150 community service hours and even received the Bernon Family Youth of the Year Award for the Hockomock YMCA.

I'm not a big mountain skier, I'm no racer or halfpipe professional. I'm just a girl who loves to ski, and who loves to share that passion with other people. The Ryan Hawks Foundation helps people like me make their dreams, their adventures, a reality. I knew that when it would come time, it would be there as a resource for scholarship. Now, as a University of New Hampshire student, I have found that need for that scholarship. With a scholarship, I would use the money to go towards my tuition to help me continue school at UNH, on top of continuing to

coach at Attitash (now only an hour and 50-minute drive!). I'm grateful to this foundation for inspiring me, even when I'm down, to keep skiing, and every year at the annual Boston Ski Expo I see the Ski the East Booth and think of Ryan.

Adventures come in big and small, and I'm lucky to have had so many. I think I'm luckier however to have had those adventures on snow, coaching girls that freestyle skiing is an amazing community, that skiing itself is an amazing community. I hope to complete school at UNH and my ultimate goal is to cover skiing at the Winter Olympics. I also want to, before I graduate, ski at every mountain in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine because I've never skied outside of the Valley before. I hope to document that journey and create a documentary from it! I'm very grateful to Ryan Hawks' legacy and the Ryan Hawks foundation for inspiring me to not run from adventure, but to embrace it, not only in the classroom, at home, but especially, at the summit.