

To Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation,

Madeline's Core Principles for Living

****be humble****

****be happy****

****always learn****

****inspire others to live their dream****

****live MY life****

****set goals and live to reach them****

****learn from the mountains and their weather****

****bask in the serenity of nature****

****be healthy so as to live happily****

****utilize renewable resources****

****live in every moment so as never to lose a second****

I can relate to Ryan's principles and life purpose in many ways. Growing up ski racing, I spent every day after school shredding the tiny garbage dump, turned ski hill, in my hometown of Clarkston, Michigan. I raced up north on the weekends and traveled across North America to compete during the winters. I was fortunate to have been born into a family of ski patrollers. The connections with my loved ones were only made stronger while we were all skiing together. We all love to ski, especially because of the community that is centered around the sport.

I graduated in the honors department at the University of Michigan in 2013, where I was also the captain of our ski team. I worked on a two-year honors thesis to implement permaculture design into the school system. <http://www.umpermaculture.org/about-our-program/> Permaculture is a “regenerative” approach to life that pushes society to move beyond simply sustaining. I was honored to teach those permaculture principles and ethics in a college freshmen seminar course while I was a senior at the university.

I could never stop chasing the snow. After college, I began galavanting across hemispheres to ice-climb and summit soar. I afford all of my own education and travels through various odd jobs and serious determination. I am fully dedicated to my mission to become the best guide and avalanche instructor I can be. Some of my most important teacher tips and tricks are derived from my own personal time spent in the mountains. I have also reached out to experts in the industry, such as snow scientists and local mountain forecasters, to be my mentors while I am on this journey.

I currently chase the experience of living in the mountains. I live in the lovely little town of Aspen, Colorado situated above 8,000 feet where I spend my summers rock climbing and carrying heavy packs all over the high alpine terrain to prepare for the ski season. In 2016, I dedicated the year to backcountry skiing every month. That mission took me around the world to California, Oregon, Utah, Colorado, Alaska, Argentina and Chile. I am currently celebrating my 23rd consecutive month of backcountry skiing.

I was inspired by Ryan Hawks to create these core principles for living two years ago. I first heard Ryan's story while sitting in the Peruvian (P-Dog) bar at Alta. Flyin Ryan stickers laced the walls and I asked why. I then met Aaron Rice, a past ambassador, and skied all over the world with him while he broke the world record for number of feet climbed within a calendar year while backcountry skiing. I personally learned a lot about Ryan's mission while skiing with Aaron. I feel that I too am a great candidate for this scholarship based on my community involvement and love for life.

Before and after every trip, I look back on my principles: remembering that my choices have consequences and what I chose to do with my life is up to me. I can not only create my own reality, but also help change someone else's. These simple sentences, inspired by Ryan and curated by me, allow my mind and heart to stay focused on what truly matters each day; family and friendships alongside personal passions.

In my opinion, being present is key to my success as a human being. There is so much to be inspired and motivated by when paying attention to "the now." This key concept can relate to my everyday life as well as my time spent navigating avalanche terrain in the mountains. If I am not fully present while backcountry skiing, I am endangering myself and my partners. The present is what truly sponsors my lifestyle. It has allowed me to find fun and creative jobs with flexible schedules, and network with new friends in remote places.

In December 2015, I found myself in Alta, Utah where I skied the best snow of my life day after day. Not every month had been this way. In fact, I would argue that I have skied light, fluffy, perfect snow less than 50% of my days out touring. I'm used to this, growing up on ice in the mid-west. Powder is hardly the motivating factor in my living wildly and opting outside. Being a ski racer from Michigan, I truly had never skied powder until moving to Utah. The powder is what sucked me back into the snow sports world, but it is the ski-mountaineering that hooked me. Other than the months of July, October, and November I skied every week of 2016, and just about every day until leaving for Alaska in May.

Earning your turns is soft on the body, gives me lungs of steel, and turns nature into church. There is nothing sweeter than approaching the summit and realizing that every moment has been the best part of the day.

I ski because it's my deepest passion, not because I am searching for anything in particular. Through backcountry skiing and ski-mountaineering, I have discovered my career path as an avalanche instructor, ski-guide, and professional ski patroller. From waiting tables to hunting avalanches, my world has taken a turn towards true passion.

This winter I will be interning with AIARE Instructor and CAIC Forecaster Blase Reardon, overseen by the deputy director Brian Lazar. "Positions" like these don't exactly exist. However, since I was a paid instructor with the Utah Avalanche Center last season, CAIC has decided to take me under their wing and teach me about terrain navigation and forecasting in a continental snowpack. Here in Colorado, we are dealt a snowpack delicately resting on top of a ground "depth hoar" layer. Due to this, and a variety of other factors, avalanches tend to be bigger and harder to predict. For my internship, I created a list of objectives and goals to be accomplished by the end of the season. I created curriculum for an independent study, focusing on the development of this deep weak layer and how that impacts avalanche propagation and recreational travel. I would eventually like to go back to school to pursue a PhD in snow science and this is a potential research topic for me to explore.

I am currently on the 5-year track to become an AIARE (The American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education) instructor which prepares me to instruct avalanche courses at an international level. I am also an aspiring AMGA (America Mountain Guide Association) Ski Guide, but have numerous exams and courses to take before I can become fully certified.

I have not been able to take the first course in the set of 4 necessary to become a fully certified ski guide within the AMGA: the Alpine Skills Course. I applied for a scholarship within the AMGA to cover the costs of the course last year, though I was not awarded the scholarship. When I asked how I could improve my application for next year, they told me most recipients of AMGA scholarships have already taken a course within AMGA to show their commitment to the organization. I need the money to take the first course, but cannot be awarded a scholarship since I haven't taken any AMGA courses. This is where the Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship can seriously help me on my endeavors as a snow scientist and career-driven ski-guide. If awarded the money to take the first course through Flyin Ryan, next year I can become eligible for AMGA scholarships to help me finish the multi-year 4 course ski-guide program.

Taking the Alpine Skills Course through the AMGA provides me with immediately useful skill set. I have already registered and paid the \$65 dollar application fee. The price of the course is \$1,500.00, not including gear or travel. I would be honored if the Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation covered the cost of the Alpine Skills Course and provided me with a \$465 food/gas stipened for the week totaling \$1,965 (see attached budget). The course is May 21st -25th in Bend, Oregon. After taking this course, I immediately qualify for assistant guide jobs such as climbing Denali. As I continue to grow within the AMGA program, I will eventually have the opportunity to incorporate myself as a private guiding service provider and lead trips of my own.

I am dedicating June and July to climbing all of the Cascade volcanoes over 10,000 ft. I plan to do this in one push: living out of my car at trailheads and using my new skill set learned from the Alpine Skills Course to keep me safe as I navigate glaciated terrain on the daily. I am partnering with T-Bar Films and Climb for Conservation 501(c)3 to document the trip and raise money for wildland conservation. In May 2017, I climbed 11 of the Cascades to the summit and back down on skis in 21 days. Here is a blog post from my trip <http://dunnmadeline.wixsite.com/madelinececilia/single-post/2017/07/31/On-The-Road-Skiing-The-Cascade-Volcanoes-in-May> I planned the entire trip by myself and climbed many of the volcanoes solo. This past trip was a recon mission for next spring's attempt to ski them all! Taking the alpine skills course and then immediately using the skills is a key ingredient to actually learning.

I think that I will be a phenomenal ski guide as I have guided all of my own trips by myself or in tandem **with** some close friends. I love working in teams but am also comfortable traveling in the mountains alone. Through my own **travels**, I have learned a lot about how to teach others. Following my passion took sacrifices and was darn right scary at times: watching my feet morph and take shapes I didn't know were possible, not knowing how I was going to make the money fast enough or what I was going to eat next. **Skiing** 8,000 foot descents off of active volcanic summits, seeing lava spitting back at me from craters in Chile, and hiking the terrain in Alaska most people access with steel people movers makes every delicacy I didn't eat or memory foam bed I didn't sleep on worth it. Life for me is about living and learning, not preserving, just savoring the crest of each and every moment. Thank you dearly for considering me as a new Adventure Scholar recipient.