

To whom it may concern,

I have known Alex Villalba for nine years now and it is a great honor to recommend her for the Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship. I first met Alex when she was living on her own after having recently left an unfortunate living situation at the young age of sixteen. Alex was trying to fund her way through college working thirty hours a week at a small non-profit in East Texas dedicated to providing resources to pregnant teens. Before going to work in the evenings, she would attend youth programs at the church where I was a youth minister as an attempt to build fellowship with other young people. Despite all the hardships she has experienced in her life, Alex has continued to be an inspiration and mentor for her fellow peers with her continuous joy and hope. When Alex first began training to be a bicycle mechanic, I remember the complete overwhelming joy and excitement in her voice, telling me that she had finally found her passion in life. She has since been sharing her passion of bicycles by teaching free women, femme and trans individuals bicycle mechanic classes both in English and in Spanish to ensure that others like her are not denied access to the outdoors solely because of their lack of finances. While Alex considers me her mentor, I have learned more from her than she realizes. She is a fearless leader, fighter and lover of life and it has been a true gift seeing her find her niche in the outdoor world of exploration. I hope you will consider this incredible human being for this scholarship opportunity for she truly embodies the spirit of adventure.

Best,
Johanne Hill.
Homemaker, Ceramic Artist and Lover of the people.