

March 5, 2019

The Flyin' Ryan Hawks Foundation  
40 College St, Ste 100  
Burlington, VT 05401  
802-391-0759

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to highly recommend Alisha Isensee for the Flyin' Ryan Adventure Scholarship, to help fund her upcoming adventure and goal to hike the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). I have known Alisha her entire life and have seen her imagination and sense of adventure continue to grow gracefully, alongside her maturity.

I grew up in Southeast Alaska, where adventure and passion for the outdoors is deeply ingrained in our character and lifestyle. I have gone on a variety of outdoor adventures myself. From boating trips in the icy waters of Alaska, to hiking into the alpiners (sometimes by myself), to skiing in many conditions and terrains, to backpacking with family and friends. I know this kind of passion and love for the outdoors is not for the faint at heart. I believe Alisha has this ingrained in her soul as well. She exudes passion not only in her sense of adventure, but also with her kind and willing heart.

I had the honor of backpacking alongside Alisha through the Enchantments in Washington State. Alisha was the youngest female in our group. Yet looking back she was the least egotistical hiker of the pack. She was very good about journaling her experience on this trip, and later, shared it with all of us to read. To my surprise, she was not journaling about herself or writing down her complaints or emotions each day, but she was writing down the highlights of her other peer's experiences and what we all encountered as a group. For being an 18-year-old female (at the time), I was very surprised by the selflessness in her writings. Witnessing her on the trail, and then re-living the group experience through her writings, showed me her heart. Her can-do and self-starting attitude and dedication helps her achieve adventures with grit, flashing a beautiful grin to go with it.

One characteristic that stands out to me about Alisha, is that she is ever interested and open, to discuss and assess situations as they plays out. If "Plan A" doesn't work out, she is flexible and attempts "Plan B." And if there is no "Plan B" she creates one. Alisha has without a doubt grown into one of the most courageous and adaptable young women I know.

Alisha inspires me to continue to pursue my own personal list of adventures! I look forward to hearing about her journey after graduation this coming May and throughout the coming year. It will no doubt be well thought out, yet audacious.

If you have any further questions or want to discuss Alisha's drive for adventure, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via phone or email. I would be more than happy to discuss this wonderful young lady!

Sincerely,



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