

May 1, 2019

Flyin' Ryan Grant Reference: Maya Dizack

My knowledge of Maya's leadership and research capabilities have been framed largely via her engagement as a student sea kayak & climbing leader in the UVM Outing Club. The transference of Maya's professional behavior, interpersonal expertise, detail-orientation, exercise of sound judgment and decision-making and above all environmental activism will assure her success in achieving the ideals of the Explorer's Club grant program. Maya's intellectual curiosity and predisposition to inquiry and personal challenge will suit her well when immersed in the rigor of field based research when studying microplastics and water quality in the Mississippi River Basin.

During our conversations, Maya has enthusiastically expressed interest in pursuing a sea kayaking expedition that will feed her passion for paddling while broadening her experience base in the field of water quality activism and pollution science & research. Maya views the opportunity to receive the Explorer's Grant as unique preparation to advance her research interests and impact in academic communities. Maya's enthusiasm and generosity of spirit appear to have not been limited solely to expression in wilderness or academic settings. Her commitment to the ideals of community service and social justice have further defined Maya's desire to be an agent for change. Maya has great potential as an ambassador to other young researchers and academics. She stands motivated and poised to take the challenge of doing important work for the benefit of the Mississippi River ecosystem and the communities that depend on its vitality. Maya will likewise be an important asset to the Mississippi River Network and their effort to support citizen scientists interested in water quality & health.

I believe Maya is an exceptional candidate and will distinguish herself among her peers. Given her experience in the backcountry, as an alumni of the National Outdoor Leadership School, a leader in the UVM Outing Club, as a Wilderness First Responder and sea kayaking guide, Maya has the professional training required to successfully and safely complete an expedition of this magnitude. Maya is well prepared to meet the diverse challenges her research expedition will require. Feel free to call or e-mail with further questions regarding Maya's qualification.

Sincerely,

John Abbott, Ed.D.
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