

My name is Stuart Whittier, and I'm an 18 year old ski cross racer from Cape Elizabeth, Maine. I currently race for Carrabassett Valley Academy located at Sugarloaf mountain where I train on weekends. As for competing, I am on the FIS Noram circuit, racing for the US and Carrabassett Valley Academy in the freeski skicross discipline. When I'm not skiing I attend Maine Coast Waldorf Highschool in Freeport, ME, where I play ultimate frisbee and run cross country. Outside of school and skiing, I aim to enjoy the outdoors whether it be on a bike, or just hiking, the wilderness has always been a place to relax and enjoy the moment.

Personal Essay

These past few years have been host to several of my proudest accomplishments, from representing the US at the past two Junior World Championships, to placing first at US Nationals. Although these "individual" awards were an honor, there has always been one person by my side – my father.

My father was the one who put me on skis at two years old, and who has been there ever since. Throughout my life as a skier he has been by my side, whether it be for feedback or logistical reasons. As of recently he has taken on the role of being my best friend, in addition to a fatherly role model. He has been the one to fuel my love for adventure and exploration, as well as the one to keep me in line when things seem to be getting hectic.

This friendship is one that I will always be able to rely on throughout my life, and it is one that is essential to my participation in ski racing. Without his wisdom and knowledge there wouldn't be anyone that would continue to teach me, both in skiing and out. His presence can occasionally be one that I take for granted, but now that I've put into perspective his presence is one that I'm truly grateful for.