



**My Core Values:** Optimism, Integrity, Protect the environment, Work hard/train hard, Honesty, Perseverance, Gratefulness

My name is Kelly Hilleke. I am a 14-year-old outdoor adventurer from Glenwood Springs, CO. I am the oldest of four boys and have grown up playing in the mountains - skiing, climbing, mountain biking, and paddling with my family. This past summer I climbed and skied Mt. Sopris in Carbondale, CO for the 10<sup>th</sup> time. I also paddled the entire 100 miles of Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. I feel very grateful for all of these opportunities.

My favorite sport of all is Big Mountain Skiing. I am on the Big Mountain Team with the Aspen Valley Ski Club and always look forward to the time I get on the mountain! I live about 45

minutes from the ski areas, so I have to take the bus up from school to attend the mid-week training on Wednesday and Fridays. Since I am leaving school early on those days, I have to be extra diligent to get my school work done on time. I think it's worth it though to train for competition season. I am very dedicated to my training and skiing and was awarded the "Integrity" award two years in a row. I have also received the "2018 Sick Bird" award from my Coaches for all of the hard work. This year, I was awarded the "Spirit Award" and helped coach and inspire the 7-9-year-old athletes for 1 day.

I also really enjoy spending time in the spring skiing peaks with my dad. I first climbed and skied Mt. Sopris when I was 8 years old! Since then, I have climbed and skied Grays Peak, Torreys Peak, Castle Peak, Quandary, East bowl of Mt. Sopris - 10 times, and the Elbow of Mt. Sopris. We have done a number of hut trips and I have taken my level 1 AAIRE Avalanche Certification. When I grow up, I plan to be a backcountry ski guide. I have been training recently for the Power of Two Ski Mountaineering Race in Aspen, where a racer skins up, and skis down Ajax Mountain and Aspen Highlands (6,000 ft) to the finish line, in downtown Aspen.

I was the only one from my team in my age category, to qualify for the NORAM Championships in 2018. I wasn't able to attend last year due to the cost and other commitments, but really hope to attend this year. My goal is to be ranked top 5 in North America this year. I have worked and paid for 3 Regional and 3 National IFSA competitions that will take place over the next couple of months. If I receive the Flyin Ryan Scholarship, I plan to put the money towards the NORAM Championship costs.

I will share Flyin Ryan's mission and core values with my fellow AVSC teammates and at my school. I will also share and post information on social media platforms.

