

## Flyin Ryan Essay

I am a sixteen year old athlete in my sophomore year at Champlain Valley Union High School. My family introduced me to skiing at Mad River Glen when I was two, but I quickly found my own passion for the sport through competitions. My parents noticed I was very active from a young age. Since then, they have supported me in all the activities I've wanted to be a part of including soccer, sailing, golf, surfing, among other sports. I became a member of the MRG Freeski Team six years ago. This mountain is especially important to me because of the friendships, memories, and skills I've acquired from it. The environment of MRG is truly unique and different from any other mountain.

When I began my competitive career, my primary focus was to have fun. Although having fun is still important, I now have loftier goals. In the 2018-19 season, my goal was to finish the season in the top three to qualify for NORAMS (North American Championships). I finished the season in second position qualifying for NORAMS. I didn't attend due to financial constraints and other prior commitments. In the 2019-20 season, I had prioritized my skiing in order to compete in the championships. I finished second in the east and qualified for NORAMS. The trip was fully planned out and I was ready to go, but unfortunately COVID restrictions led to the cancelation. This season (2020-2021), I have started out stronger than ever winning my first competition and have been invited to the IFSA Junior World championship.

Attending the Junior World Championships has been an immense goal of mine for at least two years now. Competing in this event would open many doors for me to grow as a skier in the competition world. The Flyin Ryan scholarship would be a great assist, support and encouragement for me, as it's a very last minute and costly trip. It would help cover costs such as airfare, car rentals, lodging, meals, lift tickets to prepare for the competition, and required safety gear. Besides having to be financially prepared I also have to be physically prepared. Therefore, I have planned on attending the mountain as much as possible for extra training, as well as weighted workout every other day.

Although I am most passionate about skiing, I also enjoy music (playing piano, clarinet, drums), acting, singing, swimming, soccer, sailing, robotics and especially traveling. My mother was born and raised in Perú which provides the opportunity to visit regularly. I have had the privilege of touring the rainforest, the majestic Andes (Machu Picchu trails), the coast and beaches. I was able to study in Peruvian schools for two years. Therefore, I am fluent in Spanish, and remain connected to the culture. This was by far my favorite adventure/ experience so far.