



The University of Vermont
Rubenstein School of Environment of Natural Resources

March 8, 2021

To: Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation, Adventure Scholarship Program

Helen Salvatore would be in my “all-star student” category, if such a category existed! She has an unbridled passion for the outdoors and a specific love for the Adirondacks, where she has spent part of her summers since she was a little kid. Today, she hikes the High Peaks region whenever she can get away from school.

I teach in our Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (PRT) Program and Helen is a PRT major, now a junior. She has taken several of my classes including Introduction to Sustainable Recreation and Tourism, Tourism Planning, Ski Area Management, and this semester she is in my Entrepreneurship class, creating a fly-fishing guide business. Helen’s goal is to own her own guiding company (not necessarily fly-fishing) after graduating and gaining experience.

This summer, Helen will be working as a white-water rafting intern guide on the Hudson, out of Indian Lake, NY. Coincidentally, Adventure Sport Rafting is owned by a graduate of our PRT program, another “all-star student! Helen has a solid work ethic, is passionate, and loves to work with other people, just the right “package” for this internship! With this guiding internship, Helen will be stepping out of her usual “comfort zone” and will gain essential technical outdoor recreation skills, as well as important small business management skills. A great advantage for Helen will be that she will be learning and working with a women who owns a business, thus will learn about the challenges of being a women-owned business in a field that is typically male-dominated. Helen will gain incredible skill and knowledge!

Helen’s financial compensation will be minimal. Guides work four days weekly for a basic hourly rate. She needs to pay for her apartment in Burlington through the summer, food and lodging in Indian Lake, as well as transportation over the course of the summer. She is applying for the Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship to help make ends meet while she experiences a great adventure and learning experience.

Helen’s aspirations appear to meet the guidelines for a Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship. I encourage you to give her application positive consideration. The extra funds would enable her to make the most of her summer experience while minimizing concern for how she’ll make ends meet.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have; email or call (contact information below). Thanks very much for considering Helen; she would be pleased and proud to be supported by the Flyin Ryan Foundation!

Sincerely,
Dave Kaufman, Senior Lecturer, PRT Program
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