

Claire Potter | Personal Essay

I believe that living by Ryan's Core principles is the key to a successful and happy life; he takes pride in believing that life is meant to be lived to the fullest, taking advantage of opportunities, while balancing the different parts of life, prioritizing others and yourself, all while never losing the contagious attitude for fun. Striving to follow my own similar core values in life, I came across this foundation and couldn't help but see myself getting involved for this great cause. Ryan embodied the ultimate adventure spirit, living not only for himself, but also for the love and support of others. This community bond is one that happily thrives within outdoor communities, and I believe needs to be sustained at all costs and protected for all to enjoy together. As a passionate member of various outdoor communities myself, I take joy in connecting with the environment and those around me, pushing me to have fun outside of my comfort zone and achieve new goals. Raised in a skiing background, I have still found a new growing passion to explore the beauties of backcountry skiing and immerse myself as a member in this supportive outdoor community. While I could not be more excited to continue my experience and learning in this sport, I personally have run into some barriers that are blocking the progress of my determination and passion. Safety is a highly valued aspect of backcountry skiing that will always need to be prioritized no matter what. With this being said I have found some difficulty in breaking through the financial barriers of the sport's safety and would be so appreciative of any help that I could earn to put towards my safety gear. If given this wonderful opportunity I would put the scholarship towards my Avalanche 1 safety class, another step closer to pursuing my new found passion and goals for the future. This foundation has an excellent background and portrays the intention of pursuing and living by the ultimate adventure spirit that Flyin Ryan was able to live by so well in his own life.