

My name is Chrissy, and I feel that I didn't start living for myself until my early twenties. Before that I was on auto-pilot, living out other people's dreams that they had for me, without a clear vision as to my own values or priorities in life. It led me to receive a degree I didn't connect with, and take several jobs I felt little fulfillment in. I shied away from the things that made my heart sing, because they didn't seem valuable enough compared to my family's expectations of me, and by extension, society's expectations of me. When I finally woke up...it exploded out of me with a vibrant vengeance. The adventurous spirit that until then had seemed like a hindrance to what I thought I was supposed to be accomplishing took over, in the most organic and beneficial way possible. Vermont helped me immensely in that journey. The culture and community here demonstrated a lifestyle where growing up didn't mean settling for structure in a way that corked creativity, but rather presented a lifestyle which stemmed from and thrived through concepts like adventure, inspiration, encouragement, support, and hope.

Experiences as a whole became my main motivation. Because only through experience, can we understand, and only through time and energy and knowledge, can we hope to help. A passion of mine is the idea of Wilderness for All. In the past I've enacted this philosophy via striving to get affordable and accessible gear to others by working in the consigned goods industry, enabling others to leap the monetary barrier-to-entry that many of the outdoor recreational activities we all enjoy, unfortunately embody. My time working as a Wilderness Therapy Guide for youth in distress in Utah in a primitive skills-based program also taught me new ways to get outside with very little gear at all, and survive, by using nature's resources to keep warm, make food and fire, and live in harmony with the environment for a time. This opportunity taught me many life lessons and raised my self confidence in a way that I hope everyone has a chance to experience at least once in their lifetimes.

While my time on both the east and west coast has been pivotal, my sights have long been set on the international stage. I've always been intensely interested in the global community, and understanding as much as possible about various cultures radically different from my own. There is so much to learn, so much to absorb from others, that at times it can seem overwhelming. But it doesn't have to be so daunting. It does take time, willingness, eagerness, awareness, and tactfulness. Most of all, it takes respect. The world, and its many faceted cultures, all deserve the respect of others. We owe each other that civility, at the very least.

But I see it as more than that. I see respect as an act of love. Respect for others and respect for the planet may be the simplest and most significant concepts that we should be focusing on as a society. My current goal is to familiarize myself as best as possible with regions of the world that I, so far, have only read about in books. I began with Central America this past fall, with just a short 10 day trip to Guatemala, where I stayed with friends of friends and climbed, hiked, explored, and most of all, learned. About life there, the natural world. The people who live and work and eat and laugh and cry there. The stories that exist and play out there, both real and believed. It was eye opening. And I came back immediately hungry for more. I quickly shaped my entire trajectory around this overwhelming idea that I wanted to just see and feel and hear as many different parts of the world as I could, and get to know as many people from as many places as I could, so that I could learn to see the world through their eyes and in doing so, bring the world a little closer together in understanding.

This time, I plan to start in South America. Traveling and learning what I can about their ways of life and happiness. My bags are in fact packed, and tomorrow I'll be headed down on a bus to

New York City, where I'll fly to Chile. Once on the continent, my plans are quite open, but include certain hopes like the desire to explore cultural meccas like Santiago and Buenos Aires, trek and climb in Patagonia, and volunteer in Bolivia, Peru, Colombia or Ecuador. I plan to camp and hike to as many locations as I can to cut down on living expenses, but things like food, transportation, bills at home, all come into play when trying to travel for extended periods of time. After some experiences in South America, my journey will continue in the summer to Togo, Africa, where I plan to attend an internship opportunity to help out in schools in Notse. Currently, the idea is for me to spend time building out a bus to function as a traveling library/science museum/learning center for local communities. This nicely compliments two additional loves of mine, carpentry/construction and tiny house architecture.

Flyin' Ryan's contribution would mean that I could feel supported during this unique time of exploration in my life, where I hope to better learn my place in the world. And with that, how I can use my position to help encourage others to achieve their goals and dreams as well.

Core Values

- 1 - Have passion and energy for nature, its inhabitants, the world around us and life itself
- 2 - Breathe deep and understand that nothing will work out perfectly, but we have to try anyways
- 3 - Make a positive impact on other living things any chance you get
- 4 - Embrace the good and the bad, equally
- 5 - Nurture relationships; human to human, human to animal, human to nature, human to self
- 6 - Know our place in the natural order, and try to live harmoniously in that truth
- 7 - Be your genuine and most authentic self
- 8 - Take society's suggestions with a grain of salt
- 9 - Plan for the future but live for the now



