

## **Personal Statement**

As a 16 year old skier, I am excited to share with you why I love skiing and more about me and my personal life.

I have been skiing since I was 20 months old, and it has become a passion of mine. Skiing has taught me discipline, athleticness, and the importance of setting goals. By the age of 13, I took my skiing to the next level by joining Team Summit for Alpine Skiing. I not only earned medals but was also invited to compete at a higher tier. In the subsequent season, I transitioned into competitive Big Mountain Skiing, and I'm now entering my third season. Competing has given me the opportunity to challenge myself and improve my skills. I love the feeling of pushing myself to surpass my current skill. The rush of adrenaline I get when I am skiing down a challenging line is unbeatable, and I always strive to do better in the next competition. One of my most cherished moments was when I successfully executed my first back flip, during my second season of Big Mountain, a skill I had aspired to master since I first put on skis. When I finally did the flip I was so happy!

Beyond skiing, I've had a few other notable achievements in my life. In my earlier years, I was an active participant in flag football from second grade through middle school. I was part of a close-knit, highly skilled team that felt like family. At the age of 11, our team clinched the State Flag Football Championship, and I was honored with the title of defensive MVP.

My academic achievements are also worth mentioning. During elementary school, I achieved exceptional scores on seasonal MAP tests, setting a new standard for my entire grade. I have also been on honor roll throughout my school career. I earned the prestigious Pride Award, the highest accolade in my former K-8 school. Not only did I get this award once but I managed to get it three times!

Furthermore, my family has been actively involved in supporting charitable causes. We have been engaged in the Hydrocephalus Walk, an event aimed at raising funds for this condition. We have a close family friend with hydrocephalus, who is physically and mentally challenged, and every year we do the 5k walk to support him. Additionally, we participate in National Fentanyl Awareness Day in memory of my late cousin, who tragically lost his life to fentanyl poisoning at the age of 22. He was an awesome skier, and I miss him.

In the upcoming season, my personal podium is to improve my overall skiing, to expand my trick arsenal, and to elevate my social media production which highlights my skiing. I diligently work on strength training during the off-season to increase my ability on the mountain. I am also committed to helping my fellow athletes on the mountain as well as learning from my coaches to improve my competitive skiing so we can push ourselves to excel as a team and as individuals.

I want this scholarship because of my unwavering passion for skiing and because of my other thriving passion, to always find fun in what I do. If I am fortunate enough to receive this scholarship I would allocate every bit of it towards materials to enhance my skiing. Such as helping me fund the program I ski for (Team Summit), ensuring I have access to the essential equipment needed for peak skiing performance and safety, and to fund my traveling for non home mountain competitions. The scholarship will also help me cover expenses for my ski passes for training at different mountains and facilities on and off snow. I would love to go to different camps so I can train on snow almost year round.