ESSAY

Hello, my name is Lev Ibson and I am a 13-year-old boy who lives in Waitsfield, Vermont. I have been skiing, mountain biking, swimming, and playing a ton of other sports in the Mad River Valley my entire life. I have been on the Mad River Glen Free Ski Team for three years going on four. I remember my first day of free ski like it was yesterday. I had no friends in my group and didn’t really know anyone else. But it turns out that was going to be the best thing that happened to me. I came down to the lodge at the end of the day smiling and laughing with all the new friends I had made that day. From then on I have been hooked on free skiing, comps, and winter adventures. One of my greatest accomplishments was last winter. It was after a huge snowstorm and my friend and I hiked out in the woods behind his house with one goal in mind. To land our first backflips on skis. We had a sort of stuck moment after he tried his first one where he didn’t want to try another and I was scared to try my first one. I knew I would regret it more than I could imagine so after a while of standing at the top of the run in I decided to send it. I did completely wipe out on my first attempt but it sparked a flame in me where I was like I’m going to land this no matter what. He did in fact land his first backflip that evening but unfortunately, I did not. So we came back the next day with another one of our friends with the same goal. For me to land my first backflip. I had been trying for so long over over-rotating some and under-rotating some until then. It was 5:45 p.m. on March, 15. I was saying to myself this is the one and sure enough it was. I had landed my first backflip and we cheered so hard for so long. That was one of the happiest moments in my life. Landing a backflip on skis had been my goal since I could remember and that goal came true through my grit and determination. Now I have a bigger goal in mind which is making it to NORAMS. This scholarship will help me so much in pursuing my dream of being a pro skier because it would help pay for competitions in the winter and hopefully the cost of taking me to NORAMS.