

I'm Riley Kavanaugh, a passionate skier who fell in love with the sport from the earliest years of my life. Since my very first day on the slopes, I've been driven to ski more, enhance my skills, and have fun in the excitement of the sport. Skiing has been an integral part of my entire life, igniting a passion within me. I started skiing competitively when I was eleven years old and this season will be my fourth year with Team Summit.

One of the most rewarding aspects of skiing has been the friendships I've made both on and off the slopes. I take pride in my growth as a more confident skier, capable of tackling tricks and navigating challenging situations with self-assurance. I attribute much of this growth to my ability to listen to and learn from my coaches, not just on the snow but in all aspects of life. I realize I have much more to learn from my coaches and teammates to continue my growth and reach my goals. My dedication and effort paid off last season, as I proudly earned my spot on the Big Mountain Free Ride Team with Team Summit. Out of approximately forty athletes, only four of us were chosen for this elite group.

This ski season, my goals are clear: to savor every moment on the mountain, take calculated risks, learn new tricks, perform well in competitions, and, most importantly, have a blast. I'm particularly excited about mastering the cork 720, which is my primary objective for this season. I am dedicated to this goal and I will spend several hours training at an indoor trampoline/ski training facility and on snow.

This scholarship would be an invaluable asset, enabling me to enjoy skiing to the fullest, explore more opportunities, and work towards my goals as a skier. It would open up new opportunities for my skiing and in life. I intend to allocate the scholarship towards my equipment, ensuring that I have the best tools to be safe and excel in competitions. I will also be able to afford more training opportunities on dry land and on snow, and help cover the costs of season passes at the mountains where I train. With this support, I can participate in more competitions nationwide, creating experiences and strengthening my mental and physical skills. I deeply love skiing and the community it creates, and love taking advantage of every opportunity. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated, not only for me but also my family to continue supporting my skiing journey.