

Dear Team Summit,

I believe Riley deserves to get a financial scholarship based on his dedication and commitment to skiing. I was Riley's coach all last year and seeing his growth in skiing was amazing. At the beginning of the year, he was a wild skier. Kinda out of control and very loose form, but Riley wanted to learn and become a better skier like his older brother. He had goals in his mind he wanted and came to me and told me he wants to be a better skier, learn tricks, and drop bigger cliffs. A lot of kids want to get better, and we push them as far as we can as a coach, but if they don't put the effort and work in there is only so much, I can do. Riley was different he put the work in after ski groups with his friends. He would come to me during lunch and get more 1 on 1 advice of what he could work on. By the end of the season Riley was one of the best skiers in my group and one of the few that moved up to our big mountain program. Riley also has multiple podiums and top results in our in-house comps. I believe he is very talented and dedicated and deserves a financial scholarship.

Coach Zach Abend

IFSA Certified Coach & Team Summit Coach.

To Whom It May Concern,

It is an honor to recommend Riley Kavanaugh for a financial scholarship for the ski team. I have known Riley for a long time. Over the last 8 years, I've worked at his school. Primarily as a paraprofessional and the Student Government teacher. However, last year I started teaching 7th grade math, and this year I am the 6th grade math teacher. I have also coached the girls' basketball team for many years and more recently took on the volleyball team. I carry a deep appreciation for youth sports, in all their forms. I've had the pleasure of watching Riley grow into the exceptional young man he is becoming. When Riley was in 5th and 6th grade I worked closely with him as an Educational Assistant. Last year, as a 7th grader, Riley was in my Student Government class.

I have had many conversations with Riley about skiing. I am continually inspired by how passionately he speaks about it. Riley's dedication to his craft shows his understanding of commitment. It will be such an important skill as he navigates his teen years. During the season, Riley spends each weekend practicing his sport. That is time away from friends, family and rest, after a long week of school. This is a wonderful example of his dedication. Riley has the mindset of a successful athlete. On the many occasions he has shared with me about his competitions, I was impressed with his ability to articulate honest, self reflection about his performance. I believe this to be an important attribute for athletes. Additionally, I have noticed his capacity to let go of the mistakes he may have made with each competition. He is able to recognize what he didn't do correctly, acknowledge it, learn from it for next time, and move on. Ready to prepare for the next competition. I find this to also be a characteristic of successful athletes. Skiing for Riley will foster many life skills. But, additionally, Riley being active doing something he loves, will bring joy and health to his life, both mentally and physically. This is necessary for everyone but is especially important for young adults.

Riley is a good student who is smart, hard working and takes on challenges really well. I see this as a connection to his competitive nature in skiing. He processes challenging school work in the same way as his skiing competitions. Understanding that to grow and learn we aren't always successful at first. It's how we respond to failure and difficult things that speaks of our character. We keep trying. Riley recognizes that we should never stop growing, and always strive to be better. He knows how to advocate for himself and others in a productive way. In student government, he showed tremendous leadership and he always actively participated. His kind nature is a joy to be around and he is well liked by his peers. Riley is respectful to his teachers and has worked at building positive relationships with them. He is an involved student at Lincoln Academy, often attending volleyball and basketball games to support his classmates. I have no doubt Riley will have great success next year in highschool, both academically and socially.

It has been a privilege to watch Riley grow through elementary and middle school. The relationship I've been able to build with him, is what I, as a teacher, strives for. He is a well-rounded student athlete. One who looks for the good in others, works hard at his academics, dedicates himself to his craft and seeks to be a dependable friend. Skiing has enhanced all these qualities in Riley, and they will take him as far as he wants. It gives me great pride to recommend Riley Kavanaugh for a financial scholarship.

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