

# Personal essay

My name is Levi Friedman, I'm 13 years old, I have been a competitive Freeskier for six years. I currently ski for Smugglers Notch Ski Club, I'm homeschooled and I attend Smugglers Notch ski Academy, I try and ski six days a week. I have been homeschooled for 4 years and I love it! Homeschooling gives me the freedom to learn about what interests me and my brain breaks consist of riding my indoor bicycle, pushups and stretching.

For the past six years I have been competing in competitions all around New England. In 2023 I was fortunate enough to travel to the U12 North American Championships at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort in British Columbia where I finished 6<sup>th</sup> place.

As the starter said "dropping in 3,2,1" the fog rolled in and left me with no visibility: I had to make the most of my run and stay safe. This experience taught me that having fun and staying in control is more important than staying on your line.

I really enjoyed the trip because it was super cool to be in British Columbia, ski bigger mountains, hang out with my fellow Vermonters and meeting new friends.

In 2023 I joined Atomics' Pipeline Project Team. I believe the reason I was chosen to be sponsored, is due to my positive sportsmanship and support of my teammates and fellow athletes. Freeride is an individual sport, but you do it as a team which is why I enjoy it so much.

In the off season you will find me, mountain biking at our local BRMBC and VMBA trails, swimming, running, working towards my black belt in Taekwondo, dirt biking and building trails.

Some of my goals for this season are to become stronger on my left footed turns, stretch more often and travel to the Junior Freeride Championships in Breckenridge, Colorado and compete as a U15 athlete.

If I get granted the Flying Ryan Scholarship, I will use it to travel to Breckenridge, Colorado to compete in the Junior Freeride Championships in April.

Let it snow!

-Levi Friedman