

Flyin' Ryan Foundation  
50 Lakeside Avenue, Box #99  
Burlington, VT, 05401

Dear Flyin' Ryan Foundation,

It's with great excitement that I'm writing to you today to recommend Mr. Jack Guy as a candidate for a Flyin' Ryan Adventure Scholarship. As Jack's coach on the Mad River Glen Freeski team, I've had the pleasure of working with him on a regular basis over the course of the past two seasons, and have come to know him quite well as both an athlete and as a person. During this time, I've coached Jack on powder days, rainy days, frozen days, competition days, and every day in between. In other words, I've seen Jack in a variety of environments, and his passion for the sport as well as strong character have both consistently been on display.

To best exemplify why I think Jack is the perfect athlete to receive an Adventure Scholarship, and why his values align perfectly with the Flyin' Ryan organization, let me tell you a brief story. This past season, Jack was absolutely crushing it in competitions, winning first place at a regional event, second place at another regional, and finished in second at both of his national events. In other words, across four competitions, Jack's lowest result was second place, earning him enough points to finish the regular season in third place overall in the North American standings. As far as athletic credentials go, I don't think anything else needs to be said.

That's not where the story of Jack's season ends though, nor is it the most impressive part. Just a couple of weeks before heading to the Junior Freeride Championships, where Jack hoped to earn enough points to secure an invite to Worlds, he learned that he'd been dealing with a potentially serious injury for a portion of the season. Now, without going into specifics, I'll just say that Jack was cleared to ski, so long as he played it smart. Still, the entire complexion of the trip was suddenly changed. Now, Jack was tasked with balancing his ambitions of skiing well enough at Nationals to be invited to Worlds, with not taking any uncalculated risks that could further aggravate his injury. It became a classic dilemma between health, opportunity, and risk.

Despite the unexpected challenge, Jack embraced the limitations he was facing and strategically chose lines in both qualifiers and finals that played into his strengths while also limiting risk of further injury. Rather than letting the importance of earning points lure him into making risky choices, Jack focused on runs that could earn the requisite points while also limiting his exposure to further injury. As a freeski coach, that's *exactly* the type of decision making we encourage, and I was extremely proud of Jack for making such strong choices in a high pressure scenario.

As someone who's come to know Jack quite well over the past few years, I've always been impressed with his athleticism and commitment to the sport. No matter the weather, Jack would show up to each week's practice. At competitions, Jack has a way of choosing lines that others overlook, and skiing them so well that he finds his way to the podium more often than not. But,

these two traits alone aren't enough to qualify someone for the Flyin' Ryan Adventure Scholarship. To earn that privilege a person needs character as well, and to me, Jack has character in spades. I've seen it countless times over the years, and it was emphasized by my experience with him this past season at the Junior Freeride Championships in Breckenridge. In my mind, there is simply no one more deserving of this scholarship than Jack Guy.

Jack and I both appreciate your consideration of his application. Should you have any followup questions for me, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank You,

Matt McGinnis  
Mad River Glen Freeski Coach  
matt@stagedesign.group