

Nicole Bronken  
Math Teacher  
Whitefish High School  
September 17, 2024

WHITEFISH  
HIGH SCHOOL



Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am thrilled to write this letter of recommendation for Katie Hersom, a remarkable senior at Whitefish High School who is applying for the Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship. I have witnessed firsthand her dedication to both her academic pursuits and her passion for skiing and so it is with great enthusiasm that I endorse her candidacy for this scholarship.

Katie is a standout individual whose commitment to excellence is evident in every aspect of her life. As a student, she consistently demonstrates an impressive work ethic and a genuine enthusiasm for learning. Her academic record is a testament to her intellectual curiosity. Katie approaches her studies with a level of dedication that is admirable.

In addition to her academic achievements, Katie's passion for skiing is truly exceptional. Her commitment to the sport is not just about the physical challenge, but also about the joy and spirit it brings into her life. She embodies the essence of perseverance and enthusiasm on the slopes, continually pushing herself to improve while maintaining a positive attitude. Her ability to balance rigorous training schedules with her academic responsibilities is a clear indication of her outstanding time management and organizational skills.

Katie's charismatic and outgoing nature makes her an approachable and affable individual. Her energy is unmatched and her enthusiasm is contagious. She is truly concerned about the well being of others and will often go out of her way to show others that she cares.

The Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship aims to support individuals who not only excel in their pursuits but also embody the spirit of adventure and determination. Katie Hersom exemplifies these qualities in every way. Her dedication to skiing, coupled with her strong academic performance and her vibrant personality, makes her an ideal candidate for this scholarship.

I wholeheartedly recommend Katie for the Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship. I am confident that she will make the most of this opportunity and continue to achieve great things in her endeavors. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or if there is anything more I can provide to support her application.

Thank you for considering Katie Hersom for this prestigious scholarship.

Sincerely,

Nicole Bronken

Dear Flyin Ryan,

I have the honor of writing to you on behalf of Katie Hersom for the Flyin' Ryan Scholarship. I have had the privilege of coaching Katie the past 2 seasons. In that time, I have seen what an amazing drive for skiing she has. There are few junior athletes in freeride that have the pure passion and potential that she does. Her determination to be the best is fierce and although she can be hyper-focused she allows herself to be a supportive friend, teammate and cheerleader to others. Katie loves to go skiing, when others are in the lodge at the end of the day Katie is looking for that extra lap. This is what sets her apart and why I think she is an excellent candidate for this scholarship.

The past two seasons Katie has shown her ability to know when to push herself and when to ski within herself and as a result she has multiple wins and podium finishes. I have been extremely impressed with her knowledge of the sport at such a young age. She has a great ability to memorize features and inspection is always fun with her as she shows that she does her homework. Before I knew Katie, I awarded her the spirit award at the home freeride comp we host in Whitefish. Katie had impressively exploded on a landing and still stuck around the rest of the weekend cheering on her fellow competitors and making a huge impression on myself and all of the other coaches. When it came time to vote for the award it was surprisingly unanimous.

Thank you for considering Katie, I believe she would be a great ambassador for this scholarship. Katie has shown that she has embraced Ryans core values and has created some core values of her own. I know she will carry the torch, and the flame will burn brightly.

Sincerely,

Kyle Taylor

Head Coach Flathead Freeride Club

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# WHITEFISH HIGH SCHOOL

1143 4TH STREET • WHITEFISH, MT 59937 • PHONE 406.862.8600

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September 16th, 2024

Dear Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Katie Hersom for the Adventure Scholarship Program. As a school nurse at Whitefish High School, I have had the privilege of observing Katie's remarkable resilience and dedication, particularly highlighted by her response to an ankle injury she sustained during the 2023/2024 school year.

On December 13th, 2023 Katie suffered an ankle injury while skiing, an incident that required prompt medical attention and a period of recommended recovery. Despite the considerable pain and the advice to rest, Katie demonstrated an extraordinary level of passion and determination for the sport she loves and continued to persevere.

What struck me most about Katie was her unwavering commitment to skiing, even while managing her injury. She adhered to her icing, medication, and elevation regimen with exceptional diligence, understanding that her recovery was essential not just for her health but also for her ability to return to the slopes. Her enthusiasm for skiing was evident in every conversation we had; she spoke about it with a fervor and dedication that truly set her apart.

During her recovery period, Katie maintained a positive attitude and spoke with me regularly about appropriate actions to take to ensure proper healing. This proactive approach not only aided her recovery but also demonstrated her deep love for the sport and her determination to excel.

Katie's ability to balance her passion with the practical needs of recovery is a testament to her character. Her experience with this injury highlights her resilience, dedication, and drive—qualities that will undoubtedly serve her well in any future endeavors she chooses to pursue.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Allix Swalling, RN  
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