

Essay:

I'm 18 years old, a passionate freeride skier from Argentina, and a young university student chasing big dreams. I grew up in Villa La Angostura, a small town in Patagonia surrounded by breathtaking lakes and mountains. It's a place where nature and adventure go hand in hand, and where my love for skiing began.

Skiing has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember; you could even say I learned to ski before I could walk. My mom, a ski instructor, continued teaching lessons until just 3 days before I was born in 2006. By the time I was 2 years old, I was already on skis, alternating seasons between Cerro Bayo in Patagonia and Deer Valley in Utah, USA, where both my parents worked, my mom as a ski instructor and my dad as a snowcat driver. My parents used to work back-to-back seasons, with my dad spending time in Chile at Antillanca during the southern winter while my mom stayed with us and worked at the kids' ski school in our hometown. If I wasn't in school, I was on the mountain with her, jumping into group lessons or tagging along with other kids and instructors.

At 10, I joined my local ski club, Club Andino Villa La Angostura (CAVLA), where I trained in alpine skiing. For a few years, I competed in alpine races while also training with the Park City Farm Team in the northern hemisphere. However, alpine skiing became too expensive to continue, and I made the decision to step away from competition. That's when freeride skiing entered my life, a discipline that allowed me to explore the mountain in a new, creative way alongside my brother and friends.

Unlike many freeride skiers, I've never been part of a freeride club or had a coach. I've worked as a ski instructor during the northern hemisphere winters since I was 16 to support my passion for skiing and fund my competitions and trips.

In 2022, I entered my first official freeride competition when Freeride South America came to Argentina. Although a knee injury forced me to step away from the tour that season, I worked hard, both mentally and physically, to come back stronger. The 2023/24 season marked a turning point in my journey. I competed in multiple events, explored new ski resorts, and set ambitious goals that I worked tirelessly to achieve.

One of the most significant milestones came in 2024 when I competed outside South America for the first time, finishing 4th in Park City, Utah. That result earned me a spot at the Americas Finals in Breckenridge, Colorado, making me the first Argentinian junior to represent my country at that level. While I didn't achieve the result I hoped for in Breckenridge, the experience was invaluable and left me more motivated than ever.

Returning to the southern hemisphere, I competed in four freeride events across Chile and Argentina and was crowned the 2024 U-19 South American Champion. This season's success also brought an incredible opportunity: qualifying for the 2025 Americas Finals and the 2025 Freeride Junior World Championships in Austria. This is the highest-level junior freeride competition in the world, with only 25 athletes from countries from all around the world earning a spot. Even more special, I will be the first Latin American skier to compete in this prestigious event, a chance to represent not only my country but an entire continent.

My values: perseverance, dedication, and integrity are at the core of everything I do. I approach each day as an opportunity to grow, improve, and chase my dreams, both as an athlete and as a university student studying medicine. Balancing my academic and athletic pursuits hasn't been easy, but it's taught me discipline and the importance of hard work.

The Adventure Scholarship would be crucial in helping me prepare for the Freeride Junior World Championships and helping me give my absolute best, regardless of the result, and proudly represent South America on this global stage. Competing at my highest level means making the most of these critical final weeks of preparation, but as someone who has never trained with a coach, this support would be life-changing.

Recovering from an ankle injury that limited my training during the Southern Hemisphere season, I am now seeking the opportunity to fully dedicate myself to training in the critical weeks leading up to the competition. The support from the Adventure Scholarship would allow me to focus solely on preparation without having to balance work, ensuring I step into the event feeling prepared, confident, and ready to inspire others with my journey.