

My name is Cally Abbott, but my favorite people call me Cal. I am proud to say that among these people are my competitors and teammates on the Smugglers Notch Ski Club Freeski Team. I enjoy staying busy, mountain biking in the summers, running my baking business, and additionally participating in my high school field hockey, and lacrosse teams, as well as the select choir and honors-level classes. Skiing, however, is my greatest passion. No matter the point in space and time, I have never had a moment in which skiing didn't feel right. My very first skis, 60 centimeters long and vibrantly green, were physical figures of my personality, wild and unique. I earned myself the nickname "Chatterbox" at three years old, conversing endlessly on the slow-spinning lifts of Smugglers Notch. Upon joining the Smugglers Notch Ski Club, I was enamoured by the community and free spirited aspects of Freeride skiing that aligned so similarly to the same personality.

I have been on many equally-memorable adventures in my time as skier, trekking far out into the back bowls of Smugglers Notch with teammates, and hiking to ski Tuckerman's Ravine on Mount Washington. I have even learned to love the days when my Jacket is soaked through, my goggles are fogged, and my muscles are sore. All of these moments have been made possible by the community this sport has to offer, and my amazingly supportive family, coaches, and teammates.

I find myself drawn to the term "Lost & Found". In reference, sometimes, to the place in which I frequently rediscover my belongings, but additionally as it describes the theme of many stories, my own included. The same ambition that drew me to freeride sprouted within me from an early age. When I was younger, I wholeheartedly believed I could make anything with a hot glue gun and a bit of artistic license. In middle school, I made great improvements to my athleticism and coordination, beginning to hold myself to a higher standard within my freeride endeavors.

As I have grown up within the ski community, especially competitively, Ryan Hawks' legacy and the recognition of core values has become engrained in my existence. I am the proud two-time winner of the Flyin' Ryan Award within IFSA competitions. During the season of 2023, I pushed myself further in training and competition and saw great results. I was motivated by my teammates, coaches, and own competitive drive to ski harder, launch bigger, and learn new tricks, earning an invitation to the North American Junior Freeride Championships at Kicking Horse Resort in British Columbia. I was pleasantly surprised when I proceeded to qualify for the second-day Finals, although I unfortunately lost a ski as I dropped in. When I got to the bottom of the venue, I called my mom back in Vermont. She offered her condolences and I replied, telling her that there was always next time. I have come to learn through my education surrounding Ryan Hawk's legacy that this sense of optimism is something I value. It inspires me to see the greater influence big mountain skiing has on me, and the way it shapes me beyond competition. This season, I have found that next opportunity with an Invitation to return to the Junior Freeride Championships, this time in Kirkwood, California.

I would love to reciprocate the support my parents offer my brother and I within all of our skiing endeavors and lower the cost of our travels to the Junior Freeride Championships. This journey will not only grant me the opportunity to challenge myself competitively against the best high school female big mountain skiers in the western hemisphere, but it will push me to make new friends within the community of freeriders and represent the Flyin' Ryan spirit, taking everything I can out of this opportunity. Out there, when I drop in, the announcer will refer to me as Cally, however the people this journey has brought me will cheer loudly for Cal, and that's the way I like it.