

Dear Scholarship Committee,

It is my absolute pleasure to share a letter of support for Cally Abbott's application for the Flyin Ryan Foundation Adventure Scholarship. As a freeski coach for the Smugglers Notch Freeski Team, I've had the privilege of watching Cally's freeskiing career develop. Her passion for the outdoors, her unwavering positivity, and her commitment to building and uplifting the freeride community are among the first reasons that come to mind when I think about why Cally should receive this scholarship.

Cally is not just an outstanding athlete—she is the kind of teammate and community member others naturally gravitate toward. Her energy on (and off) the mountain is contagious. Whether it's a bluebird powder day or a soggy, low-vis slog, you can expect Cally's rally. Nudging her teammates, pushing herself, and making the most of every ski day. I've seen her, time and again, convince even the most fair-weather teammates to stay out for "just a couple more laps," sometimes with an encouraging pep talk, sometimes with a well-placed candy bribe, but always with a genuine passion that reminds us why we love this sport.

Beyond her talent on the hill, Cally demonstrates resilience and emotional maturity—qualities essential to both freeride skiing and life itself. I recall watching her drop into her Junior Nationals final run, only to lose a ski. Many athletes would be devastated, and while Cally undoubtedly felt the sting of disappointment, she was able to hold space for both frustration and acceptance, demonstrating the importance of perseverance in freeride competition. Whether she knew it or not, her resilience in that moment was both seen and felt, and it made a lasting impact on those around her. It certainly had an impression on me.

Cally is more than just a freeride competitor, she is a staple in the SNSC community. Our younger athletes truly look up to her; our families and coaches in our program genuinely enjoy connecting with her. Her presence in the clubhouse, on the mountain, and within our team culture is one of inclusivity, humor, and a deep-seated love for the sport. She embodies the values of the Flyin Ryan Foundation—passion, adventure, and a commitment to something greater than oneself.

I wholeheartedly recommend Cally for this scholarship, knowing that it will not only support her competitive journey but enable her to continue spreading her enthusiasm, building the community she loves, and connecting herself to what feels right to her. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions about Cally's character and contributions to our freeride community. She's a rockstar!

Sincerely,

Jessica Phelan