

Ryan Lacey Personal Essay:

My name is Ryan Lacey and I live in Waitsfield, Vermont. I am a 15-year-old sophomore at Harwood Union High School and I love skiing. I am a part of the Mad River Glen Freeski Team and my coach is Jose Darias. This program means a lot to me because Mad River Glen is a magical place with awesome people. Our mountain also seems to produce the best skiers year after year.

One of my greatest accomplishments was finishing seventh overall between North and South America for IFSA last year. To get there I won the Smugglers Notch three-star, and the Mad River Glen three-star, got second at the Stowe two-star, and got sixteenth overall at JFC(Junior Freeride Championship).

My favorite adventure that I have done was this summer when my friends and I hiked from Gap to Gap across the top of both Sugarbush Mountains and Mad River Glen. We spent three days and two nights on the trip and it was an extremely peaceful time. I was able to get away from any stress and just be free up in the mountains.

One mentor in my life has been Jose Darias. He has been my coach at Mad River for five years and he has taught me a lot. He has not only helped me progress in my skiing a ton but he has also helped me become a better person. He has helped me become a better person by helping me learn how to communicate with professionals, Be more confident, and always be stoked to be skiing.

Ryan's core principles are important to me because they make me think about how I can be a better person. One of my favorite ones is, "Live life every day, all day." This one means something to me because it makes me think about how I should do something important every day and live life to the fullest. Another one I like is, "Live simply." This one is important to think about because sometimes you don't need too much in life just enough to live simply.

Some steps I will take to prepare myself for my future adventure are to keep training and working hard to become a stronger, more confident, and better skier. I will prepare myself financially by getting help from my parents and I will also get help from this Scholarship to help pay for my future adventures with my freeskiing and competition journey. I will also use the money to pay for travel and ski passes. My parents will help support me by paying for whatever is not covered by the scholarship. They are always very supportive of me and I want to help them out since they have been helping me for all 15 years of my life.