

## **Flyin' Ryan Foundation Recommendation Letter for Gavriel Girroir**

Hello Peter and The Flyin' Ryan Board members,

I write to you today because a wonderful young person asked me for this recommendation letter, and I am proud to do so. I am a free ski father, and my son Levi was honored and blessed to receive one of your scholarships last year that helped him go to The Junior Free Ride Nationals. I am also a L100 IFSA certified Coach and a certified IFSA Technical Director.

There are many reasons why I dedicate so much time to the sport of free ride, however my driving force is the young people I get to spend my days interacting with and learning from. As a fifty-seven-year-old I see so much promise in the young people I am surrounded by, and Gavriel Girroir is certainly one of those.

I coached Gavriel for multiple years and from the first day, I knew that this young man "marched to his own drum". Gavriel has confidence to be his own person, his ski style is his, his hair style is his, his kit is his.... he owns it all. The beauty is his style is not the norm (and we all know the social pressure kids feel to have to conform) and Gavriel is strong enough to stay true to who he is. Even though he has this strength of spirit and conviction to be his own person he carries himself with confidence and humility.

I was coaching the day Gavriel crashed and was first to get to him as he lay motionless in the brush, it is etched in my mind forever. It was one of the most consequential ski accidents I have ever seen, it was true miracle that his injuries were not worse...inches saved the day. As one can imagine, it took taken time for Gavriel to regain his confidence on skis. I imagine the same strength that gives him his willingness to be in this world as himself, is what aided his comeback.

I encourage you all to support Gavriels' desire to compete this year at Kirkwood. Our futures are brighter with young people like Gavriel carrying the torch of kindness and individualism simultaneously.

Thank you for all you do, Seth Friedman