

Hi, I'm Max, and I live in McCall, Idaho. I've been skiing since I could walk, and for me, it's not just a sport—it's a way of life. A couple of years ago, I discovered freeride skiing and totally fell in love with it. I love the freedom to choose my line, hit jumps, and challenge myself in new ways. There are no race gates or perfect turns—just me, my skis, and the mountain. I get to be creative and push myself every time I drop in.

For the past two years, I've been part of Valley Freeride, an advanced freeride team led by my coach Kerry Lofy. He's one of my biggest mentors. Kerry believes in us, pushes us to go big, and makes training fun. He's taught me more than just skiing—he's helped me believe in myself and stay focused. Being on this team feels like being part of a family. We support each other, cheer each other on, and I've made some of my best friends through it. This season, I competed in the Red Mountain IFSA 3*, both Bogus Basin IFSA 2* events (V1 and V2), and Solitude IFSA 2*. It was my first year in the U15 division and only my second season traveling for comps. I ended the season ranked #252 out of all U15 Men with 934 points. That might not seem like a top result, but I'm proud of it because I've grown so much and worked really hard. One of my biggest accomplishments so far is landing a 360 on skis. I've also been training on the trampoline—working on backflips and front flips—and I'm finally ready to take those tricks to the snow. Every time I'm out training, learning, practicing, and progressing, it feels like a huge accomplishment—and a step closer to my ultimate goal of competing on the Freeride World Tour.

That's why I'm so excited about the freeride summer camp at Mt. Hood. It's run by Freeride World Tour champions and top-level coaches. The camp includes on-snow training, park sessions, workouts, yoga, and mindset coaching. It's the perfect chance to build my skills, especially in the park, and grow my confidence and style. I know this camp will help me take a big step forward in my progression for competing next season. If I'm lucky enough to receive the Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship, I'll use it to help pay for this camp. It would also help take some pressure off my parents, who have supported me every step of the way—covering the cost of comps, gear, and travel, and always being there to cheer me on. I'd love to be able to give them a break.

I liked the Core Values Challenge. It made me think about what matters most to me and how I want to live. When you know your values, you don't have to just go with the crowd—you can make choices you're proud of. Some of Ryan's values that stick with me are: **“Live every day like it's your last”**—that reminds me to ski with passion and never hold back. And **“Be the best friend you can be”**—I try to live that every day with my teammates, no matter how a comp goes. I also believe in staying aware, pushing my limits, and always having fun. Those values help me grow not just as a skier, but as a person.

Thanks for reading my story and for supporting kids like me. This scholarship would mean the world to me, and I promise I'll give it everything I've got.

—Max