

Flyin Ryan Essay

My name is Mary Huggill, I am from Canmore, Alberta and I am 18 years old. All my life I have had a passion and love for sport. Throughout my years in high school I participated in many sports. Each one helped me meet new people, form more relationships, and learn something new about myself. When playing sports I feel a sense of freedom, like all my problems go away and nothing else matters in that moment, it's almost like an escape. I especially feel this way when I am skiing. I am so appreciative of the fact that I get to live in Canmore, surrounded by mountains, giving me the opportunity to do all the things I love and go on so many adventures. My best memories have been made, on the field, on the court and in the mountains, and I know I will hold onto these memories for the rest of my life. A passion that I will be continuing next year is competing in freeride skiing. My dad taught me to ski when I was 3 years old and it has been such a huge part of my life. Both of my older siblings competed in Freeride skiing and I followed in their footsteps, looking up to them every step of the way. I used to watch them compete holding my breath as they ripped down, only being able to breathe again once they were in the finish. Now that they have both graduated from freeride, they watch me and are my biggest supporters alongside my parents and coaches.

I have been a part of the ULLR Big Mountain ski club for many years and the club has made such a big impact on my life, allowing me to be where I am today and introducing me to the world of freeride. The freeride community is so amazing and has allowed me to meet so many lifelong friends to celebrate the big victories with and help each other get through the disappointments. Throughout the season this year I thought that it was going to be my final year competing, however, something very unexpected happened and I ended up securing myself a spot to the Junior Freeride Championship(JFC) in Kirkwood, California. At this competition I achieved something I am very proud of and came second at the JFC, leaving me ranked fourth

overall for the season and second in Canada. After this I received an invite to attend the Junior World Championships in Austria in 2026. The Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship would be put towards helping me go to Austria to represent Canada at the Junior World Championships, which would mean so much to me as my final competition of my junior freeride career. On reflection I realize that my accomplishments have been possible because I have emulated what I understand to be Ryan's core values of looking out for others and yourself, working hard and being the best friend I can be. Each of these allow me to push myself to be a better person, friend and athlete, especially in the freeride community and remind me that as long as I tried my best and supported others, I have succeeded.

These core values continue to help guide me as I am also currently pursuing sport at the post secondary level. I am just starting my first year of university at Vancouver Island University, in British Columbia, Canada. I am taking Recreation and Sport Management and Tourism and I am playing on the Women's Varsity Soccer team, another sport I am passionate about. This is another huge honour and accomplishment for me. I have a lot to look forward to, to be grateful for and to enjoy this year in furthering my academics, pushing myself on the soccer field and attending and giving it my all on the slopes of Austria. The Flyin Ryan Scholarship would be both an honour and allow me the ability to finance my university studies, continue to play varsity soccer, and help me to get to Austria to represent my country in Freeride.