

Flyin Ryan Essay

Hi, my name is Imogen Schaberg. I'm a 14 year old freeride skier from Montgomery, Vermont and my home mountain is Jay Peak. I began skiing at two years old and I've loved it ever since. I love being in the mountains, surrounded by snow and fresh air. I love how skiing gives me independence. I get to choose my own line and express myself through how I ski. There's always something new to try: a new trick, a steeper run, or preparing for a comp, I'm constantly pushing myself. Whether it's a big competition or a powder day with my friends, I'm always excited to get on the mountain.

In addition to my love for skiing, I strive to live by a set of core values that guide me both on and off the mountain. More than anything, I try to be the best teammate and friend I can be. I believe that supporting those around me is just as important as pushing myself. My goal is to approach every day with a positive mindset, even if things don't go as planned.

Before moving to Montgomery in 2022, I lived in Bromont, a little ski town in Quebec. It was an amazing place to live, and it's where my love of skiing really developed. When I was eight years old, I made it my goal to ski every single day that the mountain was open. With my parents' support, driving me to the mountain every day, I achieved my goal and by the end of the season, I had 111 days and 472 runs.

After moving to Montgomery, skiing stayed a big part of my life, but being in a new place gave me the chance to grow in other ways, especially when it came to giving back to the community. Every year, my sisters and I organize a fundraiser for Operation Happiness. It's a program run by the United Way of Northwest Vermont that provides Christmas gifts to kids in need. We raise money by making and selling handmade crafts, and thanks to the support of our community, we've been able to buy presents for at least ten kids every year. In addition to that, I've also sold crafts at local farmers markets to raise money for Otter Creek Wildlife Rescue, a nonprofit wildlife rehab center here in Vermont and I volunteer at our local library.

One of the things I'm most proud of is accomplishing my goal of qualifying for the Junior Freeride Championships in each of my years of eligibility. But what made the experience extra special was getting to share it with my sisters.

This year was especially unforgettable because all three of us competed at JFCs. My youngest sister, Anwen placed 10th in the U12 girls category, and my sister, Roisin, went for it and became the first-ever U12 girl to attempt a 360 at JFCs. She didn't land it, but still ended up 14th and watching her go for it was awesome!

The year before was just as special! Roisin qualified for USASA Nationals at Copper Mountain, and we got to cheer her on as she placed 8th in slopestyle and 3rd in rail jam. I was so proud of her! After Copper, we got to go to Breckenridge, where I then competed in the Junior Freeride Championships.

Because my sisters and I all love to compete, I'm hoping to get this scholarship to help offset some of my skiing expenses. Specifically, next season, I would love to do an out of region national competition so that I can move up the seeding list with the ultimate goal of being selected to ski at the Junior Freeride World Championships in Austria. If granted this scholarship, it would help cover some of the travel expenses and entry fees.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Imogen Schaberg