

Adventures in nature are one of the things that makes me feel most alive. I love exploring new places, learning how things came to be, and seeing the world from different angles. That's why my biggest goal this year is to travel to the Grand Canyon. I want to hike the trails, ride in a hot air balloon, and learn the history of how the canyon was formed. I've seen pictures and videos, but I want to stand there myself and feel how huge and powerful it really is.

I try to live by a few core values that guide me every day: never lose my sense for adventure, never stop exploring life, be self-sufficient, don't be afraid to ask for help, and always look out for my surroundings. These values help me stay brave when I try something new, responsible when I'm out in nature, and aware of the world around me. They remind me that adventure isn't just about doing something exciting — it's about learning, growing, and paying attention. Over the next year, I've committed to visiting at least two new destinations within the United States—places that challenge me, deepen my connection to nature, and push me to act on my core values.

I'm also neurodivergent, which means I experience the world differently than other kids. I work hard every day to understand myself better and build the skills I need to grow. My parents spend a lot of time taking me to medical and behavioral-health appointments that help me learn how to manage challenges and become more confident and independent. These appointments are important, but they also take a lot of time and financial resources. My mom and dad always tell me that we have to make careful choices because there is only so much money available.

Some experiences—like flying in an airplane—can be a little harder for me. The noise, the crowds, and all the changes happening at once can feel overwhelming, but I've learned that facing those moments helps me grow. Visiting the Grand Canyon would help me live out my values in a real way and is why this trip means so much to me. Hiking new trails would challenge me to be strong and self-sufficient. Riding in a hot air balloon would push me to be courageous and trust the experience. Learning the history would help me understand the land and respect the people who came before me. And being in such a huge, wild place would remind me to stay aware of my surroundings and appreciate the world's beauty.

The Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship would help me turn this dream into a real experience. It would give me the chance to explore one of the most amazing places in the country, learn more about myself, and keep growing into someone who chooses curiosity, courage, and purpose. I want to keep exploring, keep learning, and keep living with a sense of adventure in everything I do.