

## Flyin Ryan Personal Essay

My name is Sadie Zakreski. I am 16 years old and love to ski. I love to push myself with my skiing and try to take it to the next level. I have been skiing my whole life starting when I was little at Eldora. When I'm not skiing I love traveling, hiking, biking, climbing and anything outside. I love being in nature and pushing myself to be the best athlete and version of myself I can be.

One of my greatest accomplishments in the ski world is making it to the Junior Freeride Championships. Skiing is what I am most passionate about and I love being able to compete. Making it to JFC's was one of my biggest goals and I am very proud that I got to compete at that level. It took lots of commitment and dedication to the sport. Being able to go to Kirkwood, California and be with skiers at such a high level was one of the coolest experiences. I love competing and I hope to make it to the Freeride World Tour someday.

I'm applying for the Adventure Scholarship because returning to Chile would be a huge step for both my skiing and my personal growth. My last trip there taught me way more than just how to handle big mountain terrain; it gave me a real-world education in travel and cultural awareness that you just can't get in a classroom. Having the chance to train with my coach and teammates during the summer was a total game-changer for my technique, and competing in a local event gave me the kind of start-gate experience I need to stay sharp. I'm fully dedicated to reaching the Freeride World Tour, and getting back to Chile would give me the high-level training and perspective I need to actually make that dream happen.

A lot of people just see the highlights of a clean run, but they don't always see the work that goes into it during the off-season. When I'm not on the snow, I'm constantly working on my fitness and staying active through hiking and biking to make sure I'm ready for the physical demands of big mountain skiing. I've spent countless hours at Eldora and in the gym pushing through the days when the conditions aren't perfect, because I know that's what it takes to actually improve. For me, this scholarship is an opportunity to put all that hard work to the test in

a world-class environment. I'm not just looking for a trip; I'm looking for a chance to grind, learn from the best, and prove that I have the discipline to make it to the professional level.

Ultimately, this scholarship would be more than just a trip to Chile; it would be the fuel I need to keep pushing my limits and representing the freeride community. My time at the Junior Freeride Championships showed me what's possible with hard work, but I know I have so much more to learn to reach that professional level. Being back in the Andes would give me the perfect environment to grow as both a skier and a person, helping me build the foundation I need for the Freeride World Tour. Thank you so much for considering my application and for supporting my journey to take my skiing to the next level.