

04.30.2026

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of my daughter, Sadie Zakreski, in regards to her opportunity to receive an adventure scholarship offered in memory of Ryan Hawks. I am very honored that Sadie asked me to write this letter, because I know it specifies to be from a coach, teacher or mentor. Although I consider myself all of these things to my daughter, it's great to know she feels the same way, at least a little bit!

To Sadie, skiing is the center of her life. She dreams about it all summer, convincing me to take her up to St Mary's glacier any chance she can and prepares for the season all fall, counting the days until the first mountain opens. During the season, everything revolves around her freeski training and competitions, and in the spring, we seek out turns at any mountain that's still open.

Sadie is a competitive big mountain freeskiier, and gets to compete in a handful of competitions across North America each year. Last season, 2024-25, she did so well that she qualified and competed in the Junior Freeski Championships (JFC's), against girls from North and South America. This past season, her first in the older U19 division, she had several podium finishes and barely missed the cut for JFC's. Even with subpar snowpack levels, she still made the effort every weekend to get up early, beat the crowds and train with her team or ski with her friends. It's this type of dedication that helps set Sadie apart from other teenagers.

In addition to her dedication toward skiing, Sadie devotes a lot of her travel time keeping her grades up, as she currently has a 4.0 GPA. While excelling in skiing and school, she also is part of a competitive climbing class and still finds time to help around the house and with our dog, Gypsy. This summer, she will be a camp counselor and climbing coach at her local gym. Her goal is to save enough money to go to Chile with her big mountain team and compete in a freeski competition while in South America. This scholarship would help her reach her goal and show her that her hard work and efforts pay off.

In conclusion, I feel that Sadie is a perfect candidate for this scholarship and would benefit greatly from this trip. She enjoys traveling and skiing very much, so this is the perfect opportunity for her. Thank you for your time and consideration

Kindly

Mike Zakreski