

FOX PAW
SCHOOL



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Flyin' Ryan Hawks Foundation
50 Lakeside Ave Box 99
Burlington VT, 05401
Attn: Scholarship Committee

Dear Scholarship Committee,

It is my sincere pleasure to recommend Nate Harvey for a FRHF adventure scholarship. Your application asks for letters from teachers, coaches, etc, but I'm writing as Nate's student and mentee. Nate is a teacher, mentor, and leader in the wildlife tracking community here in North America, and he has been instrumental in my path as a nature connection and wildlife tracking instructor, and in my growth as a tracker and person.

I received the adventure scholarship earlier this year, and it helped fund my trip to the Kalahari desert to study with the San Bushmen master trackers. I reaped huge rewards—I learned a huge amount from the San, and was able to pass that along to my students here in the US. Nate is applying for the scholarship for the same reason—to help him fund a trip to the Kalahari to track with the San, who still hold their ancestral tracking skills. Learning from these trackers, who hold an unbroken tracking lineage that stretches back to when we evolved into *Homo sapiens*, is an unparalleled opportunity for any tracking instructor.

The art and science of wildlife tracking connects people with the natural world, and to their human communities—when we learn to interpret the lives of the wild animals around us, we can't help but share that with others, and this strengthens the web that connects us to people and place. This act of venturing into wild places to learn about their inhabitants represents an important and meaningful adventure for many people. If Nate is able to study with the San, it will magnify the positive impact of these adventures, whether large or small, because he is already deeply involved in teaching and mentoring so many other North American trackers.

Nate's trip to the Kalahari to learn from the indigenous master trackers will further build the tracking community here in North America, and specifically in Vermont, furthering the mission of FRHF to create avenues for young people to learn about themselves and their place in the world by venturing out into the unknown.

Please let me know if you have any questions—I'd be happy to talk more about this.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Shapiro
Fox Paw School