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Flyin Ryan Foundation

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Personal Essay

Adventure, to me, means choosing a challenge that requires preparation, responsibility, and the willingness to grow. Aviation has become the clearest expression of that idea in my life.

I grew up in Davis, California, and first became interested in flying during my senior year of high school through Boy Scouts. At the time, I began noticing that many of the mentors I respected most were pilots. They seemed comfortable taking responsibility, making decisions, and helping others build confidence. When I completed a discovery flight for a Boy Scout merit badge, aviation changed from something I admired into something I wanted to pursue seriously. The experience gave me a new perspective on what was possible and motivated me to start building a future around flying.

Since then, I have learned that the most meaningful adventures are built long before they begin. Earning my private pilot certificate required patience, study, financial discipline, and the ability to learn from mistakes. Becoming an aircraft mechanic strengthened that lesson. Working around aircraft taught me that every flight depends on careful preparation and small details done correctly. It has made me a more thoughtful pilot because I understand the responsibility behind every preflight inspection, maintenance decision, weather briefing, and go or no-go choice.

One lesson has stayed with me throughout my training: fly ahead of the airplane. It means planning early, anticipating what could change, and never allowing yourself to fall behind the situation. I apply that mindset beyond aviation as well. I train in Brazilian jiu-jitsu and Muay Thai, where progress comes from repeated practice, humility, and staying calm under pressure. I also run a small marketing business for local businesses, which has taught me to communicate clearly, solve problems independently, and follow through on commitments.

My next adventure is instrument flight training. I have completed my instrument knowledge exam and am preparing to build the required cross-country experience through flights of more than 50 nautical miles. These trips represent more than required hours in a logbook. They will push me to leave the familiarity of local flying, plan for unfamiliar airports and airspace, make stronger weather decisions, and develop the confidence to operate with greater precision. Learning to fly safely in instrument conditions will help me become a more capable pilot, but it will also reinforce the discipline that aviation has already taught me.

The Flyin Ryan Scholarship Foundation would make a direct difference in my ability to take on this challenge. Aircraft rental, fuel, instruction, and cross-country flight expenses add up quickly, especially while I am completing college and operating a small business. This scholarship would

help fund the cross-country flights and instruction required for my instrument rating, allowing me to focus more of my energy on becoming a safe, prepared, and proficient instrument pilot.

In the future, I want to use what I learn to help other young people see aviation as an achievable opportunity. Whether someone is interested in becoming a pilot, an aircraft mechanic, or an entrepreneur in aviation, I want them to know that they do not need to have everything figured out before taking their first step. Sometimes one flight, one mentor, or one person willing to encourage you can change the direction of your life. This scholarship would help me continue my own journey while preparing me to provide that same encouragement to others.