

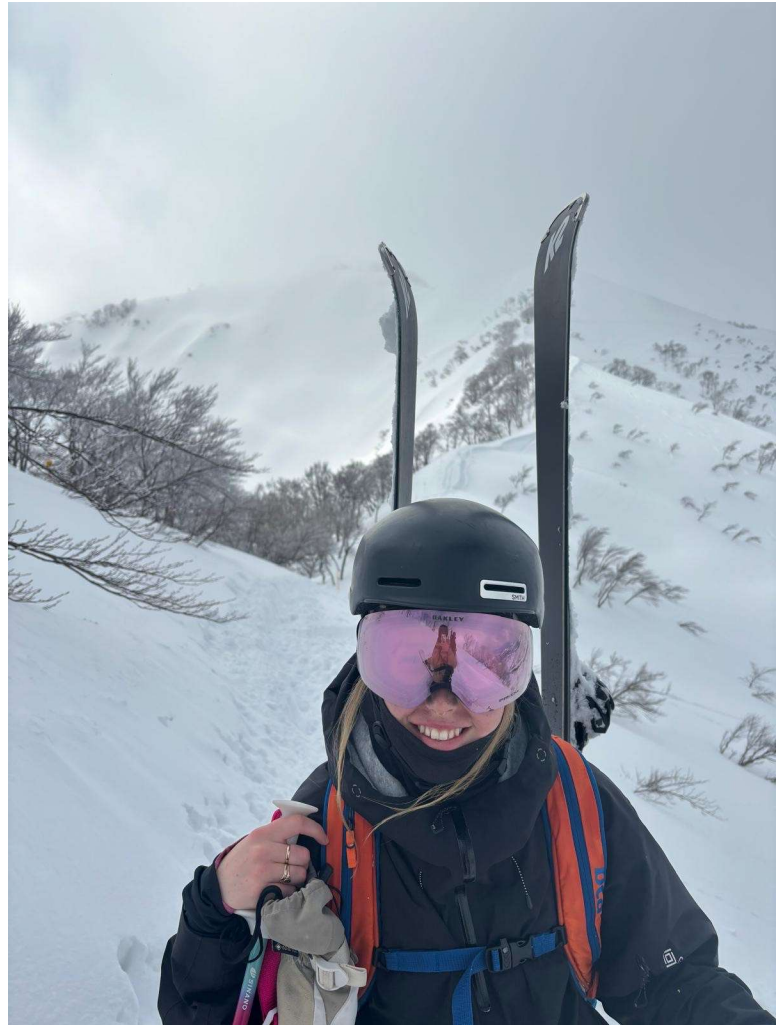
Dear [Scholarship Committee],

I am grateful for the opportunity to apply for the Sodergren Scholarship. My name is Tori Rae, and while some may presume my trajectory toward becoming a ski instructor was predetermined by my family's deep involvement in the ski industry, it was my own recognition of a passion for teaching that has propelled me forward. I am eager to address each facet of the scholarship criteria outlined below to the best of my ability.

Contribution and Service to the Industry:

My journey commenced as a junior support crew worker in Perisher's kids' department, where I adeptly undertook various responsibilities and acquired invaluable skills, notably in comforting distressed children. This early immersion led to my progression into the junior instructor program. I am immensely privileged to contribute to programs such as the Perisher Mini Mites, Development Team, and JCS local school Snowsports programs - programs I myself participated in as a child. Through these endeavours, I have not only given back to the community but also continue to share my profound passion for Snowsports.

Moreover, I have discovered a particular affinity for teaching children with cognitive differences. Over the past seasons, I have increasingly worked with such individuals, finding fulfillment in connecting with them and witnessing their joy as they embrace the sport. This sense of community and purpose propels me to further serve and uplift others in the Snowsports Industry.



Commitment to Education, Training, and Accreditation:

While many express a passion for teaching skiing, my commitment extends to continuous education, training, and accreditation. At the age of 21, I have already attained my Alpine Level 3 and Coach Level One certifications, each milestone marked by memorable experiences.

I embarked on my Level One certification journey while concurrently completing my year 12 studies and teaching Minis on Sundays—a dedication that persisted despite the challenges

posed by the COVID pandemic, which prematurely halted our season. Subsequently, I achieved my Level Two certification during my inaugural full-time season and, in the following season, obtained my Coach One certification alongside a resit for my Level Three.

During the summer of 2024, I ventured to Japan, where I seized the opportunity to complete my freeski resit. This afforded me unique training experiences alongside mentors, such as Tom Langtry and Paul Lorenz, and memorable encounters with legends like Richie Burger and Japanese demo team member Miku. These experiences have enriched my skill set and perspective.



Professionalism:

I take immense pride in upholding professionalism, inspired by the exemplary standards set by seasoned instructors and my own upbringing within the industry. Despite my youth, I am resolute in embodying the traits of a professional Snowsports instructor. I endeavour to foster a culture of mutual respect and accountability through my interactions with peers and conduct on the mountain. My willingness to articulate opinions and uphold high standards underscores my dedication to professionalism.



Future Direction and Commitment to the Industry:

Looking ahead, my aspirations entail furthering my education and skill set, with ambitions to pursue my adaptive certification and snowboard Level One. But for the purposed of this application my focus is on the Alpine Level Four.

I also intend to continue to explore opportunities for northern hemisphere teaching engagements. Irrespective of the outcome of this application, my commitment to the vocation of teaching skiing and further education remains unwavering. I hope that in the future I can give back to the industry that has given me so much already.



Thank you for considering my application.

Warm regards,

Tori Rae