

James Clifford Application

Jeff Wattenmaker Scholarship Application

**Demographics**

Name: James Clifford

Mailing address: Tiburon, CA

**College(s)/University(ies)/Vocational Schools that you have been accepted to for 2011-2012:**

For 2009/2010 I was accepted to: Middlebury College (where I'm a current student), Colby College, Bates College, Boston College, St. Olaf College, Whitman College, Babson College, Saint Lawrence University, University of Vermont

**Please send us a copy of an essay used for your University, College, or Vocational School applications.**  
**My Common App essay:**

My car has 74 horsepower. By putting my bike and laptop inside of my car, it is worth less than its contents. My car goes from 0-60 in over a minute and my brakes barely work after I drive down Mt. Tam. My car has manual windows and no thermometer. My seats are broken so that they recline back and forth at their own whim.

My car lives life on the edge since it is the most unsafe car in its year, in its class. Driving to go skiing, surfing, and mountain biking are often more dangerous than doing the sport itself.

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My car stands up for itself. If my friends make fun of it, it breaks down when I drive them home.

My car helps me find the right dates. If I pick up a girl and she is turned off by my cheap car, the sand on my seats, the bike grease all over the trunk, the surf wax mashed into the headrest, or the smell of mildew from my running shoes, she is not the right girl for me.

My car makes a strong first impression on all since it is saturated with a strong coconut smell. I opened a whole air freshener at once instead of over the recommended two-month period. My brother and sisters complain that this smell will still be there when they drive my car.

My car is complete with a car seat. It comes in handy when I pick up my little sister, Gigi, from kindergarten. My car also gets my other sister, Caroline, from chorus practice and takes my brother, Will, and me to lift weights and play basketball at the gym.

My car is like me, slow to get moving in the morning on the way to school, yet unstoppable once it picks up speed. It is small yet determined. It is compact and agile. It is hardworking and persistent as it chugs along up hills. It is always on the go, rarely in park.

My car fits everything that I need, just not all at once. It can fit some of my family, or my friends, or my bike, or my skis, or my surfboard. My car moves down all hills and up most. My car is humble and keeps me so. It gets me to school, usually without any problems. My car is just a car, to go to school, cross country practice, mountain biking, my sister's school, my sister's chorus practice,

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the gym, the beach, and sometimes San Francisco. It doesn't need to be flashy or impress others; it just needs to drive. My car is a three-speed automatic, white, 1998 Dodge Neon with white rims, and it is mine.

**Write an essay evaluating the Far West Masters Scholarship Program based on your experience. Please include what you enjoy about the Program and what aspects of the Program that you would like to see improved. We are always trying to change and adjust the Program to make it more successful so your input is valuable.**

The Far West Masters Scholarship Program is a wonderful program. I am so happy to be apart of it. It provides us with funding, early season training, and adults who are friends and role models that we can look up to, trust, and ask advice from.

The funding and early season training is incredibly helpful. Each season, I am able to jumpstart my on snow season by a week, allowing me to be more ready for the early season races, which tend to be some of the best scoring races of the year. The funding I have received over the last two years has paid for 2 race series, which is very helpful. As a J1 athlete it is important to race multiple series throughout the year since you do not know which races will provide the best opportunities for scoring. This funding allows us to give ourselves more opportunity to race and move up the chain.

I love talking to and hanging out with the masters. Eddie, Mark, and Miles are three of the funniest adults that I know and I love hanging out and talking with them in Colorado and elsewhere. At the Colorado camp the masters treat all of us as equals, which is really important, especially for the younger athletes. You guys are a group of adults who are not connected to our schools, sports teams,

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or parents. I think that this is good for kids to be able to socially interact with adults without censoring actions as we would around our parents. Also, I feel like we can turn to you guys for advice that we may not want to ask our parents, teachers, and coaches for and trust that it would be good advice. In sum, the scholarship program provides its athletes with adult friends who have diverse backgrounds, insight, opinion, and stories for us to learn from, are fun, love skiing as much or more than we do (reminding us of how fortunate we are and that we can continue to do what we love), and offer great advice and positive influence through example. Funding can come from other sources. The relationships we have with you all are unique to this program.

My first suggestion is that Liesl returns to next year's Colorado camp... On a slightly more serious note, I think that an annual summer camp in Mt. Hood or Whistler/Blackcomb for a week or two each summer could be a really fun. The CO camp is fun and valuable and adding another camp could be neat.

I really enjoyed the day at Copper when we coached the masters. This gave us time to really get to know the master that we were coaching. Coaching masters is beneficial to both the master and junior athlete. The master is likely to receive good coaching and be able to watch good skiing. Also, coaching can increase confidence in one's own ability and make sense of a concept or movement that a junior athlete has been working on; therefore, it is very beneficial to the junior athlete as well. I would like to see this athlete-master coaching happen more frequently at the CO camp. Other than that, I'm for facilitating more time for us to interact with the masters such as encouraging

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hellos and updates throughout the year from the junior athletes, to keep the relationships real and lasting. Thank you for having this program. It is unique, very helpful, and fun.

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**List any academic or athletic scholarships you have been awarded**

The only athletic scholarship that I have been awarded is your FW Masters scholarship. I was offered partial academic scholarships from three of the schools that I was accepted to. I was not offered any academic scholarships from Middlebury.

**Include a 3x3 head and shoulders picture**

