



SAMPLE APPLICATION: KAI ASHNER

SECTION ONE: Who are you?

Tell us about yourself. What are your passions and motivations? How do you define yourself? What has shaped you into the person you are today?

Please express yourself in open format. It could be an essay, photography, art, a film, a radio-style recording of yourself – any kind of original multimedia component created by you for this project will be accepted – creativity is encouraged!

While I find that the best way to describe myself is over a cup of coffee, I will do my best to convey the real Kai Ashner through ink and paper.

I consider myself to be many things: an adventurer, a positive thinker, a cyclist, a friend, a laugher, a dreamer, a daughter, a sibling, a runner, a consumer, a writer, a bad singer, a klutz, a dessert fanatic, a giver, a taker, a baby-sitter, a rainy day appreciator, a semi-Coloradoan, an optimist, and, yes, even a plain Greek yogurt lover. I find that all of these things, for better or for worse, make me, well, me.

To put all of these qualities into a fair and coherent description, I would like to point to a certain time period in my life that I consider to have defined a lot of the person I have come to be. When I was twelve, my family, consisting of my parents and three older siblings, lived just outside of Seattle. I had lived in the same house all my life, had an incredible set of friends, my grandparents were just minutes away, and we could walk to the mall just down the road. I loved it. I even loved the constant drizzling rain. However, when I was twelve, I was told that my father got a job in Colorado and that we had to move to the middle of the country. Away from my friends, the only home I had ever known, and all signs of the ocean, I was somewhat lost. For some time, I felt extremely out of place, like my life had just been taken away from me. Overtime, however, I began to see what was really around me and I came to appreciate my new surroundings; the big snow storms, the personality of the local community, the towering shadows of 14,000 foot peaks, and, of course, the sunshine. Slowly finding my stride in this new environment at the heart of the Rockies, I have really developed my personality and interests.

Today, I fill my free time with hiking around the Roaring Fork Valley, riding on the bike paths with my family, volunteering with youth programs, and, yes, even digging back to my childhood roots to drive to the outlet malls. This process of adjusting my life and appreciating my given surroundings has been an extremely valuable experience for me. While I wouldn't claim that I am better off here than I would have been back in Seattle, I can definitively say that the experience of moving made me a better person. Drawing upon the grounded thought process and mindset that my parents instilled me, I eventually found different passions that I could relate to and came to consider how fortunate I was to have these various opportunities to explore, learn, and test myself in a new environment. Not knowing what you can derive from various challenges and changes in life, I try to apply this zest for life to all aspects of my actions; striving to be the best friend, athlete, student, and person I can be.

Bringing this outlook on life and my passions together, I have developed a real drive to explore unknowns of this world, which has led me to form incredible relationships and experiences. I am extremely thankful for what I have been able to do thus far in my life, and I can't wait to see where this random road takes me tomorrow, next week, and years to come.

SECTION TWO: What is your dream?

Do you want to learn a new skill, travel somewhere you've never been, or create something meaningful? Whatever your dream is, tell us about it. How long have you had this dream? Who inspires you? How does your dream push you to become a better person? How will your dream have a positive impact on a community? How does your dream adhere to our five principles? (respect, commitment, humility, purpose, and balance)
[minimum 1 full page or equivalent]

The origins of my dream lie in much of my current personality and character. When I read the prompt, "Do you want to learn a new skill, travel somewhere you've never been, or create something meaningful?", I have to say a resounding yes to all. Having grown quite comfortable in my current surroundings, I feel there are many things I can do to improve upon my current person and become a better citizen of the world. I want to push myself out of my comfort zone, out of my element, to see and experience things that, while they seem worlds away, are very real qualities of our modern world. To get to my dream, I must go back a year...

In the fall of 2011, my father had seen a poster for a short film called My Own Two Wheels, and on a rainy afternoon he convinced me to get out of the house and see it at the local community center. Having always enjoyed the connection that I share with my father through cycling, I was already intrigued, but I had no idea what to expect. In short, I was blown away. This film was a documentary about the profound effects that donated bicycles can have on peoples' lives around the world. From a schoolgirl in India, to a caregiver in Zambia, these people used the gift of two wheels to empower themselves to education and even save lives. Considering this video, I thought that if such a simple tool like a bike could make such a difference, then I too should be able to make a powerful and positive impact on the world.

Considering the potential ways that I could contribute to the world and have a real, life altering and light shedding, experience, I decided that I wanted to experience what I had seen on those very screens; the smiles, the lives, the trying conditions, the triumphs, the journey. I want to get outside of myself and, through that process, become exposed to not only the realities of this world, but the simple solutions that we can provide.

My dream is to see and experience this kind of change that something as simple as a bicycle can create. Going to a third world country and being involved with the implementation of these bicycles, I believe that I would have a lot to gain from this type of journey. With an incredible insight into an entirely different culture and lifestyle, this would allow me to gain a healthy perspective on the privileges that I have been blessed with up to this point in my life and learn more about what I can do to help those less fortunate. Not having been exposed to a third world country before, I can only imagine the respect and humility that I would derive from the people involved, the hands-on experiences, and the perspectives gained. While I do not feel that my life presently lacks a direction or a type of stability, I feel that being exposed to such a contrasting culture and environment could provide me with a healthy check to my current balance and associated purposes in life.

Engaging with such a passionate and committed group of people, I believe that this type of experience would not only help me develop as a person, but would also allow me to start to give back to various communities in need.

SECTION 3: How will you achieve this dream?

Now that you've told us about your dream, go into detail about how you will achieve your dream. Is there a class you can attend, a program where you can work, or a professional you can shadow? Show us the exact steps you will take to make your dream a reality.

Address solutions to any potential problems that you might encounter on your trip.

Be specific here. Show us that you have thought in detail about how you can achieve your dream. In addition to a description of your project, please include a budget that explains where you will spend the \$1,500.

To make this dream a reality, I am proposing to join an existing trip that the World Bicycle Relief organizes. This nine-day adventure offers people an exclusive opportunity to meet recipients of the World Bicycle Relief project, while simultaneously experiencing the spirit of ingenuity and hope that comes with a bicycle. Building your own bicycle when you arrive in Zambia, you go on to ride alongside entrepreneurs, healthcare workers, and students, as you learn their stories and see the profound, yet simple, impact that two wheels can have on an individual and a community. This trip fully immerses you into the culture of Zambia, the lives and conditions of the individuals receiving the bikes, and the empowering effects of a bicycle.

Flying into Lusaka, Zambia, you meet as a group and are introduced to the facilities and operations of the World Bicycle Relief. On the first full day, each participant builds their own bicycle that they will use for the remainder of the trip with local Zambians working for the project. Meeting all sorts of people involved with the World Bicycle relief, you gain a sense of how the program is implemented and connects with the local culture. For the next several days, you move around the villages and participate in everything from a bike distribution ceremony and visits to students' homes, to joining caregivers on their daily visits. In addition, participants are given another insight into this region of the world with a day of safari in South Luangwa National Park, which I must admit has always been another dream of mine. Returning to Lusaka on the 9th day, you are driven to the airport and return to the US.

Spending 9 days (8 nights) in Zambia, I could join this program on July 20th-28th. I have raised much of the necessary funds to pay for the cost of the trip, but the \$1,500 from the Dream Project would help cover the remaining cost of my trip. The flight will cost around \$1400 with the use of some flyer miles and I will also be flying out of Boston, as I am there for most of the summer months. There are some required vaccinations for entering Zambia, but I am currently up to date on all of those shots. Travel insurance, a single entry visa into Zambia, and other travel

fees will amount to \$100. Some additional clothing and supplies will also be purchased, but will amount to no more than \$100. In case of any unforeseen events, I will also have \$200 for emergencies. If these funds are not used, I will donate them to the World Bicycle Relief program. Traveling to Zambia, I will be with a large group of people, some of whom know the region very well and can provide any assistance I require. The region is also very stable, but in case

COSTS FOR DREAM PROJECT	
Flight Boston Lusaka:	\$1,400
Vaccinations:	\$0
Visa, Travel Fees, Travel Insurance:	\$100
Extra Clothing/Supplies:	\$100
Emergency Funds:	\$200
Trip Package (Including food, housing, bike, and additional transportation)	\$1,500
TOTAL	\$3,300

of any emergency, there is a U.S. embassy in Lusaka.

Finally, the World Bicycle Relief trip package costs \$1,500, but that includes all food, housing, the bicycle, and additional transportation within Zambia. Additional information can be found at worldbicyclerelief.org/programs/africarides