

For my Hero Project I interviewed Danny Hairston the founder of the SHRED foundation. The SHRED foundation helps kids who can't afford the expensive sport of snowboarding. I think this is really important because I snowboard and it costs a lot of money. It's also not super accessible because you need snow and a lot of gear so you don't freeze, you also need to rent or buy a board which can vary between \$30-\$167 (These were the prices I've saw) Danny talked about "Having more resorts work with outreach programs" I think this is important because I love snowboarding and I think everyone should try it because it's very different than playing football, soccer, basketball, baseball, etc. You can learn it very fast on your own and even faster with others. The more accessible it is the more popular it will get which will allow more programs that help kids learn.

Danny talks about the entry fee and how SHRED helps kids who can't afford it. He said "The biggest hurdle is the price of entry, and it's something we try to work on here at Shred." I agree with this because most people can't try it due to the price of learning because the first day I could only heel edge and I would fall. Once I went up again a month later I could turn, It takes time, endurance, and money. But the end result is worth it because you can meet lots of people on the slope or in the lodge. I believe that the price of it is a little ridiculous but it's very fun and a workout, it's mainly about believing in yourself and getting up once you fall.

Danny talked about "watching kids once they get snowboarding, once they make their first turn, once it links up." It's one of the best feelings once you finally land a trick or try something new and do it without falling. He said "our goal is really to provide the opportunity" The more people who have access to learn the more people will enjoy the sport. He mentioned that they provide everything and that it's free for the kids. I think it is very cool that the kids get to learn without having to pay which I mentioned many times the price is the real barrier to learning snow sports. I asked him about the skate program which is mentioned on their website. He said it was in its infancy because there's more components to skating than snowboarding. I have snowboarded for around 19 days total throughout my life. I've skateboarded for around 7 months. It's much harder on your body and it allows more full body movement.

I asked Danny about what the hardest part of teaching kids to snowboarding is and he said "sometimes it's the patience to be quite honest, having to be able to know how to encourage each individual student in a manner that encourages them and not discourages them. That doesn't fail to create a safe space for them." I think this is important because feeling safe or not afraid can make a big difference. I was hitting a jump and someone was on the other side sitting down. I hit them then caught an edge very hard. After that for the rest of the time I didn't try anything new, I was afraid to fall. I felt safe but after that I didn't want to do anything.

I think the SHRED foundation is a great foundation to donate to because they get kids from urban areas and get them on the slopes. Instead of just one time they try to get them more than once so that they can think about working with the SHRED foundation or at the resorts. If you would like to contact Danny his email is Danny@shredfoundation.org.