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State: Oregon

At the age of three I learned to ride a bike without training wheels. From there I fell in love not only with the sport, but with the complex contraption we call a bike. Being a younger sibling I always had hand-me-down bikes but I dreamed of having one to call my own. In elementary school I began my first attempt at entrepreneurship when I started my first official business offering general services. I even made flyers to send to family and friends. With the money I made from mowing lawns, pet sitting and washing cars I bought my first real mountain bike. But I didn't stop there. I started mountain biking and couldn't get enough of it so I joined a mountain bike team and now race competitively.

I had the opportunity to join a bike club in middle school. I began to teach myself how to work on bikes and soon became the teaching assistant and trained other students. Wanting to learn more, I turned my focus to small engines and began to invest in dirt bikes. I bought broken or neglected small dirt bikes, cleaned them up, made repairs, then flipped them for a profit. I learned valuable skills from this experience but realized my passion was in bike maintenance. With business and investing experience I started my second business, a bicycle tune up shop out of my garage. I marketed my business through digital flyers sent to family and friends and local community sites and now have many satisfied customers.

When I turned fifteen this past fall I volunteered at a local non-profit bike shop. With my experience and knowledge of bike maintenance I was hired on as a bike service manager. During school I can only work weekends so I am investing in personal shop tools and equipment to expand my home business and keep improving my skills. I have loved working at the bike shop learning new things and gaining valuable life skills. You may see a pattern in my story, through my drive for mountain biking I have turned toward entrepreneurship and marketing. I am now pursuing the business and marketing college career pathway in my high school. I plan to focus on business and entrepreneurship by learning personal management, marketing, planning, finance, and resource management. This will set me up for a degree in entrepreneurship or business and to one day open my own bike shop.

My love for cycling has ignited a passion for entrepreneurship and transformed a childhood hobby into a potential future. By combining my technical knowledge with the knowledge I'm gaining in school, I'm well on my way to achieving my dream of opening my own bike shop, a place where I can combine my passion for cycling with my desire to run a successful business.