

Hello Future Sacajawea Scavenger!

When you chose your Scramble, you made the decision of a lifetime. And you chose wisely. We are so excited to meet you and help you get ready for your time at Whitman. The purpose of this letter is to introduce ourselves and let you know what to expect when you get to Walla Walla in August.

Your leaders:

Hello friends! My name is **Megan Gauglitz** and let me just say that I am so excited to meet each of you. More so than Aslan in the first springtime after a hundred years of winter. We are going to have a marvelous blast. Anyway, this year I'm a junior and though my major remains up in the air, I believe it will be something along the environmental vein. I spend most of my time doing happy things, from learning the art of croissant-making to tinkering with Tchaikovsky in the music building.

Hello, I'm **Paul Minor** I'm from Seattle. I'm going into sophomore year and have not declared my major yet. My first year at Whitman I played ultimate Frisbee and worked at an elementary school. This summer I'm am living on the American River in California working as a rafting guide. I cannot wait to meet you guys and enjoy a splendid week in the backcountry.

Hello all! My name is **Max Lloyd** and I am a Math and Physics Major going into my senior year. At Whitman I am a part of the volleyball team and work in the SSRA program as a climbing instructor. I really enjoy backpacking, climbing and a rousing card game in my spare time! I am very excited to meet the group and can't wait to see to see each of you as you start your Whitman careers!

Trip logistics:

We'll be meeting in Walla Walla on **Wednesday, August 20 at 1:00 PM** in the Reid Campus Center where we will do introductions, check and rent gear, pack up, and get ready to head out. At that time, you will be able to place anything you will not be taking on the Scramble into storage. We will then stay on campus that night and the next day we'll drive to the beautiful Wallowa National Forest. Our days will range from around four to ten miles per day and most will include plenty of time for swimming, cooking, reading, lounging, playing games and getting to know each other. We'll be camping near beautiful mountain lakes/creeks, so be sure to bring your swimsuits and a tolerance for cold water. We'll head back to Whitman on Wednesday, August 27 around 3pm when we shall scramble to unpack and clean until the supercool Scramble picnic at 6pm on the Reid Campus Center side lawn. During this picnic, skits and songs will be performed by all the Scrambles to exhibit our creative skills. Your parents, if they are on campus, are welcome and encouraged to attend the picnic. You can check into your residence hall that evening, though you will not be able to access what you put in storage before the trip until the next morning.

Arriving at Whitman- *Please fill out the Travel Plans Google Form* so that we can greet you with sufficient flare and enthusiasm. If you are flying or taking a bus into Walla Walla, we will come pick you up at the Walla Walla airport/bus stop. If you are arriving a day or two before the trip, don't worry, we will have a place for you to stay off campus. You will be able to dump your belongings in campus storage when you arrive, however you will not have access to them until the morning after the Scramble picnic. You can also leave things in one of our off campus houses if you would prefer.

A few tips:

It is very important that you ***break in your hiking boots!*** While it may seem super spiffy to bring a brand new pair on the trip, the **blisters** will make you regret it. The best way to avoid that if you do need to buy a new pair (or if you have an old pair you haven't worn recently) is to wear them as much as possible before the trip around to break them in! Also, make sure these are actual hiking boots and not just a pair of sneakers—you want something that will go above your ankles for good support to avoid any twists.

Pack layers! The weather in the Wallowas in August can be unpredictable. Hiking days can be HOT (80s-90s) or cool and night temps can be in the 40s to 50s. There is a chance that we will experience some rain, especially at night when it really cools off. **A good raincoat is VERY important.** And for optimal comfort in the backcountry, you want to be cool when it's hot, warm when it's cold, and dry when it's wet. So that means layers. Take that gear list seriously! Fleece is a great material that is warm but lightweight. That being said, don't feel like you need to go out on an REI binge, and don't over-pack so much that you have no room to carry any extra group gear. If you have any questions, just ask! Also, remember that we will have the opportunity to visit storage after packing our backpacks, so if you have one or two items you're not sure about, bring them and we can always downsize.

A note on safety: All of us are trained in First Aid and CPR, and all of us are Wilderness First Responders (which means we have gone through 80 hours of wilderness medicine training). While we do not anticipate needing to use this training, we are prepared for situations that may arise.

If you have **any** questions or concerns this summer as you are preparing for this adventure, please don't hesitate to contact Max Lloyd at lloydwm@whitman.edu (970) 689-0443 or Megan Gauglitz at gauglima@whitman.edu.

We are all so excited to meet and get to know each of you and start you on your Whitman adventure. Scrambles are a really incredible start to your Whitman experience and each of us is honored to be able to be part of it. Each of us has led/participated in Scrambles previously, and are eager to be of any assistance that we can. Until then, have a wonderful summer and we will see you in August!

Megan, Paul, and Max