

Hello Future Face the Hurricane traveler!

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:

Jacob Frei is an Environmental Studies-Politics major and Theatre minor from Oakland, CA. Some of the most rewarding experiences from his first two years at Whitman include acting and working backstage in Harper Joy Theatre productions, leading OP trips, forming lasting friendships with an eclectic group of Whitties, and winning an IM Soccer championship blue shirt. Now a junior, he hopes to continue exploring his area of academic interest in environmental politics while pushing for increased sustainability on campus.

Jenna Rolle is a senior geology major who hails from Portland, Oregon and is wild about rocks and hiking. She grew up being toted around the Sierras in a backpack by her parents, instilling in her an avid love for the outdoors. Her other passions include collecting rocks and fossils, reading novels, playing IM sports, and the occasional dabble into playing the banjo. She looks forward to meeting new faces, sharing some senior wisdom and cooking up some delicious meals in the Wallawas.

Savannah McNichol is a junior BBMB major from Sebastopol CA (about an hour north of San Francisco). She is spending the summer in Walla Walla working on turning on and off plant genes and fulfilling her mission of finding the best swimming hole in eastern Washington. Besides swimming, she loves backpacking, cloud- and star-gazing, cooking, lingering at meals, spotting wildlife, and soaking up the wilderness in the company of fellow Whitties! This is such a great way to start college, and she is stoked to be able to share it with all of you.

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 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 and start at the Coon Creek campground. 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 Savannah or Jacob, who are your main contacts. Our contact information is: Savannah- mcnichsr@whitman.edu, and her phone number is 707-321-4828. Jacob- freija@whitman.edu and his phone number is 510-316-8005.

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!

Jacob, Jenna, and Savannah