

Hello School of Hard Rocks Scramblers!

Hello new climbing partners! My name is **Gibson Collins** I've been on two trips to Smith Rocks, and it remains one of my favorite places to climb in the Northwest. I've dabbled with climbing since I was about 16, but it wasn't until I came to Whitman and discovered the enthusiastic climbing community here that I really fell in love with the sport. This fall I will be a junior, embarking on Whitman's Environmental Studies program, Semester-in-the-West, on which I will explore the inland west via caravan and tent. I am currently an Environmental-Humanities major, and spend my time at Whitman writing papers, acting in productions at the Harper-Joy Theater, rock-climbing, and back-country skiing. On campus, you can likely find me either at play rehearsal in the theater or teaching a class in the climbing gym. This summer I will be acting at the O'Neill Theater Institute in Connecticut, and climbing with all of you! Have a wonderful rest of your summers, and I can't wait to meet you all!
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My name is **Woody Jacobson**. I am from Mercer Island, Washington, just outside of Seattle. I am a Senior Politics major with minors in Rhetoric and Chinese Language. When I'm not climbing I enjoy playing soccer and tennis, skiing, surfing, and cheering on my favorite teams: Arsenal FC, the Seattle Seahawks, the Seattle Sounders, and of course the US Men's National Team. After a childhood filled with whitewater rafting, backpacking (usually more like bushwhacking), and climbing trips with my family, I have always been passionate about spending time in the outdoors. I just got back from a semester spent studying abroad in Australia, and I'm really stoked to kick off my return to Whitman by being one of your scramble leaders. I can't wait to share my love of being covered in dirt and sweat, sleeping in bags, and of course, climbing rocks with each and every one of you!

A quick trip itinerary:

At the end of the summer, but not quite when school's ready to start, we'll all arrive in fair Walla Walla. The August weather during the day usually is pretty warm but the evenings are comfortably cool. On the 20th of August (Wednesday), we'll all meet up in Reid Campus Center at 1 pm and Scrambles will be off and running! That afternoon is going to be really busy getting all of our gear ready, teaching some essential climbing skills and then eating dinner. We'll go over everyone's equipment to make sure that we all have the right things to have fun, be happy, and stay safe for the whole trip. We'll spend the night on campus (we'll have a place for you all) and then head out early the next morning for Central Oregon!

We will be at Smith Rocks for a total six days but might use one of those for a rest day at the beautiful Suttle Lake outside of Sisters, OR. A typical day will have us eating breakfast at the campsite, driving 10 minutes to the trailhead, then walking to our morning climbs. We'll take a break for lunch in the shade during the hottest part of the day and then hopefully get back to some more climbing. When we head back to our campsite, we might have some downtime, but pretty soon we'll get working on dinner (followed by dishes, digestion, fires, relaxation, stargazing, and sleep!) Be prepared for very hot weather during the days when we're down there! A packing list is included but be sure to bring lots of sunscreen, sunglasses,

sun hats, water bottles, and anything else that will keep you cool. That being said, it can also get pretty cold at night, so bring warm layers too. We're not saying to pack an entire wardrobe; you should just be prepared for the different temperatures. Checking a 10-day forecast before leaving isn't a bad idea either. All group gear for the trip will be provided, but you are responsible for personal gear such as sleeping bags, pads, and clothing unless you are renting them from the college. Check the gear list carefully.

We will arrive back on campus on the 27th at which time you will get to hear about all the other Scramblers' adventures at a big picnic, and then later that night you get to move into your residence halls. We can't wait to meet all of you and hope you are as excited as we are for our Scramble!

Yours most sincerely,

Gibson and Woody

If you have any questions about anything please do not hesitate to write us an email.

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