

What's up Rosstafarian Adventure Scramblers!

That's right, you have signed up for the sweetest canoeing + backpacking scramble Whitman has to offer. This trip will be led by the talented, funny and incredibly good-looking Grant Laco, Stacie Bellairs, and Robby Dorn. We will put the "can" back in canoeing by delivering only the finest of tin-guarded delicacies and enough granola to subdue 1960s Berkeley! We're here to put the "amble" back in scramble as we glide across the gorgeous Ross Lake wilderness with smooth paddling and then backpack back to the start; and we will ensure that no pun goes unvoiced.

Now a little about your leaders:

Grant is a Junior Psychology major, who also enjoys Economics. He's from Plymouth, Minnesota and has a passion for the outdoors. In his spare time, Grant enjoys throwing the Frisbee, playing chess, doing handstands and having long conversations. This summer, he'll be leading canoe trips for YMCA Camp Widjiwagan in Minnesota. His top three colors are green, orange, and purple. If he had to guess, he would say that a grizzly bear could probably beat up a crocodile, but he acknowledges that it would definitely be a close match and he would definitely be open to counter-arguments.

Robby is a Junior Chemistry major from the North Star State, just like Grant and Stacie - Edina, specifically. He is on the men's swim team at Whitman, but with an amphibious nature he enjoys running, reading, the occasional tree climb, and dogs of any kind. This summer, Robby will be taking a hiatus from camp counseling, and studying abroad across in Barcelona. He enjoys singing all Disney songs, but is definitely biased to those from the Lion King.

Stacie is Sophomore intended Biology major who is also from the fine state of Minnesota, the city of Minneapolis to be exact. In college, she enjoys walking through the Walla Walla wheat fields, eating ice cream and spending as much time as she can outside. This summer she'll be leading canoe trips with a camp, close to Grant's, called YMCA Camp Warren. Petting baby animals, listening to Beyoncé, wandering under tall pine trees and playing guitar are a few of her favorite things. She is beyond excited to get to know you, learn about your passions and hear about everything you are excited about for your first year.

Now on to **Trip Logistics:**

On August 19th, we'll meet at 1:00 pm in the Ballroom of Reid Campus Center with the rest of the scramblers, leaders, and parents to introduce ourselves and go over personal gear, group gear, food, medical forms, etc. Scramblers will not be able to access their dorm rooms at this point, but everything you bring that is not coming with us to Ross Lake can be stored at the college until August 28th when Anderson storage opens up.

We will spend the night of the 19th in Whitman's Douglas Hall with our fellow scramblers and leave at 7:00 a.m. sharp the next morning. If you need to rent essential items such as a sleeping bag or rain jacket you will be able to reserve them from the Outdoor Program Rental Shop and pick them up before we leave. Most of day two will be spent driving to North Cascades National Park where we will stay the night at Colonial Creek campground before embarking on our wilderness adventure the next morning!

The following two days will consist of three to nine miles of paddling per day punctuated by plenty of snack breaks and the occasional mid-lake swim (with personal floatation devices, of course)! A relaxed pace is our objective; however, the lake can be windy in the afternoon which may necessitate early morning departures. We'll usually get into camp in the late afternoon and enjoy each other's company into the evening when we will all prepare delicious food together. Here we will depart with our boats, giving them to our sister Scramble and take to the land.

Day three will consist of an optional and weather dependent day hike up to Desolation Peak where the entire lake and surrounding area (Canada, too!) can be seen from the top. Days four through five will consist of backpacking along the lake back to our car. On day six we will start heading back towards Walla Walla stopping at the Palouse Falls campsite for the night. The 27th of August marks the end of our expedition and drive back to Whitman. We should be back by 3pm. Upon arriving back to the college in the afternoon, we will clean and return gear to the OP, unpack, shower, and enjoy a final dinner together at 6:00 p.m. with the rest of the scramblers (parents are invited too)! You will be able to check into your rooms between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m., but any actual moving in will not take place until the next day-the 28th.

Enclosed is a recommended packing list for the trip. If you intend to rent anything from the OP we recommend reserving your items now since many other scramblers will be renting as well. We will be living on and around water for a week, so make sure the shoes you bring for the canoeing portion can get wet and will also protect your feet. Chacos, Tevas, Crocs, water shoes and old tennis shoes work well while flip-flops or any shoes without a back strap will not. Hiking boots are required for the backpacking portion.

Lastly, August weather is notoriously unpredictable so be prepared for rain or shine (and bugs). While it will maybe hot and sunny, we are just as likely to experience rain or even sleet/hail, so bring warm, insulating layers made of wool or synthetic materials that will keep you warm even when wet. Avoid bringing cotton clothing as it is heavy, it does not keep you warm when wet, and it dries slowly (this means no jeans or sweatshirts)!

Questions about the trip or college in general? Feel free to contact us during the summer and let the adventures begin! If you are arriving early please contact us so that we can arrange for airport pick-up and a place for you to stay if necessary.

Love,
Your super stoked scramble leaders!

Contact: Stacie Bellairs (bellaiak@whitman.edu)
(612)-670-1492 (email preferred-- I will respond as fast as I can!)