Dear Elkhorn Extravaganza Scrambler,

Hello there! We're so excited you're coming to Whitman College! One of the great things about being an incoming student at Whitman is the Scramble trip for which you've signed up... and also the Walla Walla sweet onions that Whitman sends you! Here's a little bit about your leaders followed by some logistics and details about the trip:

**Sarah:** Hello! I'm Sarah. I'm so excited to lead a scramble with y'all. I will be a junior in the fall and I'm a Film and Media studies major and a Geology minor. I am from Boston, Massachusetts but I've always been a west coaster at heart. In my free time, I play on Whitman’s Ultimate Frisbee team, the Sweets, and I am the student coordinator for a mentoring program called Eye to Eye. The ocean has been and will always be my one true love when it comes to the outdoors but I also like skiing, hiking, and biking. This summer I will be living in Walla Walla and working for Whitman College. I'm so stoked to meet you all and have the best scramble ever.

Certifications: Wilderness First Responder, CPR

**Alex:** HOWDY! My name is Alex and I am so enthused to be one of your Scramble Leaders this Summer! I come from Boise, ID where I grew up backpacking, fly fishing, mountain biking, skiing, playing music, and goofing around with my three sisters. I am an up and rising Junior at Whitman, and just declared a Music major with Geology and French minors after being generally indecisive for two years. At Whitman I also play for the Ultimate Frisbee Team, am a member of the Orchestra, and am the team manager for the new Women's Lacrosse Team. Until the time of our Scramble, I will be in Boise working at the best stir fry restaurant in the continental United States, and volunteering at the Boise Rock School (It's like School of Rock), and of course getting on my bike whenever I have the time. I can’t wait to meet you all and we are going to have a wonderful time!

Certifications: Wilderness First Responder, CPR

**Maddy:** I’m Maddy and I am so excited to meet all of you in August! I was born and raised in Portland, Oregon and enjoy rock climbing, hiking, and mountaineering in the Pacific Northwest. I will be a sophomore next year and am undeclared in terms of a major but am thinking Environmental Studies/Biology. At Whitman, I am on the Women's Lacrosse Team (Managed by Alex, of course), the club climbing team, lead trips for the Outdoor Program, and am involved in SAW which is a student run agriculture group. This summer I will be lifeguarding in Portland, attending the Vancouver Folk Festival in B.C., and going on some fun climbing and backpacking trips with friends! Since coming to Whitman, I have found great contentment in the outdoor community and am so excited to welcome you all into our loving arms!

Certifications: Wilderness First Responder, CPR, Lifeguard

Now, for the plan...

We will be meeting in the Young Ballroom in Reid Campus Center at Whitman on August 21 at 2:15pm. After some introductory information, we will assemble gear and practice the art of packing backpacks. This will be the last opportunity to put any remaining gear or possessions into storage, which will then be locked until move-in day, which is the day after we arrive back at Whitman. We will spend that first night on campus. In the morning we will head to the Elkhorn Mountains in Oregon (about a three hour drive) and then set out from the trailhead. Our days are planned to range from 2-6 miles, and with lots of time for cooking, reading, lounging, playing and swimming (we plan to camp by some beautiful mountain lakes). On our third day we plan to have a layover day to rest, with the option of a peak ascent, depending on weather and the group. On August 26 we
will head back to Whitman, arrive around 3 pm, and spend a few hours unpacking, cleaning gear, and taking some glorious showers before the all-Scramble picnic at 6 pm on the Reid Campus Center side lawn (which, as a heads-up, includes a skit/song/dance from each Scramble). That night you will be able to check into your dorms, and the next morning the Anderson storage will be open so you can move on in.

**Tid-bits…**

**Break in your hiking boots:** blisters aren’t fun. Put on your boots, walk around your house, your yard, or your town. If possible, go take a hike. We will have foot kits to deal with any hot spots that arise, but it’s more fun for all if we are comfy in our shoes.

**Pack layers:** Though it should be relatively warm, mountain weather is unpredictable, and the nights tend to cool down considerably. A raincoat is a necessity. The gear list is your good friend. Bring a swimsuit for those (cold) mountain lakes! Also, if you’re unsure about one or two items bring them and we can always leave them on campus.

**First aid:** All three of us are Wilderness First Responder certified and CPR certified.

**As a final note, please fill out the Travel Plans Google Form** [https://goo.gl/nF1zwH](https://goo.gl/nF1zwH) (also available on the Scrambler Resources Page) so we know when and how you will be arriving in Walla Walla. This form lets us know if you will need to be picked up, or if we will need to work with you on a place to stay if you arrive early.

If you have any questions or concerns, even little things, don’t hesitate to contact Sarah at adams@whitman.edu or (617) 794-4181 (or text to chat!). Once again, we can’t wait to meet you in August, and in the meantime, have an excellent summer!

See you soon!

Sarah Adams, Alex Hardesty, and Maddy Poehlein