Dear Epic Elkhorn Escape Scramblers,

Get ready. Get set. Because our Scramble is coming up soon! Whether you have never been camping before or you grew up in a tent, we hope you are as excited as we are to spend a week together having fun, hiking through the beautiful Elkhorn Mountains, and making some of your first friends from Whitman!

Your Leaders:

Evan Romasco-Kelly:

Hey crew! I’m a sophomore from lovely Bainbridge Island, Washington, and I am stoked to be leading your Scramble, which just so happens to be the very Scramble I went on last year! I am also your summer contact, so if you have any worries, concerns, words of wisdom, or jokes (especially jokes), send me an email or give me a call (my info is below)! Now, a little about me: I have skied and car-camped almost my whole life, but my interest in outdoor adventure really took off two years ago when I took semester-long course with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) in Wyoming and Utah, which included building and living in a snow shelter (similar to an igloo) for eight days! I love to backpack, rock climb, ski, and mountain bike! On the non-outdoor front, I am interested in Politics, Geology, and Art, and I am excited to start my second year at Whitman!

A show I like to binge-watch: BBC’s Sherlock (all nine glorious episodes!)
A small thing that makes me very happy: funny videos my brother sends me when he probably should be working

Contact information: as your summer contact, I will be checking my email throughout the summer so I can answer any questions you might have! If it’s urgent, feel free to give me a call or send me a text too!

Email: romascet@whitman.edu
Cell: (206) 295-8499

Rachel Needham:

Hi all! I’m Rachel from Charlottesville, Virginia. I’m a sophomore planning to double-major in Geology and Sociology (yes, anything is possible). The most important thing for you to know about me is that I don’t eat jelly. My outdoor interests include backpacking, surfing, rock climbing, falling downwards in the snow (“skiing”), and getting sunburns! I started backpacking on an Outward Bound course the summer before my junior year of high school and I’ve been walking around with heavy things ever since! Last summer I solo-hiked the 220-mile John Muir Trail in Yosemite, California and I dream of someday doing the Camino de Santiago in Spain. I’m so excited to meet you all, and we’re going to have a great Scramble!

A show I like to binge-watch: New Girl
A small thing that makes me very happy: Tiny bats eating bananas.

Catherine Maier:

Hey Scramblers! I’m Cat from Yakima, WA (AKA the Palm Springs of Washington). I’m a junior majoring in Anthropology, minoring in Geology, and doing the Pre-med track. I pretty much grew up in a tent (because my parents just really like the outdoors) and I have been wandering around
outside since before I could walk. I love the outdoors whether it’s climbing, backpacking, running, skiing, mountain biking, going on picnic, or really just doing anything outside makes me happy. This is my third year doing scrambles (the second year leading), and I’m so excited to meet you all and have this amazing adventure with you before the school year.

A show I like to binge-watch: Arrow
A small thing that makes me very happy: When puppies sneeze!

Itinerary and Logistics

Day 1: We will all meet at the Reid Campus Center at Whitman at 2:15 pm on August 20 where we will go through everyone’s gear, rent anything we need, and then get to know each other! We are going to spend the night of the 20th on campus before we drive down to the mountains the next morning! Also, it might be a good idea to bring a few extra dollars for some snacks for the drive the next morning.

Day 2: We’ll wake up, eat some breakfast and then drive about 2.5 hours south to the Anthony Lakes trailhead in the Elkhorn Mountains in Oregon. When we arrive, we plan to hike about a mile and set up camp at a lake.

Day 3: We plan for a 7 mile hike to another lake.

Day 4: We plan to hike to ANOTHER LAKE! Yay!

Day 5: We plan for a shorter day to leave us ready for our day tomorrow, when we might have the option of ascending Elkhorn Peak, depending on the weather and the group.

Day 6: This is our day to CRUSH a peak ascent – this is totally optional. We’ll have the chance to hike up Elkhorn Peak, but if you are not feeling it that day, there will also be the option to take a more relaxed day hike in the area!

Day 7 and Return: We’ll hike out to the cars left for us by our sister Scramble and then head back to Whitman. When we arrive back on campus (3:00 pm at the latest), we will first clean up and return our group gear and any personal gear rented from the Outdoor Program. At 6:00, we will go together to the Scramble closing dinner/ceremony on the side lawn of the Reid Campus Center. If there is time after the cleaning is done and before dinner (which there should be), you will have a chance to take a shower, and meet up with any family or friends there to meet you!

Safety. We will be in a wilderness area during our Scramble, meaning that we will be more than one hour away from an emergency medical facility. In the unlikely event that someone needs medical attention, all three of us are certified Wilderness First Responders. We are committed to keeping our Scramble happy and healthy!

Gear. It’s important that you bring all the gear on the gear list, but don’t panic if there are some things you don’t have. Many of the items on the list are available for you to rent very easily from the Outdoor Program rental shop. When packing clothes, avoid cotton if you can because it is very hard to dry if it gets wet. If you have questions about gear, please don’t hesitate to contact Evan and ask away!
**Pro-tips:**

*Break in your hiking boots!* Blisters are a big ole bummer. Happy feet = happy hikers. If you’re getting new boots for the Scramble, make sure you spend a few days prancing around in your cool kicks before you arrive. Wearing them around beforehand will also give you a chance to adjust if you need insoles.

*Pack layers!* Mountain weather can be unpredictable and cold even in the summertime, so it is nice to be able to adjust what you are wearing to the temperature. For example, it would be better to have a base layer, a fleece, and a rain jacket (which you can wear in several different combinations) instead of one big insulated ski jacket (which might be too hot). Make sure you have warm layers and a rain jacket so you stay dry if it rains.

**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.

The Elkhorn Mountains!