Hello Face the Hurricane Scramblers!

We hope you’re as excited as we are for our Face the Hurricane scramble! We’re all so excited to meet you all and spend a week in the great outdoors together. Scrambling is a great way to start your four years here, and we feel lucky to introduce you to Whitman in such an awesome way. We wanted to let you know what to expect from the trip, lay out some logistics, and introduce ourselves.

A little bit about us

**Lowell Bolton**—Hello scramblers! My name is Lowell, I’ll be a sophomore at Whitman next year, and I’m SO EXCITED for this trip. I’m from Okemos, Michigan, where I planned my escape for 19 years (just kidding, I love it there). After high school I dipped over to New Zealand for a year, and after a lot of backpacking, hitchhiking, and farm work, I made my way over to Walla Walla. Here I spend my free time slacklining, climbing, hiking, gardening, sleeping in my hammock, and lying in the grass. I’m never good at these write-about-yourself paragraphs, but that’s okay because we’ll have plenty of time to get to know each other this summer! Get stoked.

**Katie Gillespie**—Hi! I’m a rising senior (when did that happen?!) math major originally from Portland, Oregon. I grew up camping and hiking with my family on Mt. Hood and around Eastern Oregon. Since coming to Whitman, I’ve become an avid backpacker, getting into the wilderness whenever I can. I would say my most cool backpacking experience so far was a 4-day solo trip two summers ago in the beautiful Wallowa Mountains near Whitman. In the backcountry, I love cooking delicious food, trekking up mountains to gorgeous views, and sleeping under the stars and seeing how many shooting stars I can count. I’m spending the first half of summer in Walla Walla working at a local 3D printing company, trying to apply my major to a real career, then climbing mountains and enjoying the outdoors for the second half. I’m stoked to spend a week in the beautiful Wallowas with you all.

**Miya Frank**—Hello! My name is Miya (pronounced like Mia) and I will be a sophomore at Whitman next year. I am from Portland, Oregon where I attended a teeny-tiny high school (my graduating class was 15) so I have loved all of the relationships I have formed at Whitman! Growing up, I spent a good deal of my summers camping/exploring the surrounding wilderness with my family, and have always loved the outdoors. Some of my favorite things include eating great food, swimming in natural bodies of water, and exploring new places. Our Scramble will hopefully include a little of all of these and I cannot wait! My Scramble last year is one of my fondest memories from Whitman, so get stoked!

Logistics

We will be meeting in the Young Ballroom in **Reid Campus Center** at Whitman on **August 19 at 2:15 PM**. 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, the day after we arrive back at Whitman. We’ll spend that first night on campus getting to know each other.

In the morning we will head to the Wallowa Mountains in Oregon (about a 4 hour drive) and then set out from the trailhead. We plan to cover from 4-8 miles each day; some will be flat and some steep. We plan to have lots of time for cooking, reading, lounging, playing and swimming. Depending on the group and if weather permits, we might summit Eagle Cap, the namesake to the Eagle Cap wilderness, and Sacajawea Peak later in the trip. Summiting the peaks isn’t mandatory—you are free to stay in camp with one of the leaders and anyone else who doesn’t want to summit.
On **August 26** we'll hike out and drive back to Whitman, spend a few hours unpacking, cleaning gear, and taking some glorious showers before the all-Scramble picnic at **6 PM** on the Reid side lawn (which, as a heads-up, includes a skit/song/dance from each Scramble). That night, from 8-9 PM, you will be able to check into your dorms; however, you won’t be able to access anything you put in storage before the scramble until the next morning. **Move-in day for all Scramblers is August 27th.**

**A few tid-bits and recommendations**

**Break in your hiking boots:** blisters aren’t fun. If you’ve bought new boots, make sure you give them some love before the trip. Put ‘em on, 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. It’s a good idea to bring one more layer than you think you’ll need—even if you don’t use it, a friend who gets colder than expected might really appreciate it. A raincoat is a necessity. Before heading out we will have an opportunity to visit the storage room one more time, so if you’re unsure about your gear, bring lots of stuff and we can always leave the extras on campus.

**First aid:** All of us are Wilderness First Responder 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 Katie at gilleskl@whitman.edu or (503) 764-8990 (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!
Lowell Bolton, Katie Gillespie, and Miya Frank