Hello, Glacial Glow Scramblers!

First things first, we cannot wait to see your shining faces and welcome you to Whitman! We are your goofy, genuine, gleeful, grizzly, gallivanting Glacial Glow leaders! In our humble, and entirely biased opinion, choosing this Scramble was 100% the right decision. Here is a little information from each of your leaders, followed by some important details concerning logistics, packing, and the like.

Natalie - Howdy, I'm Natalie! I'm a Biology major and a Chemistry minor and will be a junior this coming fall. I was born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico (the enchanted land of desert snow storms, endless sunshine, and delicious green chile chicken enchiladas). I grew up doing lots of adventuring outdoors and have spent a wonderful amount of time in the backcountry. I also spent a semester exploring some of the nooks and crannies of the Western U.S. with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). I love to ski, hike, climb, bike, bake pies, doodle, read, giggle, play lacrosse, and pretend I'm a part of Tina Fey and Amy Poehler's friendship. This summer I will be working on an Environmental Science project studying the response of trees to simulated climate change conditions. I'd be more than happy to answer any and all questions you might have. Get psyched, I hiked this route last summer and it was incredibly beautiful and such a blast!

Amanda - Hello! My name is Amanda. I was born in the wonderful city of Boulder, Colorado, but I spent most of my life in Los Alamos, New Mexico. Gotta love that Land of Enchantment! I will be a sophomore this fall at Whitman and plan to major in BBMB (Biophysics, Biochemistry, and Molecular Biology) with a minor in Mathematics. When I am not studying, I spend most of my time running, biking, hiking, camping, skiing, rock climbing, kayaking, and snowshoeing. I really enjoy the outdoors and can’t seem to spend enough time outside. I made a goal this summer to go on a trip every weekend, and so far I’ve met my challenge, including a road trip from Walla Walla to Los Alamos, running a half marathon in Los Alamos, racing the Bolder Boulder 10K, running on a Ragnar Relay team in Snowmass, Colorado, backpacking through the Valles Caldera in Northern New Mexico, and going Disney Cruise to Copenhagen, Tallinn, St. Petersburg, Helsinki, and Stockholm. I am spending my summer working as a student intern in the Bioscience Division of the Los Alamos National Laboratory. I am so excited to meet you all in August! Enjoy the rest of your summer, and come prepared for a memorable scramble!

Hannah - Hey, I'm Hannah! I will be a sophomore in the fall and plan on majoring in Environmental Studies-Economics. I am from Seattle and spent my childhood backpacking and camping in the Pacific Northwest. When I am not in the wilderness, I spend my time hanging out with friends and family, baking, throwing a Frisbee on Ankeny and playing for Whitman's lacrosse team! I work as a math tutor in Walla Walla and will be spending the summer leading wilderness adventures for middle school and high school girls. I am so excited to meet everyone and have a super fun scramble!

Now, for the plan...

We will be meeting in the Young Ballroom in Reid Campus Center at Whitman on August 18 at 2:15 pm. After some introductory information, we will assemble gear and practice the art of packing backpacks. You will also have an opportunity to put any remaining gear or possessions (e.g. all that stuff you might bring with you for your dorm room but don’t want to take backpacking with you) into storage, which will then be locked until move-in day, the day after we arrive back at Whitman. We will spend our first night on campus.
Bright and early the next morning we will head to the North Cascades (near Glacier Peak!) in Washington (about a 7 hour drive) where we’ll spend a night at a campground before heading out backpacking. On the route we have planned we will hike on average roughly 4-5 miles each day, except for one 12 mile day, and we have a pretty awesome uphill section on our second day (~2,800 feet of elevation gain). In that vein, regardless of your experience level in the realm of backpacking, we’ll all have more fun if everyone is in relatively good shape before the start of the trip. We also plan to have plenty of time for cooking, reading, lounging, playing, and gazing at glaciers. The loop we’re completing is spectacular and we even get to hike along a section of the Pacific Crest Trail, which is pretty darn cool! On August 26th 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 side lawn. That night around 8 pm you will be able to check into your dorms to spend the night, and the next morning you will be able to access everything you put in storage.

**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 (or several!). 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 is summer, we will be at a high elevation, mountain weather is unpredictable, and the nights tend to cool down considerably. A raincoat is an absolute necessity. The gear list is your friend. If you don’t want to buy a bunch of new gear or you’re worried that your gear might not be sturdy enough or waterproof enough, rent stuff from the OP Gear Shop (you must reserve items ahead of time!). They have an awesome selection. Also, before heading out we will review your gear with you and give you a place to stash extra things, so if you’re unsure about one or two items bring them and we can always leave them on campus.

*First aid:* Natalie, Amanda, and Hannah are all Wilderness First Responder and CPR certified. We will carry first aid kits with us in the field.

**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 Natalie [mcbrann@whitman.edu; (505)-629-8582] or Amanda [merceran@whitman.edu; (505)-412-8497]. Once again, we can’t wait to meet you in August, and in the meantime, have a magnificent summer!

See you soon!

Natalie McBranch, Amanda Mercer, and Hannah Trettenero