Dear Jonesin’ for Jellies Scramblers,

I hope the stoke level is high for our upcoming adventure! We are very excited to meet you and show you the beautiful and serene sights of the San Juan Islands. We will be teaching you the basics of sea kayaking and safety techniques, but the main goal of the trip is to make new friends and have a fun introduction to your Whitman College experience! We also plan to make some excellent back-country cuisine and play some enthralling campfire games. Don’t be afraid to ask any questions about the trip or what to expect in your first year of school. Here is some more information about each of your leaders (who all are Wilderness First Responder certified) and important logistical information:

Addison Richter: Hola Scramblitos! I’m a second time Scramble leader (who has all the fancy certifications), and a junior at Whitman. I’m a native of San Diego, where I fell in love with the ocean and have worked as an ocean kayak instructor and snorkeling tour guide for the past three summers. I also love skiing, Japanese cooking, and painting. I’m a geology major, and during the year I fill what hours are not spent looking at rocks by leading Outdoor Program trips, skiing, being a social butterfly, and running. I’m so pumped to meet you all and can’t wait to look for bugs and little critters around the various campsites. I also make a mean backcountry pizza and if you’re interested I’ll show you how.

Luke Adams: I’m a math-physics double major (but that might change) from Park City, Utah. I got my Wilderness First Responder cert at Whitman last winter. As for this summer, I’m working on a ropes course at the Utah Olympic Park, and spending any remaining time getting in some high alpine running and biking before I return to the land of wheat fields. This will be my second year at Whitman and I’m stoked to get to know all of you, and show you how awesome Whitman is.

Riley Mehring: I am a junior at Whitman majoring in Environmental Studies-Sociology. I love art, nordic skiing, chickens, and most things involving the outdoors and/or water. Last summer I was assistant leader for a Sea Kayak trip near Jones Island, where we saw bioluminescence(!!!!). So fingers crossed, we will get to see some on our trip. One of my favorite things about Sea Kayaking is that you don’t have to carry your food (on our backs at least) so we can get pretty gourmet out there. This summer I am in my hometown of Seattle renting out kayaks and paddleboards, doing a visual display internship, and hopefully building canoe paddles. I cannot wait to meet everyone and get out on the water with y’all!

Now for some important logistical things for our upcoming trip:

Itinerary – We will meet on August 18 at 2:15 pm at the Reid Campus Center for a Scramble orientation and gear check. Early on the 19th, we will load into our vehicles and drive about 5-6 hours to Puget Sound. For the next six days we plan to paddle leisurely through the Orcas, Lopez, Shaw, and San Juan Islands, camping each night at beach sites along the way. We plan for ample time to socialize and play games, as well as lots of time in camp to explore the natural habitat, eat, and bond with your fellow Scramblers. We will return to Whitman on the 26th, arriving in plenty of time to unpack and clean up for the 6 pm Scramble Picnic, which is open to family members. After the picnic you can check into your dorms between 8-9 pm, although you will not have access to
your belongings in storage (see next section) until the next morning, when all dorms open up for move-in.

Arriving at Whitman – Please fill out the Travel Plans Google Form [https://goo.gl/nF1zwH](https://goo.gl/nF1zwH) (also available on the Scrambler Resources Page). This is so we know when and where to pick you up and so that we can greet you with sufficient flare and enthusiasm! If you are flying or taking a bus into Walla Walla, we will come pick you up at the airport or bus station. Contact Addison if you happen to arrive a day or two early and need a place to stay. She has a house just a few blocks from campus with plenty of floor/couch space. You will be able to leave your belongings in campus storage when you arrive; however, you will not have access to them until the morning after the Scramble Picnic.

Safety – There is always some risk when out on the water. We will share various safety skills both on and off the water and we will expect everyone to act responsibly. Each one of us has completed sea kayak guide leadership training, and we all have current certifications in Wilderness First Responder and CPR/First-Aid.

Gear – Take the gear list seriously, but don’t think it necessary to buy everything on the list if you will only use it for this trip. Many items are available to rent from the OP. Just be sure to reserve them well in advance, as some of the more popular items get scarce. Before we leave, we will go through your gear with you to make sure you have all the necessities. There will be an opportunity on the 18th to put any belongings that you will not need (or you don’t want to risk losing or getting wet!) during the Scramble into storage until the 27th as well. All boating-related gear will be provided, but feel free to bring your own if you’ve got it and want to have it at school with you.

So, that should cover the basics of what you need to know. However, if you have any further questions, comments, or concerns, please don’t hesitate to email, call, or text Addison. We are all so excited to meet and get to know each and every one of you! So, until then, have an excellent and safe summer. See you in August!

Sincerely,

Addison, Luke, and Riley
Contact information: Addison Richter 858-692-9658 (cell); richteak@whitman.edu