Hello Pyroclastic Pathfinders!

First off, we are so stoked to meet you! We are your excited, enthusiastic, enthralled, entertaining, eclectic Pyroclastic Pathfinders Scramble leaders! Two thumbs up for deciding to start your time at Whitman off with a Scramble, it’s going to be a great time. Here is a little information from each of your leaders, followed by some important details for logistics, packing and such.

**Sophie** - Hey there Scramblers! I am a sophomore who is pumped to spend a week traversing the wild beauty of the Mount Saint Helens wilderness with you. I am probably going to be either an Environmental Studies Sociology or Politics major with a minor in Gender Studies. I am from Yuba City, California but will be spending part of my summer in the Dominican Republic living with a host family and teaching children how to sing and dance at a non-profit summer program. I love to sing and have even gotten to record some stuff with my friend this year (sophieavocado on soundcloud)! I am passionate about nature’s beauty and thus will be living in the Outhouse, Whitman’s environment awareness interest house. You all are invited over. I enjoy playing tennis, climbing, biking, taking walks alone, reading while feeling a cool breeze on my face, and being goofy in general. I cannot wait to become friends with all of you...happy trails!

**Galen** - 'ello there. I’m an incoming sophomore who loves outdoor adventure more than anything else! My hometown is Vancouver, WA, though I’ve spent a good portion of my life in Big Sky, MT. I’ll be majoring in Environmental Studies with a Biology focus. I’m also interested in indigenous peoples of places I’ve been, geology, and good books. On campus I might be found reading on Ankeny, making music with friends, slacklining (or just slacking), or wandering through the shelves of the library finding interesting books. On the weekends I lead trips for the Outdoor Program and go on my own personal trips to hike or climb. This summer I’m going to work on a farm outside Vancouver until mid-July and then go rock climbing in Wyoming and Montana with two good Whitti friends.

**Savannah** - Hi! I’m a senior Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Molecular Biology major from Sebastopol CA (about an hour north of San Francisco). I am on the lacrosse team at Whitman, and am a pretty big fan of all the IM sports as well. This summer, I’ll be in Walla Walla working on turning on and off plant genes and undertaking the mission of finding the best swimming hole in eastern Washington. Besides swimming, I love backpacking, cloud- and star-gazing, cooking, lingering at meals, music-listening, hanging out on porches, and soaking up the wilderness in the company of fellow Whitties! This is such an great way to start college, and I am so stoked to be able to share it with all of you.

Now, for the **plan**...

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 will spend that first night on campus.

In the morning we will head to the Mount St. Helens in Washington (about a five hour drive) and then set out from the trailhead. We plan to hike from 4-10 miles a day, and in addition to hiking we plan for fun times cooking, reading, lounging, playing and swimming (we will be camping by some beautiful lakes. On August 26th we will head back to Whitman, arrive around 3 pm, and spend a few hours unpacking, cleaning gear, and taking long-needed 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 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 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 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 Savannah at mcnichsr@whitman.edu or (707) 321-4828. Once again, we are SO STOKED to meet you in August, and in the meantime, have a stellar summer!

See you soon,

Savannah, Sophie, and Galen