What’s up Rosstafarian Adventure Scramblers!

That’s right, you have signed up for one of the canoeing & backpacking combo Scrambles Whitman has to offer! This trip will be led by the talented, funny, and responsible Stacie Bellairs, Lauren Rekhelman and Megan Gauglitz. We’re here to put the “amble” back in “Scramble” as we paddle across the gorgeous Ross Lake wilderness and then backpack back to our sister Scramble’s car. We are incredibly excited to meet you, and we can’t wait to spend a week in the great outdoors together. Now a little about your leaders:

**Stacie** is a Junior Biology major from the wonderful Minneapolis, Minnesota. In college, she enjoys walking through the Walla Walla wheat fields, eating ice cream and spending as much time as she can tossing frisbees on Ankeny. This summer will be her fourth summer leading canoe trips with YMCA Camp Warren through the chain of lakes northern Minnesota. Petting baby animals, listening to Beyoncé, wandering under tall pine trees, and playing guitar are a few of her favorite things. She is beyond excited to get to know you, learn about your passions and hear about everything you are excited and nervous for.

**Lauren** is a Junior Theatre major who hails all the way from Atlanta, GA. When she isn’t spending an absurd amount of time in the theatre building rehearsing for Harper Joy Theatre productions, designing costumes, or otherwise engaging in theatrical engagements, she tries to enjoy as much time outside as she can. This summer, she’ll be working as a cabin counselor at camp called Gwynn Valley in the mountains of North Carolina. She thoroughly enjoys taking naps in hammocks, all things Harry Potter and Shakespeare, and loves gummy bears more than anyone she knows. If you want to make her laugh, show her a video of a fainting goat. She has a passion for backpacking and enjoys both quiet moments with nature as well as those goofy trail days of singing, joking, and giggling and hopes our scramble will have plenty of both!

**Megan** is a senior art major. She loves humming, hummus, and dirt, has gotten better at making soup lately and prefers to doodle. She grew up close to Walla Walla and for a while drove there on Mondays for a youth orchestra. Just like you, she was on this scramble as a first year and is delighted at this sweet prospect. She is looking forward to hanging out about the campfire, taking sunny afternoon lakeside naps, and jamming to tunes in the car with each of you.

Now on to **Trip Logistics**:

On August 18th, we’ll meet at 2:15 pm in the Ballroom of Reid Campus Center with the rest of the Scramblers, leaders, and parents to introduce ourselves and go over personal gear, group gear, food, medical forms, etc. If you reserved essential items such as a sleeping bag or rain jacket to rent from the Outdoor Program Rental Shop, we will be going to pick those things up. We will go over packing as a group and everyone will have the chance to put any belongings into storage that they will not need during Scrambles. Storage will not open up until the morning of the 27th when Orientation begins.

We will spend the night of the 18th in Walla Walla with our fellow Scramblers and plan to leave early the next morning. Most of the day will be spent driving to North Cascades National Park where we will stay the night at Colonial Creek campground before embarking on our wilderness adventure the next morning!

The following two days we plan to paddle consist of three to nine miles per day punctuated by snack breaks and the occasional mid-lake swim (with personal floatation devices, of course)! A relaxed pace is our objective; however, the lake can be windy in the afternoon which may necessitate an early morning or two. We plan to get into camp in the late afternoon and enjoy each
other's company into the evening when we will all prepare delicious food together. After two paddling days we will depart our boats, giving them to our sister Scramble and take to the land.

Depending on the group and weather, day three may consist of an optional day hike up to Desolation Peak where the entire lake and surrounding area (Canada, too!) can be seen from the top. Days four through five will consist of backpacking along the lake back to our car. On day six we will start heading back towards Walla Walla, stopping at Palouse Falls campsite for the night.

The 26th of August marks the end of our expedition and drive back to Whitman. We should be back by 3pm. Upon arriving back to the college in the afternoon, we will clean and return gear to the OP, unpack, shower, and enjoy a final dinner together at 6:00 p.m. with the rest of the Scramblers (parents are invited too)! You will be able to check into your rooms between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m., but any actual moving in will not take place until the next day.

Enclosed is a recommended packing list for the trip. If you intend to rent anything from the OP we recommend reserving your items now since many other Scramblers will be renting as well. We will be living on and around water for a week, so make sure the shoes you bring for the canoeing portion can get wet and will also protect your feet. Chacos, Tevas, Crocs, water shoes and old tennis shoes work well while flip-flops or any shoes without a back strap are NOT suitable. Hiking boots are required for the backpacking portion.

Lastly, August weather is notoriously unpredictable so be prepared for rain or shine (and bugs). While it will probably be hot and sunny, we are just as likely to experience rain or even sleet/hail, so bring warm, insulating layers made of wool or synthetic materials that will keep you warm even when wet. Avoid bringing cotton clothing as it is heavy, does not keep you warm when wet and dries slowly (this means no jeans or sweatshirts)!

Questions about the trip or college in general? Feel free to contact us during the summer and let the adventures begin! If you are arriving early please contact us so that we can arrange for airport pick-up and a place for you to stay if necessary.

Cheers,
Stacie, Lauren, and Megan

Contact:
Lauren Rekhelman
rekhelmn@whitman.edu (email preferred-- I will respond as fast as I can!)
(404) 317-4296

As a final note, please fill out the Travel Plans Google Form 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.