Hello Future Sacajawea Scavenger!

When you chose your Scramble, you made the decision of a lifetime. And you chose wisely. We are so excited to meet you and help you get ready for your time at Whitman. The purpose of this letter is to introduce ourselves and let you know what to expect when you get to Walla Walla in August.

**Your leaders:**
Jacob is a senior who went on a Scramble and this will be his third year leading, which means he has earned the special title of "Grand Slammer", a participant in the Scrambles Program for four years. Ask him about his experiences when you meet him. Jacob likes cooking in the backcountry, and he can’t wait to meet you all!

Catalina is spending her summer “out in the boonies”, and she is extra excited to spend another week tramping out in the Wallowas with you all. Catalina is Wilderness First Responder and CPR certified, and she tries to spend as much time outside as she can amid all of the business at Whitman.

Hey everyone! I’m Sabrina and I’m super excited to be leading your scramble! A little about me: I’m a rising sophomore this year from Santa Cruz, California. I suppose you could say I’m science and art minded, although most subjects I find pretty interesting. In high school I was a soccer player but at Whitman I have graduated to climbing mountains (both with my legs and my arms)! On campus you will find me either in my room taking a nap or watching Adventure Time, at the library, or hanging out on Ankeny with my friends. I can’t wait to get to know everybody in August! See you soon future friends!

**Trip logistics:**
We'll be meeting in Walla Walla on **Wednesday, August 19 at 2:15 PM** in the Reid Campus Center where we will do introductions, check and rent gear, pack up, and get ready to head out. At that time, you will be able to place anything you will not be taking on the Scramble into storage. We will then stay on campus that night and the next day we’ll drive to the beautiful Wallowa National Forest. Our days will range from around four to ten miles per day and most will include plenty of time for swimming, cooking, reading, lounging, playing games and getting to know each other. We plan to be camping near beautiful mountain lakes/creeks, so be sure to bring your swimsuits and a tolerance for cold water. We’ll head back to Whitman on Wednesday, August 26 around 3pm when we shall scramble to unpack and clean until the supercool Scramble picnic at 6pm on the Reid Campus Center side lawn. During this picnic, skits and songs will be performed by all the Scrambles to exhibit our creative skills. Your parents, if they are on campus, are welcome and encouraged to attend the picnic. You can check into your residence hall that evening, though you will not be able to access what you put in storage before the trip until the next morning.

As a 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.

**A few tips:**
It is very important that you **break in your hiking boots!** While it may seem super spiffy to bring a brand new pair on the trip, the blisters will make you regret it. The best way to avoid that if you do need to buy a new pair (or if you have an old pair you haven’t worn recently) is to wear them as much as possible before the trip around to break them in! Also, make sure these are actual hiking
boots and not just a pair of sneakers. You want something that will go above your ankles for good support to avoid any twists.

**Pack layers!** The weather in the Wallowas in August can be unpredictable. Hiking days can be HOT (80s-90s) or cool and night temps can be in the 40s to 50s. There is a chance that we will experience some rain, especially at night when it really cools off. **A good raincoat is VERY important.** And for optimal comfort in the backcountry, you want to be cool when it's hot, warm when it's cold, and dry when it’s wet. So that means layers. Take that gear list seriously! Fleece is a great material that is warm but lightweight. That being said, don't feel like you need to go out on an REI binge, and don't over-pack so much that you have no room to carry any extra group gear. If you have any questions, just ask! Also, remember that we will have the opportunity to visit storage after packing our backpacks, so if you have one or two items you're not sure about, bring them and we can always downsize.

A note on safety: Two all of us are Wilderness First Responders (which means we have gone through 80 hours of wilderness medicine training). While we do not anticipate needing to use this training, but we are prepared for many situations that may arise.

If you have **any** questions or concerns this summer as you are preparing for this adventure, please don’t hesitate to contact Jacob Frei at (510) 316-8005 or freija@whitman.edu

We are all so excited to meet and get to know each of you and start you on your Whitman adventure. Scrambles are a really incredible start to your Whitman experience and each of us is honored to be able to be part of it. Each of us has led/participated in Scrambles previously, and are eager to be of any assistance that we can. Until then, have a wonderful summer and we will see you in August!

Jacob, Catalina, and Sabrina