Dear future Seaside Swagger,

We are so excited to meet you! Now that you’ve decided to start off your life at Whitman in the most exciting way possible (with a Scramble!) we’d like to introduce ourselves and tell you a little more about what to expect when you get to Walla Walla in August.

Your leaders:

Hey Seaside Swaggers! My name is Eva Geisse and I’m from the Bay Area, about twenty minutes north of San Francisco (San Rafael, if any of you are from the Bay!). I will be a junior this fall and am an Environmental Studies-Biology major. I am stoked on plant and wildlife ecology and will most likely geek out over ferns on the coast. At Whitman you can find me practicing at the climbing wall with the Climbing Team, playing music with friends on a porch, or looking for owls on campus (I’m kind of an owl enthusiast.) This summer I am interning at a wildlife rehabilitation hospital called WildCare, and doing a little cater waiting on the side. I went on Seaside Swag as a scrambler and I cannot wait to share the experience with all of you!

Greetings! My name is Sela Patterson and this fall I will be a sophomore at Whitman. Academically, I am stoked about Physics, Geology, and Environmental Studies but have no idea what I will actually end up majoring in. Outside of the classroom I love skiing on the Nordic Ski team, taking naps on Ankeny, knitting, watching hockey, and eating tater-tots. I hail from Saint Paul, Minnesota, and have grown up spending my summers canoeing and backpacking with YMCA Camp Widjiwagan. Last summer I went on a 40 day backpacking trip to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge through Widjiwagan, and this summer I will be leading trips for them. I am excited to share this new experience with you all!

Howdy future scramblers! My name is Jeremy Nolan and I’m a senior biology/Spanish double-major from San Diego, California. This summer I’ll be busy doing plant physiology research at Whitman and enjoying some much-needed downtime with friends and family. When I’m not busy doing my favorite outdoor pursuits (backpacking, cross-country skiing, swimming, and photography), I can be found playing the piano, planning my upcoming cross-country biking trip, and daydreaming. I’m so excited to be leading my final Scramble and getting to know all of you!

Trip logistics:

We’ll be meeting in Walla Walla on Tuesday, August 18 at 2:15 pm in the Reid Campus Center. We will gather all our group gear, insure we all brought the personal gear we need, and pack up. You will be able to place anything you will not be taking on the Scramble into storage that day. We’ll sleep on campus that night, and then on Wednesday we’ll drive about seven hours to Port Angeles and camp at the Heart of the Hills Campground. The next day we will drive the remaining two hours to the Shi Shi Trailhead on the Olympic Coast, where our adventure will begin. Our days range from 2 to 8 miles of hiking and most day we plan to include time for swimming, tidepooling, cooking, reading, and maybe some frisbee! Hopefully we will have some clear nights and watch some beautiful sunsets. We’ll head back to Whitman on Wednesday, August 26. We should get back around 3 pm. Then we will unpack our bags, clean all of our group gear, shower, and prepare ourselves for the Scramble picnic at 6 pm on the Reid Campus Center side lawn. All the other Scrambles will be there, and each Scramble performs a brief song or skit. We’ll have to put our heads together during our Scramble so that we can make the best skit and bring great honor to Seaside Swag! You’ll be able to check into your residence hall that evening of the 26th, but you will
not be able to access what you put in storage before the trip until the next morning.

A few tips:

Be sure to break in your hiking boots! Hiking in brand-new boots (or boots you haven’t worn in a while) can cause painful blisters which are no fun for anyone. Make sure to acquaint yourselves to your boots before you get to Whitman. Hike in them a few times and even wear them around the house!

Pack layers! Weather on the Washington coast can be very unpredictable. It is usually relatively warm at night (low 50s) but we will likely experience some rain. So rain gear is VERY important. Please pack a rain jacket and rain pants! 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 the gear list seriously! But remember, you can rent or buy gear you do not own from the Outdoor Program. If you need to rent gear, you must reserve it ahead of time or we cannot guarantee we will have what you need.

A note on safety: All of us are trained in First Aid and CPR, and all of us are Wilderness First Responders.

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.

If you have any questions or concerns this summer as you are preparing for this adventure, feel free to contact Eva at (415) 827-4664 or at geisseep@whitman.edu, or Jeremy at (760) 216-8374 or nolanjm@whitman.edu.

We are very excited to begin our adventure together!

Eva, Sela, and Jeremy