Dear Strawberry Jubilee Scrambler,

Hello there! We’re so excited you’re coming to Whitman College! One of the great things about being an incoming student at Whitman is the Scramble trip for which you’ve signed up... and also the Walla Walla sweet onions that Whitman sends you! Here’s a little bit about your leaders followed by some logistics and details about the trip:

**Sam:** Hi all! My name is Sam Traylor, I’m a 20 year old Environmental Humanities major from Mount Vernon, Washington. Growing up in the farm fields and woodlands in that rural area created an interest in outdoor leadership and education in me that I’ve been emphasizing since coming to Whitman. I like doing anything active, particularly distance running and mountaineering, but ranging into whitewater kayaking and intense games of bocce and croquet. I’m a certified Wilderness First Responder through the NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute and a Sea Kayaking leader with the outdoor program at Whitman. I also am an RA for second year students in Douglas Hall. When I’m not outside or doing RA duties (which is rare), I enjoy doing things with my hands, from writing to cooking to repairing things to woodworking. This summer I’ll be working with a writing organization called Fishtrap in Wallowa County, Oregon. Don’t hesitate to contact me!

**Kangqiao:** My name is Kangqiao, but you can call me Cam before I teach you how to pronounce it. I grew up in the wilderness a.k.a. a national nature reserve area in China until I went to elementary school. My intrinsic love for nature has developed since then. At 13 years old, I moved to Guangzhou, the third biggest city in China, populated with 20 million people. Coming to Whitman has been a big turn point for me, and it is much easier for me to access the wilderness again. I love both New York and Walla Walla and I possess very broad interests, from high fashion to yoga and meditation, from reading post-humanism philosophy books to planning my own wine business, and from traveling in the U.S. to going on outdoor trips around Walla Walla. I’m also Wilderness First Responder certified. If you are feeling excited but nervous to come to Whitman, I probably understand how you feel, since I made the transition as an international student. Going on a Scramble can be a fantastic way to start off the next four years and everything else to come. I cannot wait to meet all of you and I also can’t believe that four years has passed since my Scramble which feels like it was yesterday!

**Whitney:** Hey! I’m a senior Biochemistry Biophysics and Molecular Biology major from Seattle, WA, and Point Baker, AK. When I’m not out enjoying the great outdoors by foot or kayak, baking up another batch of cookies, singing with the Sirens of Swank, a cappella group, or playing ultimate with the Sweets on Ankeny, I can be found goofing off in A Section of Anderson where I am the RA (and Senior Resident). I’m also a Wilderness First Responder and a hiking leader for the OP. I’ll be in Point Baker this summer commercial fishing for salmon in Sumner Straits! I am so excited to meet all of you and can’t wait for our adventure to begin!

You have signed up to spend four days hiking in the spectacular Strawberry Mountain Wilderness (one night will be spent on Whitman’s campus before we take off). We will meet at **Reid Campus Center at 2:15 p.m. on August 13th** for introductions and to assemble gear and practice packing our backpacks. At that time you will also be able to put any luggage you don’t need for the Scramble into storage. These items will be inaccessible until move-in day (August 27th) (except for one bag for the week between the Scramble and orientation). We will return to campus on August 18th around noon. If you need somewhere to stay the night before or after, let us know and and we can certainly find some soft floor space for you.
The morning of the 14th we will drive to the Little Strawberry Lake Trailhead, an entry point that gives access to spectacular hiking terrain. In the days following we plan to hike a loop over breathtaking ridges and past pristine lakes with the greatest of company. Depending on weather and the group, we might even drop packs for an adventurous peak ascent! The most important part of this trip is having fun and getting to know other Whitman students before you start your time at Whitman, so the most we plan to hike any given day is 7.5 miles.

Please make sure to pack backpacking gear and clothing for all conditions (NO COTTON!)—see the gear list included. Even though our trip is in August, the weather in the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness can sometimes be unpredictable and we'll be at elevation for portions of the trip. You do not need to worry about providing gear like tents, stoves, fuel, water treatment, etc., but you are responsible for things like a sleeping bag and rain pants. Again, check the gear list for what you are responsible for and contact us with questions. We will be going over what to pack as a group when you arrive on campus so not to worry if you are a little unsure! If you would like to rent something from the Whitman College Outdoor Program, please use the rental form to reserve gear ahead of time. Also, if you buy new hiking boots, break them in before leaving for our Scramble! We will bring supplies to treat blisters, but your feet will be happier without blisters.

For anything else, don’t hesitate to email Whitney or Sam with questions about logistics, gear, college, or anything else you might think up. When you are about to embark on a multi-day expedition, far from your home, which will end with your first day at college, there truly are no stupid questions. We are happy to answer any and all of them!

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.

Whitney – woodww@whitman.edu, (206) 369-1985 (there’s no cell service, but I can iMessage and email! I am also available by our landline 907 559 2223 Wed – Sat)
Sam – traylosg@whitman.edu, (360) 540-6765 (my phone gets poor service in most places, but here’s my information anyway!)

Finally, we would like to reiterate how thrilled we are to have you on our scramble, and to help welcome you to the amazing and life changing experience of Whitman. We’ve all participated in a Scramble, and we believe that it is truly the best way to enter college: tanned and with great friends.

Have a great summer – we’ll see you soon!
Sam, Kangqiao, and Whitney