

WHITMAN

For additional information,
please contact:

Brien Sheedy, Director
sheedybr@whitman.edu

Stuart Chapin, Assistant
Director
chapins@whitman.edu

Lish Riley, Shop Manager
rileyab@whitman.edu

Outdoor Program
509-527-5965
Check us out on Facebook

Trip Locations

Wallowa-Whitman NF
Umatilla NF, WA
Wallowa Mountains, OR
Mt Baker, WA
Mt. Rainier, WA
Salmon River, ID
Deschutes River, OR
Wenatchee River, WA
Grand Ronde River, OR
Smith Rock State Park, OR
Grand Gulch, UT
Robbers Roost, UT
Joshua Tree NP, CA
Strawberry Mountains, OR
San Juan Islands, WA
Loreto, BCS, MX

Student Run Outdoor Clubs

Backcountry Ski &
Snowboarding
Climbing
Whitewater
Climbing Team
Hiking

Training Opportunities

Wilderness First Responder
AMGA Climbing Wall Instructor
AMGA Single Pitch Instructor
ACA Whitewater Kayak
Instructor
Swift water rescue
Sea Kayak Guide Leadership
River Guide Leadership
Outdoor Leadership
Improvised Rock Rescue

Outdoor Program

Mission Statement: *The Outdoor Program is committed to providing equitable access for all to the outdoors. The Outdoor Program (OP) fosters personal growth, facilitates learning and creates recreational opportunities through skills and risk management training, leadership development, and environmentally sound trips in a supportive community.*

Recreation Opportunities The OP facilitates recreation opportunities through the New Student Orientation outdoor trips program, climbing center, rental shop, outdoor clubs, climbing team and a speakers and events program

New Student Orientation Outdoor Trips: The NSO Outdoor trips program will be 2.5 day trips starting in August 2021 and be an option for any incoming student free of charge. Trip choices include backpacking, rock climbing, whitewater rafting, whitewater kayaking, flat-water kayaking and canoeing trips.

Trips Program: The OP offers trips in a variety of skill areas and averages roughly 2-4 trips per weekend. Activities include outdoor climbing, whitewater kayaking and rafting, backpacking, sea kayaking, mountaineering, snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing, alpine touring, ice climbing, stand-up paddle boarding, mountain-biking, day hiking and more. Almost all of our trips are led by student leaders and are geared toward beginner and intermediate levels.

Climbing Center: The climbing wall is a custom built structure with a total climbable surface of over 7,000 square feet. The main wall is 104 feet long and 39 feet tall at its highest point. It is open seven days a week and is free to all students and welcomes all experience levels. We offer regular clinics and roughly 15 SSRA classes per semester and special events in the facility.

Rental Shop: Located in the Reid Campus Center, the Rental Shop is the central gear storage location for the Outdoor Program, as well as the social and logistical hub for all OP activities. At the Rental Shop you can sign up for OP Trips, rent equipment for your personal adventures, purchase new and used outdoor gear, and access our library of books, maps, and DVD's on outdoor activities.

Outdoor Clubs: The climbing club, backcountry ski and snowboarding club and whitewater club are student run and organized ASWC clubs that the OP supports. The climbing team is one of the recognized club sports teams at Whitman College. It receives funding from the club's sports budget and is student run and organized with staff oversight. The Whitman college climbing team participates in the NC3 (Northwest Collegiate Climbing Circuit).

Personal Growth Whitman's outdoor program supports personal growth in students by providing opportunities to develop relationships with peers in the tranquility and beauty of the scenic landscapes of the Northwest. Open communication, supportive interactions and great leadership are hallmarks of all of the offerings that the Outdoor Program supports.

Environmentally Sound Trips The Outdoor Program facilitates human powered recreational opportunities. All trips and classes run by the Outdoor Program use the Leave No Trace principles to guide our practices. Respect for and appreciation of the wild places that we visit drives us to use the very best methods to leave nothing but foot prints and take nothing but pictures.

Special Events

Banff Mountain Film Festival
Backcountry Film Festival
Sweet Onion Crank climbing
competition

Activities Supported

Rock climbing, whitewater
kayaking & rafting,
backpacking, sea kayaking,
mountaineering, snow-
shoeing, cross-country
skiing, alpine touring, ice
climbing, stand-up paddle
boarding, mountain biking,
day hiking

Alumni Accomplishments

Jasmine Campell '15 - US
Olympic ski team in 2014 Sochi
Winter games

Holly Brooks '04 - US Olympic
ski team 2010 and 2014 Winter
Games, Whitman Scramble
coordinator

Tom Wier '02 - Olympic wildwater
kayaker

Ingrid Backstrom '00 - Professional
big mountain skier

Rob Lesser '67 - Whitewater Hall
of Fame. Numerous first descents

Phil Ershler '74 - Everest via north
and south sides, 7 summits;
co-owner IMG, Rainier (400+
ascents), Mt. McKinley (25+)

Jason Tanguay '98 - Everest
2004 and American Alpine Club
David A. Sowles award for Everest
rescue in 2001 on North ridge.

Justin Merle '01 - Everest 7x,
Ama Dablam 6x, Cho Oyu,
Rainierx160+, AMGA Aip. Guide

Gabe Coler '03 - AMGA Rock
Guide, Smith Rock, OR

Sam Hennesey '12 - El Capitan in a
day, 1st Ascent of Chugimago
West Face in Nepal 6259m, Alpine
Ascents Guide. AMGA Guide

Outward Bound Instructors: Sky
Pauly '15, Molly Hayes '14,
Gram Stansberry '06, Heather
Domonoske '13, Katie Lei '12

NOLS instructors: Maddie Player
'14, Kaitlan Cloud '12, Fiona
Brown '10, Kris Fade '08
Andy Altepeter '06, Sarah Lee
Lawrence '04

Leadership Development The Outdoor Program employs over 100 students per year and students receive authentic and meaningful hands-on leadership opportunities through positions with significant responsibility. All of our outdoor NSO trip Leaders are upperclassmen who have received a field training prior to leading our 2.5-day wilderness trips. Our weekend trip leaders have taken leadership and first aid courses and worked their way through our on the job training program. Our climbing center and rental shop are both staffed by student workers and our best student instructors teach many of the classes supported by the program.

Facilitating Learning There are more than 35 SSRA classes per year ranging from introductory level skills classes in rock climbing and kayaking to advanced techniques in guiding, risk management and rescue. In addition to the class offerings there are numerous training opportunities for students. The program supports certification courses from the American Mountain Guides Association, NOLS Wilderness Medicine, the American Canoe Association and other organizations to ensure that our students get the very best training curriculum and nationally recognized certifications.

Here is what some Whitties have said about the Outdoor Program:

"I think it's really valuable to have a variety of SSRAs, clubs, weekend trips, and other ways to be involved in the Outdoor Program - I think that having a variety of ways to be involved, and a variety of commitment levels, makes the OP more accessible. I also think that all of the options for paid student work are really important. That, to me, is a significant factor that distinguishes the WCOP from other college outdoor programs... In my time there, I managed complex issues like how to staff and train trip leaders, how to design a semester-long curriculum for an SSRA class, and how to plan a full schedule of trips. That gave me a level of insight and experience that helped me enter my current job at a higher level of pay and responsibility than many of my peers, even those who were five or ten years older than me. - Maddie Player '14

"I have rafted through thundering waters, snow-shoed in the darkness, sea kayaked beneath a rising moon, climbed towering monoliths, and gazed upwards at the infinite stars of the Milky Way. The responsibility that comes with leading a group of people through a remote wilderness bestows a kind of maturity that my parents could only have dreamed of when sending their 18 year old daughter off to college."
-Claire Snyder '12

"I came to Whitman with no backcountry experience. My first year I went on a Scramble, signed up for every OP trip I could, and took several SSRA classes. Now in my senior year I am teaching rock climbing and whitewater kayaking classes and leading OP trips every weekend. These experiences have allowed me to develop my technical skills but more importantly, I have had the opportunity to take on leadership positions that will translate to future career paths."
-Adam Michel '12

AWARDS:

2018- The Club Sports Climbing Team won the NC3 (Northwest Collegiate Climbing Circuit).

2013 - The Outdoor Program was granted the prestigious David J. Webb program Excellence award by the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education. (Only 1 program is chosen nationwide each year and Whitman is the smallest school to have ever received the award.)

2006 - Whitman was named the #1 Outdoor Program in the State of Washington by the Tacoma News Tribune

The Outdoor Program is not a club. There are no dues; anyone, regardless of ability or skill level, may participate. Through the Outdoor Program, all students interested in noncompetitive, non-motorized pursuits may share adventures.