In mid-June seven students participated in an Outdoor Program Trail Crew trip, partnering with the U.S. Forest Service and the Blue Mountain Land Trust’s Blues Crew for a long weekend of trail restoration in the Umatilla National Forest’s John Day Wilderness. Over the course of several days, the crew worked on a five-mile section of the North Fork of the John Day River Trail. Trail restoration includes cutting and removing downed trees, cutting out brush that grows into the trail corridor and re-digging eroded parts of the trail.

Regular maintenance of trails is essential, and while the Forest Service has a summer crew that works to open all of the trails, volunteers are a critical part of doing the detailed upkeep that is necessary every three to five years. The Blues Crew is a group of volunteers dedicated to working with the Forest Service to keep the Blue Mountain trails accessible. Blues Crew welcomes anyone who has worked on trails in the past or who is new to trail work. All volunteers are invited to lend a hand and help out on trail—whether you’ve had years of experience or are brand new to using tools.

Do I Still Need to Mask on Campus?

Whitman’s Summer COVID-19 Protocols state that face masks are optional for anyone who has received the Summer Campus Access Badge and is fully vaccinated (meaning it has been more than two weeks since your final vaccine dose). If you have not received proof of COVID-19 vaccination or if it has been less than two weeks since your final vaccine dose, you must still wear a face mask in all indoor and outdoor areas of campus.

Announcements

Local Nonprofits Wanted to Host Student Fellowships

The Student Engagement Center Community Fellow Program is now building its 2021-22 Community Partner cohort. The program allows public or nonprofit organizations in the Walla Walla Valley the opportunity to create a community-based, unpaid fellowship for third- and fourth-year Whitman students. If you know of or are a part of a nonprofit or public organization that could create an amazing community fellowship, please request an application here.

Webinar: Managing Emotions Related to Workplace Reintegration

Over the course of this summer, many Whitman employees are beginning to re-enter the campus workplace, which can cause added stress and anxiety related to concerns about safety, job roles and how to maintain work-life balance. This webinar from Cascade Centers Employee Assistance Program focuses on emotional and logistical coping skills to help reduce the stress of this transition.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

8:30–10 a.m.  
Employee COVID-19 Testing

Any employee who has not submitted proof of COVID-19 vaccination must be tested in order to receive the weekly campus access badge. Testing will take place at Welty Health Center.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

12 noon  
Summer Science and Research Seminars: Get-to-know-you Games

Meet at the Fish Statue on Ankeny and get to know your fellow student-researchers. This event targets students who are doing research at Whitman but is open to all.

Have a virtual event you’d like to share with campus? Email the details to whitmantoday@whitman.edu.

“Whitman Today” is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday and Thursday to Whitman College staff, faculty and students. All times are listed in Pacific Daylight Time.

Submissions are welcome! If you have a professional or personal accomplishment to celebrate, an event to publicize or other content to share with the Whitman community, email whitmantoday@whitman.edu to submit. Please include a short, informative paragraph about your accomplishment or event. By submitting to Whitman Today you also authorize use on Whitman’s social media unless otherwise specified.

Previous issues of Whitman Today are archived on our website.