



Welcome Western Carolina University new students and parents!

Thank you for registering for First Ascent! We are very excited to be welcoming you onto our campus and into our community this August. What better way to do that than by making new friends and exploring your new campus, Cullowhee and all the active, adventurous, cultural and unique opportunities here in the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountains! There are two special interest programs in First Ascent and each program offers you a unique experience while introducing you to other new students, upper classmen, faculty and staff, as well as Cullowhee and its surrounding areas.

This letter is primarily to welcome you and to thank you for choosing our program. The first important step in preparing for First Ascent is to stay up to date with your WCU email account or the email that you registered with, as we will be sending various updates to keep you informed up until your trip. On top of this, please look over the gear list (located in the information packet you received alongside this email) and see what gear you need to borrow from Basecamp. If you need to borrow anything from us, let us know **before July 31, 2024**. **To ensure you do not miss any important information, you must check your WCU email account regularly.**

For now, please note the *tentative* schedule for the first day of First Ascent! If you have specific questions, contact us at [basecamp@wcu.edu](mailto:basecamp@wcu.edu) or call 828.227.8813. Friend us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/WCUCampusRec> and follow us on Instagram [http://instagram.com/wcu\\_campusrec](http://instagram.com/wcu_campusrec) to post questions and meet other new students!

Enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to seeing you soon. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact us.

We look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

**Jeremiah Haas**

Associate Director of Campus Recreation and Wellness, Outdoor Programs

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**First Ascent Schedule**  
**Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> 2024**

Note – You are responsible for scheduling your move in date with Residential Living. Follow the instructions in your Room Assignment Email from Residential living to sign up for a Move In Time Slot. Please select a slot on Friday, August 9 or the morning slot on Saturday, August 10. If you are unable to select one of these slots during the sign up process, please reach out to Residential Living at [housingquestions@wcu.edu](mailto:housingquestions@wcu.edu) and identify yourself as a participant in First Ascent and they will work to accommodate your move in preference.

- 1:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.      First Ascent Check-In      Campus Recreation Center Lobby**  
Prior to your check in for First Ascent, please assure that you are moved into your residential living space. After you move into your residence hall, students will meet at the CRC for First Ascent check-in. **Please make sure to bring all your personal items in a large duffel or backpack.** Also, lunch will not be provided so please come having already eaten. There will be staff at the entrance of the CRC to greet you and direct you to check in. [Campus Recreation Center Map](#)
- 2:00p.m. – 3:30p.m.      Welcome & First Ascent Overview      CRC Conference/Meeting Room**  
We will begin programming at 2:00pm at the front lobby of the CRC (next to the clock tower in the center of campus). After check-in we will begin the process of packing for your trip. Please make sure to bring all your personal items in a large duffel or backpack. Your leaders will want to go over the packing list with you to assure you have all necessary equipment.
- 3:30p.m. – 5:00p.m.      Gear Shuffle and Programming Prep**
- 5:00p.m. – 6:00p.m.      Dinner with your Leaders      WCU Dining Hall**  
You will finish the day with the a walk to the WCU Dinning Hall with your leaders! Enjoy a dinner with your new friends.
- 6:00p.m. – 7:30p.m.      Walmart Run      Walmart**  
Grab any last minute items you may need before tomorrow’s big adventure! Do you have enough batteries, proper water bottles, layers, etc.?

**Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> 2024**

- 9:00a.m.      Arrive at your Program      Front Lobby of Campus Rec. Center**  
The time is here! When you arrive at your program please make sure you have all your personal gear with you as you will not be returning to your residence halls until Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.