For Session 1, most students will bring their belongings to campus when they come back for Orientation on the 21st. Another option is to ship up to two large boxes to your Colgate mailing address and they will be held in the mailroom for pick-up on August 21st. There are very limited options for storing belongings on campus during session one – please contact us if you have questions about storing your belongings.

For Session 2 participants, students will be able to move their belongings into their dorm room on the day they arrive for WA. Residence Life will have key pick up hours during the morning/afternoon of arrival day. After you are all moved in, you need to organize personal and provided group gear, your group will drive to the Beattie Reserve (located three miles from campus), eat dinner, and continue to meet your group. You will camp at Beattie for the night and have a hearty breakfast the next morning before driving north to the mountains, lakes and rivers of the central New York wilderness for the next three nights.
to check in for WA between 2:30 and 3:15. WA officially begins at 3:30 so you need to be checked-in and present at Base Camp by then.

**NOTE: If you are mailing items to campus, DO NOT mail anything you need for WA. Mail can be delayed or lost and there will not be time to wait for your items to arrive before leaving on your trip.**

**NOTE for 2016: Andrews and Bryan halls are both undergoing significant renovations this summer. If you are living in one of these residences, alternative secure storage options will be available on the 16th and students in these dorms will be able to move into their rooms upon return from WA on the 21st.**

What If I Have Dietary Restrictions?
Please be specific about any dietary restrictions, preferences or allergies on your registration and medical form. We will call you in early July if we have any questions about how to meet your dietary needs and if we need you to provide any specific food items that we cannot purchase locally. We cannot accommodate significant last minute dietary requests so PLEASE communicate with us ahead of time.

What If I've Never Been Camping/Climbing/Kayaking/Etc. Before?
No problem! Lots of people go on WA with little or no previous outdoor experience. You will have experienced leaders along with your group who will be happy to show you how to live and play comfortably in the woods. Most of the trips are designed with beginners in mind. All we ask is that you come with a good attitude and a willingness to learn. We know not everyone comes from a place where camping in the woods is considered fun or normal. Even though this might be a new experience for you and you may be a little uneasy about sleeping in the woods, we strongly encourage you to try this program. Don't think of it as living in a tent, think of it as a chance to make great friends and get a head start on college. Even if you feel a little nervous now, we know you won't regret it. New challenges are what college is all about, right?

Who Will Be Leading My Trip And What Will I Learn?
Two or three upper-class students who are Outdoor Education staff members lead each Wilderness Adventure trip. All staff complete an extensive nine-month training program focused on risk management, leadership, teaching, and outdoor skills. Staff members are certified in CPR and Wilderness First Responder, a 72-hour backcountry medicine course. Wilderness Adventure trips are a unique introduction to both the Colgate community and backcountry travel. Along the way, you’ll learn about navigation, camping, Leave-No-Trace, and more, with the goal of teaching you everything you need to know to be a self-sufficient group. Perhaps more importantly, you’ll also learn about life at Colgate, from classes to campus, from professors to phys. ed. credits, or from winters in Hamilton to weekend activities, your leaders are experts at camping and Colgate who are ready to help you figure this whole thing out.

What Gear Do I Need?
All gear lists are posted on the Wilderness Adventure web page. You are expected to bring all of the “mandatory items” on the gear list for your activity. These mandatory items are essential for your own comfort and safety. Items on the gear list with an (*) may be borrowed from Wilderness Adventure. Be sure to submit the gear request form if you need any of these items. Please note that clothing cannot be rented from us due to state health codes. There is a limited amount of rental equipment available so if you have your own gear, please bring it.

*If you need to purchase any gear/clothing, the following stores are recommended as starting points in your search for competitive prices:* Army/Navy surplus stores, Sierra Trading Post, Campmor, L.L. Bean, Gander Mountain, Wal-Mart, Bass Pro Shop, Eastern Mountain Sports, Backcountry.com, or REI.com. All group equipment such as tents, cook stoves, pots, etc. will be provided.

*A Note To Canoeists And Backpackers:*
**Your boots are your most important piece of gear!** It is essential that your boots fit properly and that they are well worn before the trip – we cannot overemphasize the importance of "breaking in" your boots. In the past, students have had to leave their trip due to blisters caused by ill-fitting and/or new boots. Start wearing your boots ASAP – preferably for 2-4 hours at a time and ideally while carrying a weighted book bag. The bottom line is the more you break in your boots now, the happier you’ll be on your trip.