First Name: Michelle  
Preferred Name: Michelle  
Last Name: Adler  
Gender: female  
Date of Birth: 1998-06-05 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I grew up in an active family-my mom is a fitness instructor and my dad lives for ultimate frisbee and skiing. While we would go hiking often, it was a very rare occurrence for us to go camping and unheard of for us to go backpacking. The reason for this being that my older sister has Down Syndrome. As wonderful as she is, she is not very capable of physical exercise nor is she fond of the outdoors. It wasn’t a big deal to me - it was rare that my friends went camping or backpacking so I never felt left out. In the seventh grade, my class went on a backpacking in the Grand Canyon. It was my first time backpacking and it was incredible. While carrying a heavy weight for over ten miles in under four hours was difficult, being surrounded by my classmates in a beautiful place led to the creation of so many fond memories. In all honesty, beef stroganoff never tasted as good as it did coming out of a dehydrated food bag. My backpacking trip in the Grand Canyon was my first and, unfortunately, it has been my only. I want to do BOLT to have an experience like the one seventh grade me fell in love with. I want to meet my peers and get to know them in a way that cannot be achieved in a classroom setting - I want to form bonds over a campfire or over sore feet - I want to form bonds over having a shared experience.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: For most of my first semester in college I felt as though I did not have friends. I was friendly with a lot of people but chit chat in my dorm hallway was not the engaging type of interactions I was looking for. Joining the frisbee team changed my experience on campus because I became part of a group that played together not only on the field but off as well. The activities I participate in denote different communities on campus full of interesting and passionate people. In the upcoming year, I hope to build on my personal communities by meeting new people - people whose interests may not even line up with my own. Participating in a BOLT trip would offer me the opportunity to be part of a diverse, interesting community on campus that I would have the chance to become close with not only throughout my sophomore year, but also throughout the entirety of my undergraduate experience.   
  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: As I am not an experienced backpacker whatsoever, one of the things I would love to learn in my BOLT group is to...I guess backpack! Hand in hand with this would be a developmental process of learning how not to feel self-conscious about not knowing how to do everything. Most of my knowledge about BOLT has come from peers who have participated in the program and are now working as group leaders. A consistency I have heard from nearly every previous participant is that BOLT groups stick together and that group leaders result in being influential mentors in the lives of their participants. I would be ecstatic to grow close with a group and to have a mentor who can not only teach me about how to survive in the outdoors, but also to survive when it comes back to academic life. Additionally, BOLT, being available to all sophomores and new students, would present as an excellent opportunity to meet students of other concentrations and academic interests. Up to this point, I have had a relatively streamlined group of friends that I’ve surrounded myself with as we either meet in activities or in class, which creates a common interest. I believe it would be very beneficial for me to really get to know a group of people who I maybe do not identify so closely with right off the bat.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Jacob  
Preferred Name: Jacob  
Last Name: Alabab-Moser  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1998-07-24 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Growing up in Maui, Hawaii, I was always immersed in natural beauty and looking back, I definitely took that for granted. I spent hours at the beach every weekend, took spontaneous camping trips with my friends, and did homework on my school’s grassy lawn everyday, all year long. Naturally, I went through a physical, mental, and spiritual shock upon coming to Brown to live here for the next four years. I expected challenging courses and having trouble making friends, but I didn’t foresee how much I would miss being able to easily access nature. Many of the hardest days I have experienced this first year have been those in winter where I have woken up in a cold, dark gloom, unable to hear the birds and stay outside for a prolonged period of time. While I doubt that I can ever fully escape those days, I feel like participating in BOLT could help me explore my relationship and dependence on nature, as well as establish a sense of community that could be able to support me when the outdoors can’t. I believe it would be comforting to form camaraderie among other students that understand this love and need for being in nature, even long after the initial trip. While I have found my experiences at Brown fulfilling in many ways, I think BOLT could supplement them in providing not only a release from urban and academic life, but also a source of reflection for how I would like to incorporate nature into my life beyond Brown.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: I would say that my main goals for the upcoming year are contradictory in many respects; maybe the nature-related metaphor of a tree is appropriate (and cheesy) for articulating them: I want to spread out my branches and grow yet while solidifying the roots of my life here at Brown.   
On one hand, I see sophomore year as an opportunity to continue exploring, whether that entails taking courses in subjects I’ve never contemplated before or immersing myself in new clubs. I want more than anything to form new relationships with other students and mentors of various backgrounds––a resource I think BOLT would most certainly provide in providing those connections but also giving me the confidence to put myself out in the greater Brown community.  
However, I also want to meditate upon the life I’ve created here at Brown so far. I have joined various clubs on campus, and I think the leadership skills I learn through BOLT I could apply to better contribute to those spaces. I also think BOLT can help me understand more fully how nature can continue to play a role in my life at Brown by showing me that no matter where I go, I can carry this personal connection with the physical space of the wilderness, as well as an affinity with other people who are fulfilled by it.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I think BOLT could help me further explore that concept of intersectionality through its context of the outdoors. Throughout my time at Brown, I have discussed with other students both inside and outside the classroom what it means to hold multiple identities, which include race, sexuality, socioeconomic status, and gender. However, something I’ve noticed is a disparity between these discussions with mainly POC and the spaces at Brown that engage with the outdoors that are centered on predominately white narratives. Given BOLT’s commitment to including POC and other marginalized identities, I think there’s the opportunity to explore what it means to be a non-white, non-heterosexual person in nature through the experience I would share with people that share those identities as well with as people who don’t. I think my participation in the program and community could help me unlearn these Eurocentric, male-centric associations with nature and adopt a new, more inclusive understanding.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Nathaniel  
Preferred Name: Nate  
Last Name: Allen  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I have a hunger for adventure and a strong will to challenge myself physically and intellectually. I’ve never been camping before, and I’m excited for the chance to throw myself into something new. When I was younger, I attended the YMCA during the summer and got a taste of the outdoors; we canoed and frolicked in a nearby ravine, but since then I’ve had few chances to return to that.  
  
Hearing stories from my friends about camping, backpacking, and hiking trips that they’ve done have had a profound effect on me. I want the opportunity to experience nature from a new perspective, and to gain the skills that will allow me to backpack on my own one day.   
  
As a person who also suffers from chronic depression and anxiety, BOLT could help me to practice mindfulness, to move outside of my social comfort zone, and to heal from my most recent episodes. I hope that through shared experiences of nature and learning that I could begin to forge new, deep relationships with other human beings. Since the beginning of my first semester I’ve been itching to become a part of a community that I could dedicate myself to.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One of my most important goals for the upcoming year is to stabilize with my mental health. Over the last year I’ve struggled with major depression and anxiety, and I’m beginning to learn once again how to find joy in life. I’ve discovered that physical activity, experiencing nature, and social contact all help tremendously with these challenges. BOLT is an the ideal mixture of all of these things.   
  
I also hope to strike a healthier balance between academic, social, and extracurricular life next year. These past two semesters I feel that my preoccupation with academics have consumed other important aspects of my life like contributing to the community and building life skills. I hope that by striking a balance, each separate part has a greater chance to flourish. BOLT would be an opportunity to expand that part of the equation.  
  
If all goes well and I stabilize, ultimately I hope to challenge myself with a camping or backpacking trip of my own or with one or two people during one of the breaks next semester. I hope that getting training early and participating in BOLT’s social network could make this a reality.  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope that the tech-free environment during the backpacking trip will give us all a chance to interact in a more open, direct, and unadulterated fashion. Life at Brown presents us with a constant barrage of stimuli and obligation. BOLT is a chance remove ourselves from that turbulent river for a moment, to reconvene. In those moments I hope to reflect with others on the challenges of the trail and perhaps our lives.   
  
Growing close to one’s group in an environment like the White Mountains I feel is almost inevitable for me. We’ll all be free of distractions, trying to help each other climb the hurdles of outdoorsmanship. I hope that, in these interactions people will grow to trust me, to see me as an individual, and to imagine me complexly, and I them. I learned through my time in the Third World Transition Program here at Brown that one can become quite intimate with another person through trusting conversation.   
  
I hope that, through BOLT, I might exercise my capacity to grow relationships over time. The 5 day hiking trip will provide the spark, but it’s truly up to us to fan the flames of friendship. I believe we could achieve this through the semester long activities.  
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning), Non-Binary Gender / Genderqueer, As having a disability (mental, physical, etc.)

First Name: Suzanne  
Preferred Name: Suzanne  
Last Name: Antoniou  
Gender: female  
Date of Birth: 1997-07-20 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I would love the opportunity to participate in BOLT for a number of reasons. Firstly, I have been fortunate to make deep and wonderful friendships during my freshman year, but instead of leading me to feel comfortable, these friendships make me realize the incredible people I am surrounded by. Any sort of opportunity to interact on an impactful level with my peers and potentially foster new friendships, or even just learn from those around me, is of great interest to me. BOLT offers all of that. Secondly, I love hiking. I have been going on day hikes for years and have now started to venture into overnight backpacking, and I believe the experience BOLT would give me with backpacking would greatly help me work towards the through-hiking of the Appalachian that I wish to do later on. Thirdly, the engagement and support activities the following semester provide a strong impetus for participation. The opportunity to be a part of a tight-knit community as well as have the reach-out point of a leader would be so valuable. Navigating college can be difficult, but having strong connections and multiple sources of advice only make the process easier. The fourth reason why I want to do BOLT is that it presents an opportunity for personal growth. Despite the fact that I love hiking, it can still be incredibly challenging and requires you to push yourself. I imagine that accomplishing a five-day backpacking trip would be immensely rewarding and would cultivate self-confidence and emotional strength in whoever completes it.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My goals for the upcoming year entail more firmly deciding on what I wish to concentrate, continuing to branch out and create friendships, and working to more fully immerse myself in the Brown community. Participating in the actual hike component of BOLT will help me better determine my concentration plan. I am currently torn between the Conservation Science & Policy track and the Sustainability in Development track of the Environmental Science concentration. I feel that participating in a multi-day backpacking trip will help me garner a better sense as to whether I want to pursue a career that consists of field research, or something pertaining more to office work. Both the hike and the follow up events will help me to continue to build friendships. I anticipate that the hike will provide a start point for some friendships that will only be deepened through the continued interactions throughout the semester. Additionally, the leadership workshops would help me to gain confidence which would lead me to be willing to put myself out there more and potentially join more clubs and activities. Also, meeting new people through BOLT will likely expose me to various facets of Brown that I am not currently aware of, giving me opportunities to become more engaged in the Brown community.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope to be able to have deeply intellectual, personal, and formative conversations with my fellow hikers. I aim to be able to learn more about other people’s experiences and how those experiences have shaped their lives. I hope to gain a fuller understanding of what life is like for people with identities dissimilar to mine, as well as to see how people who have identities in common with me experience the world. The people who surround me at Brown are incredibly interesting and diverse, and being at Brown presents everyone with the immense opportunity to learn so much from one another. The main reason I came to Brown was for the people I met on my visit—people here genuinely seem to care about both learning and others. I would ask people the common place “what are you studying” question, and never was I met with a one word response. The Brunonians I met would delve into why exactly they wanted to study something, and how they hoped to better the world in the process. Everyone I have met now at Brown fits this initial impression. My peers, and myself included, have genuine aims to help others. I find learning about what others wish to study, work as, and improve truly revealing. You can learn a great deal about a person based on their interests. As a result of hiking with peers of diverse identities and interests, I am confident that I would gain a wealth of understanding not only about others, but also about myself.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Viviana  
Preferred Name: Viviana  
Last Name: Arrunategui-Norvick  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1997-11-07 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I hope to expand my horizons my sophomore year. Consequently, I want to join BOLT in order to gain new experiences outdoors while being encompassed by a supportive community. I easily get caught up with the academics of Brown. Being a first generation college student, I was unsure about what to expect, and when I came to college, I felt like I was a flailing duck. As a result, I dived into the pure academics of Brown, not realizing that I was cutting myself off from the world outside the bubble of College Hill. I want to join BOLT, in order to physically and mentally see beyond Brown University. Coming from California, I love nature, and I spent most of my time outdoors. However, during my time here at Brown, I have not had the opportunity to truly explore the nature around me. I feel that BOLT will give me the opportunity to finally reunite with nature and give me the opportunity to leave College Hill behind-even if it is just for a couple of hours. Additionally, I feel that BOLT and its diverse community will enable me to think beyond just college academics and be a supportive group as I try to expand my focus to the communities outside of my academics.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: As a shy and introverted student, I do not feel motivated to move beyond my comfort zone for most situations. Thus, one of my goals is to become more proactive in my life. I want to join more student groups and programs, which will enable me to grow as a person and a leader (such as BOLT). I hope BOLT will enable me to become a more confident person and leader through its supportive community and events.  
Additionally, throughout my first semester, I mainly focused on academics. As a result, I felt that I did not take advantage of Brown’s resources or Brown’s students groups. Instead, I predominantly stayed within the bubble of my STEM classes, specifically my engineering classes. For the upcoming year, I hope to expand my community and social group, so it includes people of different backgrounds and concentrations instead of just being composed of people I have classes with. I want to join BOLT because it has such a diverse community that I would love to become a part of. Additionally, it would allow me the opportunity to focus on something other than my academics, which can take up the majority of my attention. As a first year student, I am still trying to balance a social life with academics and extracurricular activities, and I feel that expanding the communities I surround myself with will aid in that balance.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: While reflecting on my freshmen year, I realized that I gravitated towards people with similar backgrounds as myself. I was not fully cognizant of this until I took a step back and noticed that my close friends were low-income, first generation, Hispanic students like myself. As much as I appreciate having friends of similar backgrounds, I hope that the diverse community of BOLT will open my mind to other cultures and also enable me to break out of my comfort zone. I want to be more inclusive in the communities I choose to surround myself. I am too accustomed at viewing things in certain ways and surrounding myself with like-minded peers does nothing to change or question my perspective. I think the diversity within Bolt will force me to think critically about my perspective and ideals and enable me to think creatively to see solutions and opportunities I never saw before. I want to grow as a person, and this will not happen if I continue to have the same mindset and perspective. Consequently, I hope that being around such a diverse group as BOLT will enable me to not only expand my perspective on the world around me, but also inspire me to become a better person as a result of this change in perspective.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Norbesida  
Preferred Name: Norbesida  
Last Name: Bagabila  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1991-10-07 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): brand new RUE student - starting this fall  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I once read that knowledge will get you to the final stage, but experience will get you the prize. Experience is something that you get through a synergy of action, mentorship, and collaboration with peers. As a student, I came to realize that learning is not the only component that will make me successful; I must become a leader. A combination of learning and strong leadership skills can lead one to reach his full potential.  
By being part of Brown Outdoor Leadership Training (BOLT), I will get the experience and leadership skills I need to shape my path to success. The BOLT peers will help improve my reasoning skills, intellectual ability, and allow me to interact with peers in other fields. I will learn how to integrate myself in a community, be sociable and personally shape myself as a leader. I am also looking forward to being back in nature. Growing up in Burkina Faso, I used to wander in the bushes after classes, collecting medicinal herbs. After five years in New York City, hiking in the mountains will bring a bit of pleasant nostalgia from my first home. This combination of key factors is what makes BOLT, the perfect program to launch the next stage of my educational journey.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My goals for the upcoming year are many and include: fully integrating myself in the Brown community, achieving a perfect GPA, securing a research opportunity, and finding the perfect study abroad program. Participating in the BOLT program is crucial to achieving these goals. Through the BOLT community I can learn about other communities and programs, take advantage of peer advising in choosing my class schedules, and discover research opportunities with faculty mentors. As an immigrant, I have come to realize that knowing a person is better than knowing a country. The BOLT program will provide me with intellectual, emotional and professional support from other BOLTER’S. In the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood, I will seek guidance and mentorship from BOLT leaders, mentors and alumni on how to reach my full potential as a student and a leader. Also, BOLT will give me a family. I know that I will need support when sadness comes around or when academic work is not going as planned. I also need a family to cheer me on when success knocks at my door. With BOLT, I will learn how to be helpful to my friends and classmates. Like my father use to say: “the true value of a person is being able to serve others”  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: As they say in my culture: “A hand full of anything is always due to the collaboration of five fingers.” I grew up in a very traditional community, where the value of mutual help was greatly emphasized. When a couple planned to marry, the community would come together as one to build them a house. I grew up hearing everyone say “good morning, how are you, how was your night?” We all loved and cared for each other. I will bring this communal spirit to the BOLT program. I will foster all those skills that have proven vital, to shape myself as a leader, to unleash my potential to lead with dignity, and to live a life of possibilities. For this to happens I must interact with people who thrive.  
Being part of BOLT will allow me to encounter, share with, and learn from highly competent and diverse people. I believe that we are made of layers of identity that overlap to create our unique experience. In entering the BOLT community, I hope to find people who share my love of learning and my drive. In the midst of all these creative minds, I hope to shape myself as a leader.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Gabriela  
Preferred Name: Gabby  
Last Name: Batista  
Gender: Female   
Date of Birth: 1998-03-12 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I’ve always found that the greatest moments of clarity come surrounded by the stillness and simplicity of nature. While it’s easy to get caught in monotonous daily routines and the stress of student life – losing sight of our true drive, direction, and purpose – there is no feeling greater than stepping away to a place where the human mind can come into sync with the natural world.   
  
By doing BOLT, not only would I be able to reflect on my interests and experiences before entering my second year at Brown, but also to learn by building relationships with my peers. By collaborating through camping and outdoors skills, disconnecting from social media and outside distractions, and continuing establishing the relationships throughout the year, I will be able to continue to create and strengthen new bonds. Considering this, my favorite part of being a freshman was hearing the stories of people of all different origins, ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds, religions, and upbringings. While I most certainly learned about myself by overcoming new barriers and crossing new boundaries, I learned infinitely more from my genuine interest in the stories, concerns, and aspirations of others.   
  
While we can learn through our own journeys, I believe we can learn infinitely more by truly trying to understand and connect with those around us. Considering this, I would absolutely love to become part of a community of understanding and friendship that is fostered not only by a 5-day long bonding experience, but throughout the rest of my experience at Brown.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: For the upcoming year my primary goal is to become more confident in my own leadership abilities. While I feel that I have always been a more silent leader – leading by example – there have been opportunities I have missed out on and passions I have let slip by because I am not always confident in my own ability to put myself out there or try for something that may not always turn out to be successful. By building teamwork, collaboration, and communication skills, I can grow confident in my own ability to become a capable leader, expressing my ideas and initiatives in an effective way. In addition, by participating in leadership workshops at school I can continue to develop these throughout the year.   
  
Furthermore, my second goal would be to gain a greater friend and mentor network. By fostering intimate relationships with peers and mentors, I can not only become more confident in my own social abilities but also learn how to navigate academic and person life as I continue my career at Brown.  
  
Lastly, I would like to spend more time focusing on my own ambitions and exploring my own interests. By taking time before and during Sophomore year to think about how I want to spend my time and approach certain situations, I think I will be able to gain the most out of the next two semesters.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I don’t believe there is any better way to grow as a person other than to whole-heartedly empathize with the ideas, concerns, fears, ambitions, and passions of others. By making an authentic effort to listen to friends, peers, advisors, and even strangers, one can truly learn so much about the experiences that are outside of our own personal – and often biased – understanding. Acknowledging the limitations of our own knowledge is a crucial step in becoming a more compassionate and caring individual. This is a skill that is critical in any and all fields.   
  
Acknowledging my own ability to learn and grow through gaining a deeper understanding of others, I am incredibly enthusiastic to consider the opportunity to reach out to others and hear their story. By working together as a group to foster trust and confidence in our own racial, religious, economic, and sexual identities, I would hope to gain a greater understanding of how others perceive the institutions around them. Furthermore, I would like to know how all of us – despite a range of identities and experiences – may unite under common goals and ambitions to work together as a single unit of solidarity. I believe BOLT would truly help me grow as a person, as well as hopefully be able to contribute to other's understanding using my own lived experiences.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning), As having a disability (mental, physical, etc.)

First Name: Madeleine  
Preferred Name: Maddie  
Last Name: Becker  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1997-05-02 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): brand new transfer - starting this fall  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I’m excited about BOLT because I love the impact outdoors trips can have on both students’ relationships with each other and their own personal growth. I’ve been on four school camping trips in middle and high school, where I’ve learned to embrace the power of disconnecting from our daily lives to reconnect in nature. Being outdoors, without technology, electricity, showers, etc. teaches you about leadership and working with others in a way that’s difficult to create in any other environment.  
   
On my earlier wilderness trips, my group faced moments of weakness, times where we all felt vulnerable and had to lean on each other for support. In my 7th grade trip, many of us struggled to carry packs over half our weight; my sophomore year, my group got lost trying to take a shortcut through the mountains; and during my junior year, bad weather, challenging terrain, and countless blisters left many of us dispirited and missing home. Yet these moments, with their seemingly insurmountable physical and mental obstacles, always brought us closer. Separated from the things that normally defined us at home and at school, we found support in each other in new ways and explored new strengths in the outdoors (e.g., someone’s a good storyteller, riddle solver, troubleshooter, etc).  
  
As a transfer student, I know BOLT would be an amazing opportunity to once again feel vulnerable among a group of students, learning more about myself and others, before orientation even starts.  
  
Lastly, I love that the BOLT experience doesn’t end when school starts. Often, it’s difficult back at school to escape the stress of classes and work and to reproduce the same feelings of openness that these trips create, so I’m thrilled to hear that BOLT groups make an effort to get together during the year to reconnect.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: As an incoming junior transfer, I feel some pressure to quickly assimilate into Brown’s community, knowing that most kids around me have already spent two years together. Participating in BOLT would allow me to bond with other transfers and RUE students who are going through a similar transitional period in their lives. My hope is that after spending a week together with these students, as well as returning sophomores, Brown will feel a little less foreign by the time orientation starts.  
  
I’m also hoping BOLT will connect me to Brown in a way that was lacking in my previous college experience. For the past two years, I have played volleyball at a small liberal arts school outside of Philadelphia called Haverford. I chose to go there because volleyball, in addition to soccer and lacrosse, was such a big part of my high school experience, how I defined myself, and where I felt the most “me.” But at Haverford, I learned that college was about a lot more than volleyball. Instead, it was the friendships I made outside of sports, my coworkers from my part-time job, and the classes I took off-campus (due to a lack of courses in film and CS at Haverford) that inspired me. Volleyball only took time away from the things I enjoyed the most, and as my interests gravitated away from the initial reason I chose to be there, I found myself less and less connected to my community.  
  
As I enter Brown (where I won’t be playing volleyball), with the ability to be more involved in campus life and more mindful of my interests, I hope that being a part of BOLT will be a means to build a relationship with my new school, in the beginning, but also for the long run.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: At Brown, I am looking forward to meeting students who have a broader range of identities than my previous college classmates. During my first two years at Haverford, I spent a lot of time on a team made up mostly of girls like me: white, straight, affluent, and cis-gendered. While we all got along, I found myself looking outside of the volleyball community to find friends who would expand my horizons. As I got to know other students around campus, especially those with talents outside of sports, I realized how important it was to me to develop these relationships, with people who had radically different backgrounds than mine.  
  
With that in mind, I’m hoping that BOLT can jumpstart my immersion into Brown’s amazing, diverse community. I am so excited about entering a larger community than my past one, one that gives me more freedom and space to build connections with students I want to spend time with. Especially since dorm and classroom environments aren’t always conducive to discussions about background and identity, I’m hoping that through BOLT, we can learn about each other in an open and sincere way that only being in the outdoors can encourage.  
  
Lastly, in our country’s current political climate of suspicion and intolerance, it is as important as ever to foster understanding and friendships with people of different identities and viewpoints than ourselves, including but not limited to age, race, religion, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. As an upperclassman entering Brown for the first time, I feel this mission of creating dialogue, acutely, and I hope that these conversations can begin and continue with my BOLT peers this fall.  
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Andres  
Preferred Name: Andres  
Last Name: Beltran  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I would enjoy spending time with people from different backgrounds. The Bolt experience is separating the individual from their comfort zone, into a setting where we will be forced to come out of the bubble we live in. And once we leave that bubble, we truly can communicate with one another. The Bolt experience will help me understand better the backgrounds from other people. I know personally, I would like to share my experiences working with my dad, or adventuring with my relatives through parts of Mexico where my parents grew up. I would like the Bolters to see how diverse the world really is. I know on the Hill it’s tough to be open, we tend to close up in fear off not being the ideal student from the perfect background. On a trip in the wilderness, there is no fear of being judged. It is an experience where the community must be coerce and close in order to function out in the wild. The dependency of on another will lead us to express our true nature. That’s why I want to be a part of Bolt, expression of ourselves, expression of who we are and where we come from.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Bolt builds a community of people who will forever in their lives share the moment of being adventurous out in the wild enjoying the freedom of life. The community will be sculpted around this experience, creating a friendship that will last. The Bolt experience will help me with my goals for the community will always be there for me. I am an engineer, entering my fall year taking E & M. The community in STEM frowns upon admitting failure or any sort of defeat, it is hard to discuss really with anyone how it feels to do bad on a exam. The Bolt community is different from the community I currently am situated with. The experience of working together and coming out of our shells on the trip will allow us to express ourselves easier in time of need even on the hill. And that’s how I see Bolt experience affecting my goals through the year. The group will remind me of the time where I was open to the world, where naturally I can express my frustrations without the fear of being judged. A support group that will have experiences dealing with my emotions because the trip will be a whole array of open ideas.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope to share my experiences with others and grow together in making a community that respects everyone’s background. Being out in the wilderness will definitely improve communication skills, and team work ethics. It will demonstrate what life is outside of the privileged bubble we all come from. There is simply less resources, surviving together using each other as support. I hope to be a stronger individual after going spending the days out in the wilderness. Moreover, I know the group in Bolt will continue pass the trip, hoping to keep close after going through a life changing experience on the trip. It will be a moment that we all share, a moment that will develop me who I am in understanding others. As well as a reminder of my privileged world, making me more humble and grateful for where I come from. Bolt will show me the world of others, likewise I will share my experiences with them.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Leslie  
Preferred Name: Leslie  
Last Name: Benavides  
Gender: Femail  
Date of Birth: 1997-12-02 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I grew up in Texas where there is plenty of space and room to engage in outdoor activities—camping is something many folks did. However, growing up in inner city Houston and being low-income, I always looked at outdoor experiences in the United States as economically privileged ones. Not to mention, hiking, camping, and outdoor experiences are also perceived as white activities in white dominated spaces. I have always struggled with the idea that nature could be dominated by a single race. In my mother’s home—an Indigenous town in Mexico, hiking and outdoor experiences are essential to our development and occur for cultural and spiritual pilgrimages. I want to do BOLT as I want reclaim space and experiences and combat the notion that hiking, camping, and outdoor trips are white-only experiences. Moreover, I want to do BOLT as I value the continuity of the program—my reclamation of space will not be a one-time thing, but rather something I do over a semester with a community.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My first year at Brown has been hard. Although there are places formed for the identities I hold (FLI-Center, BCSC, etc.) at Brown, I have still struggled to feel as though I belong to a community. I know that there is space for me in these communities, yet I still have struggled to get myself to be a part of them. As thus, a goal for the upcoming year is to cultivate organic friendships as well as a community who I can support and receive support from. Moreover, I want to develop and strengthen my leadership and communal workmanship, and I want to do it alongside my community. I would like to have my leadership skills challenged not by those in positions of power around me, but rather people that I admire and feel connected to. Lastly, I love the outdoors, I love being in touch with nature, but it is something I am usually deprived from while in the United States. As such, it is also my goal to re-touch with my love for meditation and hiking—and to reclaim spaces while doing so. There have been too many times in which I wanted to do this during the year and was unable to. I think BOLT could be a phenomenal opportunity to connect both of these desires.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Considering the marginalized communities I belong to at Brown, I feel like I am constantly teaching. In class sections, I am often teaching folks what it means to be low-income, what it means to be a child of immigrants, what it means to be first-generation, what it means to be a student of color. To be quite frank, it has been quite an exhausting journey. I have spent time after tough classes crying in a stall because of the emotional labor that comes with teaching. However, this is not because of the teaching itself, but the way in which I have taught and the situations that have forced me to teach. In many of these scenarios, I am not necessarily teaching folks who want to learn, but rather telling folks why the identities I carry deserve survival—why I deserve Medicaid, why I am not lucky that I am on a full-scholarship as what has made eligible for it is poverty, why my formerly undocumented parents were never “illegal”. BOLT aims to be a family and I want to learn, engage, and grow with my BOLT group the way I have with my family. I have learned about my family through story-telling and sharing experiences. I have taught my family and I have learned from my family, and I have done so organically. There is a vulnerability that comes from the outdoors, from sharing a meal together, from sharing stories together that cultivates an organic environment through which families learn and grow together. I hope to be a part of as well as grow and learn alongside the BOLT family.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Pazia  
Preferred Name: Pazia  
Last Name: Bermudez-Silverman  
Gender: female  
Date of Birth: 1998-01-01 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Camping trips were a large part of the curriculum at my elementary school, emphasizing community building, relationships with nature, learning through experience and self-sufficiency. We cooked for each other, cleaned up after ourselves, set up our own tents, slept under the stars and took daily hikes to oases and other excursions. Growing up valuing nature and these other principles, I now realize that lacking time for outdoor activities has impacted the way I interact with the world. The relationships I made in elementary school were greatly influenced by our time spent camping together. I grew much closer to the classmates I camped with, and am still close to many of them. I want to bring this experience back into my life and build similarly unique connections with people at Brown.   
I am also extremely grateful for BOLT’s diversity and inclusion initiatives and its commitment to making everyone, especially women and people of color, feel welcome and comfortable. With these in place and without electronics or outside stressors such as schoolwork, I would not feel the need to perform socially, rather I could be fully present in nature and fully attentive to my peers, something that I find extremely hard in the busy-culture of Brown. Overall, BOLT would be a challenging and fulfilling way to start my second year.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In my sophomore year, I hope to experiment with new activities on and off campus, form new relationships, lower my stress level and be more physically active. BOLT would help me with these goals in many different ways. Fully immersing myself in nature for the first time in many years will give me an experience to look back on throughout the upcoming year in times of major stress and the tools and confidence to take similar, though smaller-scale, trips on my own during the year. In addition to providing a unique environment in which to form relationships with people I might not meet otherwise, BOLT would also encourage me to be more independent. This independence would empower me during the trip, in the upcoming school year and in my greater life. This trip will also push me past my normal physical and mental limits, which will then give me more confidence in my academic and social life throughout the year. I also hope that BOLT’s focus on (group) leadership will help me to feel more comfortable taking a leadership role and/or speaking up in spaces in which I have felt intimidated upon coming to Brown.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Sharing stories with, learning about and spending time with friends from different racial, cultural, socioeconomic and other backgrounds than myself is one of the most valuable parts of my Brown experience. The distinctive inclusive and bonding environment of BOLT would amplify these valuable interactions, contributing to mutual understandings and respect of how each of us, with our different backgrounds, brings different skills and experience to the trip and to our daily lives at Brown. As a multiracial person, I’m extremely committed to learning about differences and similarities with those who share parts of my racial background and those who do not. I am invested in learning to discover and appreciate differences with those that seem similar to me and similarities with those that seem different. I hope to learn to collaborate through and with difference. I then hope to take this new knowledge and experience with me into my next year at Brown, reflecting on my identity, schoolwork and social life with new perspectives. I am thoroughly thankful for this opportunity, fully aware that even though I would be in a diverse group of people, there are still many others who do not have access to experiential education like BOLT. With this in mind, I hope my engagement with the Providence community (i.e. my sexual education teaching at Roger Williams Middle School) will be enhanced and expanded.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Emma  
Preferred Name: Emma  
Last Name: Bouton  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1997-07-03 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I always seem to have the best conversations with my sister when we are hiking in Acadia National Park in the summer. Having grown up in New Hampshire with close proximity to the White Mountains, I learned to love hiking at a young age and quickly discovered the unique opportunity it provides for meaningful discussions. Being away from the distraction of technology and immersed in a common experience that is both physically strenuous and visually beautiful seems to forge bonds. I hope to participate in BOLT in order to have the opportunity to create and deepen similarly meaningful connections with other members of my class. As an admittedly introverted individual, I have developed some wonderful friendships over the course of this academic year, yet I am excited by the opportunity to continue to meet new people. As I feel very comfortable outside and love to hike, I anticipate that BOLT would enable me to establish sincere relationships. The structure of the program, which encourages participants to continue to come together throughout the year, also appeals to me as I expect it would provide a rewarding support network for the remainder of my time at Brown. My choice to join the Environmental Program House as an out-of-house member of West this semester has provided me with a similar sense of community that has been one of my favorite parts of my college experience thus far. Gathering together on a daily basis to share a meal with students who have similar interests has provided me with an invaluable source of support and advice. I hope that BOLT would likewise allow me to participate in the Brown community in a deeper way by introducing me to a diverse range of individuals and fostering lasting friendships.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Over the course of this year I have come to recognize the degree to which I am an introvert with the tendency to revert to being a quiet listener in large group settings. While I feel that this approach does have value in certain situations as it enables me to appreciate the ideas and opinions of those around me, I hope to enhance my confidence about participating in social situations and my leadership capabilities throughout the remainder of college. I anticipate that BOLT could be instrumental in this process by helping me to develop additional leadership skills and providing me with the opportunity to bond with a new and diverse collection of individuals. Following up on the intense experience of the trip with chances to receive mentorship and maintain connections with the BOLT community would enable me to continue to work on these personal objectives throughout college.   
   
Being at home for Spring Break has reminded me how little time I spend outdoors at Brown compared to when I am at home. Back in New Jersey I go for daily runs on the trails near my neighborhood and enjoy taking my dogs for walks, while in Providence my routine has become working out in the gym and studying inside. Next year I hope to make an effort to be outside more often in addition to my larger goal of maintaining a healthy lifestyle while in college. I expect that BOLT would introduce me to other people who enjoy spending time in nature and being active. Both the backpacking trip and opportunity to get to know individuals with similar interests could enable me to realize this goal.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope that participating in BOLT would enable me to establish friendships with a new group of people and deepen existing relationships by sharing in the intense collective experience of backpacking in the White Mountains. I anticipate that the bonds forged on the trail would translate into a lasting support network of peers back on campus that could provide me with sound advice and mentorship. Removed from the distractions of technology and the comforts of College Hill and well-established groups of friends, I expect that BOLT would encourage participants to get to know and trust a diverse group of individuals. Ideally this group environment would allow everyone to feel comfortable sharing their experiences on the trail and encourage a community of collaboration. From this open environment I would personally hope to have the opportunity to enhance my confidence in my leadership and social skills. I often feel overwhelmed in large groups and revert to being a quiet listener, but I anticipate that BOLT’s emphasis on establishing an open and strong community would enable my personal growth in this area.   
  
I believe that I can contribute to the group atmosphere with my sincere love of the outdoors, experience hiking, and desire for personal growth and the establishment of new relationships. I hope that this enthusiasm would contribute to an environment in which people feel at ease and is therefore conducive to developing bonds as a group. As a thoughtful listener in group settings, I would aim to encourage others to share and create a mood in which all feel as if they are being heard and understood. I know that being outside helps bring out my best and that I would be a reliable and engaged participant. Ultimately, I hope to contribute to a group experience that is inclusive and cooperative.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Olivia  
Preferred Name: Olivia  
Last Name: Bowen  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-02-18 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I believe that BOLT is an incredible opportunity to both connect with and learn from other students. Throughout my first year at Brown, I was honestly amazed when meeting my classmates. The Brown student body (especially the Class of 2020!) is truly a group of kind, creative, and fascinating individuals. During my limited time at Brown, I would like to meet as many of these extraordinary people as possible. The activities that the BOLT team has created are very impressive, specifically in that they allow and encourage students to interact with people that they might have never otherwise talked to. Additionally, I think that BOLT’s location is a great asset. To begin with, the White Mountains sound unbelievable. More importantly however, I think that a backpacking trip, outdoors and away from Brown, is another significant benefit. Despite the positivity and support on campus, there are times when Brown becomes a place of immense pressure. BOLT is a brief reprieve from the stress of academia; a reminder to step back and breathe; and a unique chance to see the beauty and brilliance of Brown students outside of the Brown bubble. I feel as though BOLT’s program and activities benefit both the physical and mental health of its participants. Most importantly, the leaders who I talked to at the information session were so supportive and enthusiastic. To talk to, learn from, and work with such awesome people—that’s an experience that I would love to be a part of.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My goals for sophomore year are pretty simple, but perhaps somewhat contradictory. First, I would like to be more active on campus: take more varied classes, participate in more clubs, and attend more events. In essence, I want to be sure that I take full advantage of the Brown experience. That being said, I also would like to practice better managing my anxiety. I believe that the BOLT experience is the perfect opportunity to address both of my goals. It offers the chance to take on responsibility and participate more fully in cool activities. It means talking with and working with new people. I hope that the students in my group will show me new ways to get involved on campus. However, I think that this trip will also force me to take a break from campus and really think. First and foremost, this will help me feel more prepared to tackle my upcoming sophomore year (read as sophomore slump). Additionally, I think that this experience will help me take a moment to develop a better sense of direction and begin to understand what it is I want to get out of my time at Brown. Finally, I hope that I can use this trip to help others do so as well. A lot of students want to participate more and stress less. I think that together we have a better chance of doing so.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Over the course of my life, I have developed a relatively strong sense of self-reliance. This comes with its advantages and disadvantages. I hope that through BOLT, I can learn how to rely more on others when working in a group. Asking for help (and accepting said help) is an important skill that is too often depicted as a weakness. I look forward to cooperating and creating with a variety of new and cool people. Furthermore, I want to practice my ability to listen; not to hear, but to truly listen and try to understand what is being said. I think that the capacity to listen is crucial not only for camping, but for life and relationships in general. BOLT’s program will be an opportunity not just to meet others, but truly engage and work with some incredible people. In the process of collaborating, I believe we will be learning together and from one another. I think that this is a chance to learn about Brown’s diversity of backgrounds, identities, and experiences, as well as how they influence our decisions and interactions. I really look forward to possibly taking part in this experience and learning as much as I can! Also, I want to learn how to make the perfect s’more.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Eliza  
Preferred Name: Eliza  
Last Name: Cain  
Gender: female  
Date of Birth: 1997-09-23 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : As a Girl Scout in middle and high school, I grew to love going on camping trips. I always looked forward to cooking meals on the camp stove or over a fire, spending the day outdoors, and sleeping in a tent under the stars. Unfortunately, I never got to have the full backpacking experience, which is why I hope to take part in BOLT this fall. Spending five days outside in beautiful weather, surrounded by nature, sounds like an ideal start to my sophomore year. Plus, I want to challenge myself physically on the trail, learning to hike at a strong pace while carrying all of my supplies on my back.   
I also want to challenge myself socially. While I am a warm and enthusiastic person once you get to know me, I can be quiet and reserved at first. Since everyone in my BOLT group will be a new face, I think the trip will be a perfect opportunity for me to break out of my shell and meet people who I might not meet otherwise. I love the prospect of bonding with my BOLT leader and my fellow BOLTers and starting off sophomore year with a close group of friends who I know I can trust and rely on.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One of my main goals for next year is to integrate myself further in the Brown community, both by meeting more people and participating in more social events. I was excited to discover that the BOLT experience not only includes the backpacking trip, but also the Fall Program. Many of the family gathering events such as the Leadership Workshops, BOLT Wars and Thanksgiving Potluck will be great ways to form more social connections across campus and help me to feel like a part of the BOLT community. I also am looking forward to the individual group meetings which will enable me to maintain the relationships I formed on the backpacking trip.   
Another of my goals for next year is to get outside my comfort zone and try new things. While the idea of going on a trip with a group of people I have never met before seems a little stressful, I think that that experience will help me be confident enough to join other activities next year. For example, this past year, I really wanted to take part in Brown Outing Club, form an intramural basketball team, and join a music group where I can play violin, but I was nervous and didn’t know how to get involved. I think after doing BOLT, I will be more willing to put myself out there and do the things I’m truly passionate about.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Last semester, I joined Brown’s gospel choir Harmonizing Grace. The choir brings together a very unique group of students who come from all types of backgrounds but ultimately all love to sing. I think the BOLT program is similar in that it also brings together a diverse group of people. Just like with Harmonizing Grace, I think BOLT will allow me to meet people who I might not have ever met on campus, and then continue to get to know them better through BOLT activities in the fall. I believe that befriending students who have different backgrounds from my own will not only expand my own perspective on community and global issues, but will also allow me to have a more fulfilling college experience at Brown.   
Through BOLT, I also hope to learn valuable leadership skills. In a larger group setting, I am usually not one to try to take charge. But, as a Leader of the Day on the BOLT trip, it will be my job to make a plan for the day, encourage my fellow BOLTers and keep the group on schedule. I know that with the support and encouragement of the other students on the trip, I will feel comfortable taking responsibility.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Agnes  
Preferred Name: Agnes  
Last Name: Cheng  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : On the basic level, BOLT so appeals to me because I want to learn more about natural skills, and I want to challenge myself to find myself in a new community. It's further inviting because of the environment I will be participate in: one of mutual learning and cooperation. Further, I have grown up sheltered in a sense. I have truly never been far from streetlights or supermarkets, and never without the background hum of a suburban neighborhood. Compounded with the constant communication we’ve grown up in, the farthest I’ve gotten to self dependence seems to be the occasional hike, or nighttime drive home. I desire to challenge myself to be independent, not from people, but from the safety and reliance of modern society. I want to immerse myself, in the wild and quiet that I feel like I’m cheating by just taking a quick walk in the woods. I want to learn in a setting outside my library habits, find myself capable, and understand myself as a person who can learn to scramble over rocks as surely as the paved streets I cross daily. Finally, I respect the intersection between mental strength, physical capacity, and social connection that BOLT seeks to foster. Part of my understanding, when I was looking at colleges, was that connections made at college should not be limited to professors. Your classmates would be as formative to you as any brilliant lecturer, and it’s important to engage with people in environments besides the casual Ratty dinner, or neighbor down the hall. I find myself so often speaking with just one side of a person I know is multifaceted, thus, I want to do BOLT because you encourage, and foster connections greater than that face interaction.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: For freshman year of college, it seems to be enough to survive in your new life. I feel like this year, in a whirlwind of new space and obligation, I simply worked to maintain the identity that I’d so confidently left high school with. I was surprised by college, not as much the work or meal plan, but by the isolation one feels when surrounded by people friendly enough, but without obligation to you. There is impatience to form friendships, coming from living next door or studying together. However, the greatest community I found was with the women’s ultimate frisbee team, and the whole grueling process of playing a sport. There is a reliance there, and an expectation of self and each other that comes from a team sport. That was February before I felt rooted at Brown, but next year my goal is to better find myself at this school, and in communities which so await me. I wanted Brown, in that Common App prompt, because of the people I would meet here and the spaces in which I could continue to widen my perspectives. This year I want to find myself contributing to more spaces at Brown, and to remain honest to the goal I set for myself.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I grew up in a half-Korean, half-Chinese, single parent, non traditional, bug loving and food adventuring family: and growing up I never seemed to reconcile well with it. For elementary school it was utter embarrassment because all I wanted was a peanut butter jelly for lunch like everyone else, not the congee my dad had lovingly packed. In middle school I was annoyingly superior. I broke the homogeneity of my class, and my friends showered attention on me. But throughout high school and college, I struggled for a definition of myself. Everyone tells you you must have some identity, and working to define my own intersectionality, my own privilege and pressure, is an ongoing goal. It’s important to recognize that defining process as an ongoing, and active goal. It should not make you feel meek, or marginalized, nor should you take it as a contest of superiority. Brown, and being humbled by people with stories unimaginable, or familiar, both equally important, is keeping me honest to that process of defining myself. Further, I find myself surrounded by those eloquent and open with their lives, and as gifted teachers as the professors we pay to see.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Clara  
Preferred Name: Clara  
Last Name: Choate  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : BOLT is an opportunity to meet new people and form lasting relationships via teamwork. I love working with a group of people to achieve a goal and being closer as a result. The Fall Trip would allow me to grow close to a team like this. I was a Girl Scout basically my whole life and the camping trips with my troop were some of the best times I ever had. I really felt that my troop grew closer during them and I hope the same thing will happen with BOLT. I also like how the activities continue after the trip in order to foster and maintain these relationships. Additionally, I love having a reason to disconnect from social media. I struggle with that normally and going on the Fall Trip would force me to disconnect. By disconnecting I really feel people on the trip will grow closer because you do not have to think about what is going on at home and at school and there are not many outside distractions. I also love hands on learning and BOLT emphasizes this. The programs allow for active learning rather than just sitting in a lecture hall. The workshops, events, and the trip involve learning from others and doing tasks that you may have never done before. I have some outdoor and camping experience, but I still have a lot to learn. Learning from doing is something I really enjoy and it is often hard to find.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My goals for the upcoming year include meeting new people, making connections at Brown, and improving my leadership skills. BOLT would help me achieve all of these goals. I would meet new people like my BOLT group and leader and become close with them. I would also be able to make connections via the mentorship program. Making connections at Brown will help me navigate the school and my college career better. I am always looking for mentors and people with more knowledge than me to teach me about classes, extracurriculars, and anything that has to do with Brown and beyond. I sometimes feel lost or clueless when trying to figure out Brown and the mentorship program (as well as the fellow members of my BOLT group) would help me navigate school. Finally, the leadership workshops and the Fall Trip will help me improve my leadership skills. In order to gain more confidence in my leadership abilities and skills I need to participate in more leadership activities. I struggle to find places at Brown to exercise my leadership skills because there are so many people and I find it intimidating. The BOLT group is a small enough group that I could feel comfortable using my leadership skills and learning from my mistakes when it comes to leadership.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: In my BOLT group I hope to better my listening and communication skills and learn about other people's experiences. The best way to work well with others and learn is by listening openly to what people have to say and respecting their opinions and feelings. I grew up in an upper middle class suburb outside of New York City that lacked diversity. I was surrounded by the same people with similar experiences to my own for most of my life. BOLT would introduce me to more people and raise my awareness of the identities around me. By engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences I can be more cognizant of others lives and feelings. Additionally, by engaging with these people I can in turn be more confident in talking about my own experiences and identity. I often struggle to discuss my queer identity with others, but the BOLT trip would be an accepting and comfortable environment where I could do this. It could lead me on a path to be able to discuss my sexuality more openly in the future. The diversity of BOLT would allow me to be more aware of others’ feelings and even more aware of my own.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Tanzina  
Preferred Name: Tanzina  
Last Name: Chowdhury  
Gender: female  
Date of Birth: 1991-07-26 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): brand new RUE student - starting this fall  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to be a part of BOLT because I want to enhance my learning experience by getting involved in my campus community. As a first generation and non-traditional student it was a challenge for me to overcome my cultural shock and language barrier as I immigrated from Bangladesh and started college in 2015 in the United States. Getting involved in the campus community, finding mentors and peers, and leadership opportunities helped me buffer my barriers. I am looking for the same opportunities in BOLT to serve and learn from the community through leadership and dedication.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: As a new transfer RUE student, my goal for the upcoming year is to find a family away from home. Previously, I was humbled to receive the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award in my community college for my involvement and impact in the campus community. I want to keep working as a servant leader and keep learning from new mentors and peers in BOLT through the trips, workshops, and activities.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: In the past two years, I have worked in many student clubs in my community college which had a diverse multicultural community. I made life long peers and mentors whose different identity and unique experiences helped widen the horizon of my knowledge and perspective. I hope to completely overcome my personal barriers by learning from a diverse group of intellectual people who works for bringing positive change in the community through leadership. BOLT's diversity will be a strong catalyst for my growth as a student-leader and as a better person.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Annie  
Preferred Name: Annie  
Last Name: Christman  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : During one of our several deep, late-night, pour-out-your-soul-I-promise-I-won’t-judge-you-no-matter-what talks, my teammate brought up her experience with BOLT in 2015. The conversation we were having snaked everywhere, but it largely centered around our feelings toward the one major, nonacademic commitment we have at Brown: gymnastics. It was preseason, and nothing about the sport that I have been so passionately in love with for the past 16 years of my life seemed appealing – at all. We were sharing the same feelings of dissatisfaction and frustration with the sport in general and the program in specific, and I was desperate to know how and why she has stuck with it. One of her saving graces was BOLT, an experience that allowed her to step away from the gymnastics world and engage with new people and adventures. She recalled how refreshing it was to dive into an atmosphere where the focus was on meaningful relationships and challenging, new learning experiences. Plus, nature – it has a cleansing power that is indescribable. This past year, her Junior year, she ended up rooming with people she met through BOLT, and, as she recalled, BOLT is the highlight of her Brown experience thus far. While I was already intrigued with the program, this story sparked my interest in BOLT. I am curious to discover more about myself, others, and things I know little about/haven’t even tried yet, like spending 5 days in the wilderness. Being immersed in the outdoors, being surrounded by and bonding with diverse individuals, and being pushed out of my comfort zone are all things I want to do. I am sure the BOLT experiences will shape the rest of my time at Brown and provide perspective on, and maybe even open the doors to, other activities in which I engage.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My first year at Brown included a plethora of (challenging) learning experiences that have allowed me to get to know more about myself and others, yet it has also been clouded with bouts of unease, isolation, and dissatisfaction. As a member of the gymnastics team, I have spent a great deal of time with the same people day after day, week after week. In the coming year, I would like to focus on being a more involved member of the Brown community. The opportunities at Brown are endless, and I feel like I have excluded myself from the majority of them as a student-athlete. I see great value in branching out, exploring other interests, such as the outdoors, and getting to know others who share these interests, which BOLT will allow me to do. The continued meetings and activities will provide me with chances to continue to grow as a student, friend, leader, and person. While these events will satisfy my desire to engage in new experiences at Brown, I also hope these events will provide me with skills that I can apply to other activities and situations. My goals of embracing adventure, growing as both a leader and an individual, and interacting with new people would all be influenced by BOLT in a positive, productive manner.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: One of the greatest parts of being a member of the Brown community is having the opportunity to interact with people who have different identities and experiences from me. It is through these differences that I can learn and appreciate more about others and grow as an individual. In my BOLT group, I hope to use these differences as catalysts to growth and understanding. Plus, I hope to offer my experiences and support to others as they embark on not only the treacherous journey of hiking but also the treacherous journey of both being a college student and growing up. The bonds I will form and the relationships I will build in this group will surely be unlike any other bonds or relationships I have built, and I hope to use them as a way to be a better student, teammate, friend, and person. Similar to the way the view from the top of a mountain offers a new perspective, the identities and experiences of others will offer me a new perspective, too. These perspectives will be useful in shaping the way I understand both other people and myself, and they will be influential in the way I interact with people in the future.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Christian  
Preferred Name: Christian  
Last Name: Cianfarani  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Growing up in Upstate New York, I always felt like I was lucky to be surrounded by gorgeous state parks and wilderness. However, due to school, clubs, and other commitments, I felt like I didn't make use of these resources nearly as much as I should have. At the end of high school, I made it a goal of mine to spend more time in nature. The summer after my senior year, I went on a several day long camping trip with a group of my friends. I was amazed and awe struck by some of the beautiful lakes, trails, and mountain views that I saw on my hikes with my friends. Most of all, though, I was surprised by how much those few days brought us together. During the trip, my friends and I taught each other new skills, told stories around the campfire, and spent hours together enthralled in conversation while following trails through the wilderness. Our time spent in nature helped us grow, both as individuals and as a group. With BOLT, I hope to forge similar bonds, now with new friends from all walks of life. Not only will the experience allow me to revel in the beauty of nature, it will also help me build new relationships and learn more about myself.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: I spent much of my first year at Brown getting acclimated to the academic and social climate of the school. Because of this, I didn't really get involved with too many clubs or activities on campus. Next year, I hope to become more involved with the campus community and join organizations that will help me leave a lasting impact on this college. I see an incredible opportunity to achieve exactly this in the experience that BOLT is providing. By participating in BOLT, I would be able to join a group of individuals who are active in creating an inclusive environment that fosters leadership and personal growth. I hope that the leadership skills that I gain in BOLT will give me the confidence and ability to break out of my comfort zone more often next year and follow my ambitions without so much fear of failure. By engaging with and forming relationships with a diverse group of people, who may only have the school that they attend in common, I hope to be able to learn skills that have helped them succeed and integrate them into my own life to help achieve my goals.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I grew up in a very homogeneous community. Although I made many great friendships that I value deeply, I always felt like I was missing out on learning how different groups of people lived their lives. When I came to Brown, I was amazed by the diversity represented within the student body, and I wanted to learn about the experiences of others as much as possible. By participating in BOLT, I hope to be surrounded by a group of people with different world views, experiences, and opinions. By sharing our thoughts and life experiences, I hope that my BOLT group will grow closer together, and form lasting bonds based on empathy and trust. I want to learn about the identities and experiences of others because I think that doing so will bring about a deeper respect for humanity within me and will help me better understand the society that I live in. Being around this diverse group, I also hope to gain some less significant but still important lessons, like skills or solutions to problems that I may have wondered about but never fully learned. I believe that by learning and growing together, my BOLT group will be able to accomplish things and form new friendships that would not had happened had we been alone.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Ella  
Preferred Name: Ella  
Last Name: Comberg  
Gender: female  
Date of Birth: 1998-08-14 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to do BOLT because even though I love Brown, I think I can love it more. While incredibly engaging academically, I found myself feeling somewhat disappointed socially after my first semester here. Even though I was meeting people all year, I often found it hard to connect beyond introductions or hanging out a few times. Sometimes, I would look around the Rock and see so many people who seemed friendly or interesting but have no idea how to reach out and connect with them. The same was true of upperclassmen in my classes or people I met at parties. A lot of these people had BOLT water bottles or stickers on their laptops. BOLT seems really incredible to me because it actively responds to an often unspoken need that so many students have; I know that I’m not alone in feeling less socially engaged than I’d like to be. As much as I know Brown is an incredibly vibrant place, I know I can engage more with people--especially people with different backgrounds than me.   
BOLT specifically interests me because of its commitment to inclusion and its outdoor focus. I love the outdoors, but haven’t done nearly as much hiking as I’d like to. Even though I find engagement with the outdoors to be extremely valuable, I also know that it can be limited to those with the money to pay for equipment or the means to take time off from work or school. For this reason, I think BOLT’s commitment to making the program inclusive to those who couldn’t otherwise afford to backpack (or just weren’t culturally exposed to it) is critical and extremely admirable. BOLT truly seems like an organization that has similar values to mine.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: During my sophomore year, I want to expand the both the number of people and the kinds of people I’m friends with. Despite the fact that I grew up in Philadelphia and went to the most diverse high school in the country, I’ve admit that I haven’t done enough at Brown to reach out to people who look different than me or have lived lives different from mine. I hope that BOLT can help me and others make personal connections with people who we otherwise wouldn’t interact with.  
I also want to be more physically active in the coming year. Because I have PCOS--a common hormonal disorder among women--I’ve struggled my whole life with physical activity. I often will excuse my inactivity because I’m working so hard in school, but in reality I think it’s beneficial to my schoolwork when I take time to do other things, like exercise. I hope that I’ll be able to be more active as a result of BOLT.   
More than anything, I want my time at Brown to feel more engaged with the world. Even though I love Brown, I found it somewhat oppressive to feel so boxed into a college environment, rarely leaving campus and constantly surrounded by people my own age. BOLT emphasizes the kind of engagement with the world outside of College Hill that I want to make part of my next few years. In a way, the mentorship and community that BOLT fosters have the potential to make Brown feel more "real" (or, like home) to me than it does now.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: The single biggest disparity I’ve felt between my life at Brown and outside of it is engagement with people from backgrounds different than mine. While it’s certainly true that Brown is less racially and economically diverse than other circles I’ve been in, it’s still a place where people from all over the country and world with a variety of interests and identities convene. I think it’s really easy to ignore this in search for comfort; in order to feel at home at Brown during my first two semesters, I often surrounded myself with people with similar identities to mine. Even if this feels safe, I think I have an obligation to expand who I’m interacting with on a day-to-day basis to be more representative of the diversity of Brown.   
On a personal level, I think a lot of the issues I explained above--like feeling isolated and disengaged--could be helped by a program that strives to make connections between people who otherwise would not interact on more than a superficial level. BOLT specifically seems like a great way to address these problems because of its intensity; I don’t think there’s any better way to get people to connect and learn from each other than by having them spend a couple days in the mountains together.   
I want my next few years at Brown to feel like more of a community, and I know that community will be better if it is comprised of people from different backgrounds.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Brett  
Preferred Name: Brett  
Last Name: Cotler  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1998-03-12 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to do BOLT to grow together with peers from different backgrounds within the Brown community, to experience time away from the constantly interconnected world we live in, to enhance my leadership skills, and to enjoy the adventure of a backpacking trip. I have enjoyed making close friends in my first year, and I welcome the opportunity to connect with more people in the Brown community. I am passionate about Brown and the diversity of perspectives and backgrounds that students bring. BOLT will enable me to expand my own perspectives by exposing me to the varying ideas of my peers. I envision BOLT will be a new and unique community that will include a diversity of interests, experiences, and perspectives.   
  
I believe that leadership skills are increasingly important in our interconnected world. Being away from global internet connectivity will enable all of us to form uniquely deep connections. As we become more dependent on the internet and our devices, interpersonal communication is often sacrificed. My BOLT experience will allow me the opportunity to recognize my own strengths and weaknesses as a leader. This experience will also enhance my leadership skills which I am eager to develop to better the world around me.  
  
To better the world around me, I find it important to truly experience it. The adventure that BOLT brings will enable me to truly experience and connect with the natural world. I always value nature even more after experiencing it from the inside. I know that I enjoy backpacking, hiking, and camping and I will bring my enthusiasm for these adventures to BOLT.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My goal for the upcoming year is to crystallize my interests. This includes both an academic focus and an extracurricular focus. Academically, I plan to concentrate in Environmental Studies and Computer Science. I am committed to preserving the environment and I am passionately working to limit climate change and promote sustainability. I am eager to connect with BOLT peers who have similar passions for protecting the natural world. I also look forward to sharing this experience with my BOLT peers who have their own passions that will inspire me to expand mine.   
  
With respect to extracurricular activities, I am primarily focused on environmental advocacy and mentorship. Presently, I am a member of the Rhode Island Student Climate Coalition where I do environmental advocacy work. In addition, I am currently applying to become an Environmental Studies teaching assistant. This past semester, I volunteered as a tutor in a physics class at Hope High School as a part part of the STEMS program. As a teaching assistant, I know I will draw on the leadership skills and communication strategies that I will develop through the BOLT experience. My goal is to actively participate in other Brown communities including the BOLT community. I look forward to participating in community events and working as a mentor and leader. BOLT will expand my experiences within the Brown community by broadening my horizons beyond environmental science and computer science. This experience will also supplement the leadership and mentorship opportunities that I hope to have in the fall.  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I am excited to grow and learn as part of my BOLT group, and I know that I will expand my openness to a wide range of identities and experiences. Growing up in a relatively homogeneous area, I was not exposed to a broad range of cultures and ethnicities. I am passionate about the Brown community because I am able to engage with and learn from people from all over the world with various ethnic and cultural backgrounds. With respect to my personal growth, I know that I will benefit from the diversity of perspectives and backgrounds that will accompany the range of identities and experiences of my peers. I have always valued new perspectives and I enjoy meeting new people, but the unique experience I will have communicating with my peers in an intimate, secluded setting will enable me to grow as a listener and will help me incorporate the perspectives of my peers. As I connect with my BOLT peers, I anticipate also engaging in introspection and ultimately bettering my understanding of myself. This experience and the relationships I will develop as a part of BOLT will inevitably lead to profound personal growth and inspire me to expand my perspectives.  
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Rachel  
Preferred Name: Rachel  
Last Name: Danner  
Gender: female   
Date of Birth: 1998-09-12 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I would love to participate in BOLT, because I am interested in finding a community of people who love the outdoors, want to become better leaders, and with whom I can form relationships with throughout my sophomore year and beyond. There are so many aspects of the BOLT program that are appealing to me, but meeting and engaging with new people is perhaps what I am most looking forward to. I love meeting new people, and I am always looking to expand my social circle and support network. Additionally, I love hiking, but haven't had the chance to do it since I came to college, and I think BOLT would be a great way to get back into it. I want to build upon my leadership skills and use what I have learned in my remaining three years at Brown. Also, many of the events planned for fall semester sound like a lot of fun! I am especially a fan of Thanksgiving potlucks, Thanksgiving being one of my favorite holidays of the year. I have read through all of the information about the program on the website, and BOLT sounds like something I would love to be a part of.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In my sophomore year I would like to make new friends, continue figuring out who I am and where my place is at Brown, and become a more confident and effective leader. BOLT is clearly an opportunity to make new friends, and the fall programming that is involved will allow me to continue to foster the relationships built during the trip. I am especially looking forward to the weekly meetings with my individual group. In addition to this, I think a week in the mountains is an awesome way to focus not only on meeting new people and building new relationships, but also to learn more about myself and do some introspection. In terms of leadership building, I have already involved myself in some leadership positions on campus, specifically Class Board, but I am always looking for new ways to build leadership skills and I think that the various elements of the BOLT program are conducive to this goal. Additionally, I continue to seek out new mentors and people to help guide me through my time at Brown, and so I am looking forward to that aspect of BOLT as well.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: My last year here at Brown has most certainly been the most exposure to people different from myself that I have ever experienced, and that has been one of my favorite aspects of freshman year. Being a part of the diverse, engaged community at Brown has been so rewarding and fulfilling. At the same time, however, I think that I and many others tend to self-segregate ourselves with people who are similar to us, and who share some of the same backgrounds and viewpoints. This is not something that I want to define my experience at Brown, and so I am hoping to meet many new people who have a diverse range of experiences and perspectives that I can learn from and engage with. I would love the opportunity to not only build these relationships, but also to continue them throughout my time at Brown. Freshman year has been a year of growth and learning for me, and hope to build upon what I have learned and continue to meet new people with new ideas, new identities, and new experiences. I am hopeful that BOLT will allow me to do just that.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: William  
Preferred Name: Will  
Last Name: Davenport  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1996-06-12 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): brand new transfer - starting this fall  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : When I attended summer camp, I hiked a different mountain every summer in beautiful New Hampshire. My time on the trails provided me with some of my most fond memories of camp. I will never forget the days I spent under the swaying pines bonding with friends. I cannot wait to recreate this experience with BOLT participants. I know that we will create cherished memories and form invaluable relationships before our week together concludes.  
Regarding life at Brown, BOLT will introduce me to a community of students in a similar situation as me. Many of the BOLT participates will be transfer students who recently left their social and academic circles. By signing up for BOLT, they have demonstrated a willingness to actively create new relationships with their peers. BOLT will facilitate the creation of new relationships that will surely prove valuable upon starting the academic year. The transfer students whom I meet at BOLT and I can discuss transfer specific issues that we encounter throughout our time at Brown.  
More generally, BOLT will introduce me to new friends. As a transfer student, I am aware that making friends will require more effort from me than from students who enrolled at Brown as freshmen. Most social groups have solidified by junior year, and thus finding friends will likely be challenging. BOLT will jumpstart my journey to become familiar with students at Brown.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My primary goal for the upcoming year is to become acclimated to Brown. I hope to familiarize myself with faculty and to find a community of students in which I can contribute and learn. BOLT will serve as a first step in this acclimation. I will meet other transfer students with similar goals and concerns as my own. Moreover, I will meet students who are already familiar with Brown. These students can share their experiences and help me to understand the details of life at Brown.  
Another goal of mine is to work efficiently with others. As I grow older and progress in my education, I become increasingly aware that most problems that can be solved individually have already been solved. It is only through group work that great innovation can be made. BOLT will train me to be a better group member. The problem-solving techniques that the BOLT group utilizes on the trails will directly benefit me in my group work at Brown. Hearing the perspectives of BOLT members with experiences different from my own will allow me to analyze problems from a greater number of angles.   
Finally, I hope to enjoy my time at Brown. I cannot think of a better way to start my Brown experience than spending time on mountain trails with other students who share my excitement.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: One of the most unique aspects of attending a university is the constant interaction with a diverse population of students. Differing in concentrations, experiences, beliefs, and many more aspects, these students serve as a microcosm of the people of the world. For most, college is the last time that such a wide range of people will be in immediate proximity. Interacting with these students has consistently proven to expand my awareness and assist me in understanding others. I am confident that the diversity of the students at BOLT will similarly widen my horizons.  
BOLT will offer challenges for our group to solve. I eagerly await hearing the other BOLT members’ proposed solutions and deciding how to merge these into the best possible outcome. BOLT will provide insight into new methods of thinking and help me become better at working efficiently in groups.  
Of course, I may not agree with all the group’s decisions. Because I lack the experiences of others in the group, I may not understand the reasoning behind their proposals and preemptively reject them. I hope that BOLT teaches me to better inquire to understand their motivation, and, if appropriate, forego my own opinions in exchange for the benefit of the group. The ability to accept a team’s decision despite one’s own pride is vital to the efficiency and robustness of a group.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Madison  
Preferred Name: Maddie  
Last Name: Dick  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-12-10 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? :  I strongly believe in the values outlined in BOLT’s mission statement. One key aspect of this program that excites me is that as unique individuals with diverse backgrounds, we can work together to exhibit leadership skills in a very inclusive and collaborative environment. This facilitates a supportive community both inside and outside of BOLT. Personally, I strive to find and contribute to support systems that uphold these values of inclusivity and diversity. As an example of this in my past, I participated in Girls Who Code, which is a program that teaches girls, who want to pursue STEM, computer science over a high school summer. However, I got much more out of the program than just an understanding of computer science. I made friends that will last a lifetime.  We understand the challenges faced by girls in STEM and we worked toward a common goal to support one another, whether it be through our group chat or reunions, and to help educate our communities. More importantly, it has provided a real understanding of challenges faced by individuals or groups that are considered new or pioneering. As a member of BOLT, I would become an involved member of a new community of individuals that I may not have met otherwise. I would be a friend for someone to talk to if they are having a hard time and be a leader that helps facilitate collaborative activities.   
 I also want to be a part of BOLT so that I can help to inspire others by utilizing the leadership and group skills taught in this program and help make Brown an even better place. The leadership skills and inclusivity learned in this program are applicable life skills in the real world. I want to spread these lessons to everyone I meet.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In the upcoming year, I would like to expand my friend groups. Through this past year, I have met and become friends with amazing people, in my dorm, through cheerleading, in sisters in my sorority and in classes. Being a part of these groups has been rewarding in different ways: by spreading school spirit with cheerleading or understanding and educating about domestic violence in my sorority. While still being a part of those groups, I would like to meet other individuals and expand my horizons. Brown attracted me because it is collaborative and inclusive and I feel that the people who participate in BOLT uphold similar values to me, like working together to achieve a common goal and including anyone, no matter their background. The BOLT experience would allow me to expand my friend groups by introducing me to a diverse group of individuals who are inclusive, independent, collaborative and strong among many other traits.  
 Another goal I have is to take advantage of all of the experiences offered at Brown to make the most of my Brown experience. I think BOLT would help in two important ways. First, I would be able to apply the leadership skills taught by this program to the activities that I am already involved and to activities I plan on joining next year. Second, by becoming a member of BOLT and spreading its message to classmates, I will be able to give back to the Brown community. In addition to striving to make the most of my own Brown experience, I want others to have the best Brown experience they can have. This means welcoming and including individuals in any situation, whether it be sparking a conversation with someone sitting next to me in class or befriending someone who is in the same club as me. The BOLT experience would offer me more ways and opportunities be a great way for me to achieve this goal.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Through this experience, I hope to grow both as an individual and as a group member. As an individual, I want to learn about the different backgrounds and identities of every BOLT member. I feel like I have been given an amazing opportunity at Brown to meet a variety of fantastic individuals, especially given that my hometown is very homogeneous and is lacking in diversity. I believe that the BOLT experience would allow me to learn about other people’s different perspectives and their various paths to where they are today. I firmly believe that understanding other’s identities and experiences helps to promote an inclusive and open-minded community. Therefore, I will be able to learn about my peers while keeping an open mind.  
 As a group member, I hope to continue my learning about being a strong member of a group. To me that means knowing when to lead the group, when to listen to others, and when to help resolve conflicts. By understanding other people’s identities and experience, I will further my understanding about what it means to be a good group member. Then, through the off-campus and on-campus activities that BOLT offers, I will continually be able to use and improve on these skills.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Bailey  
Preferred Name: Bailey  
Last Name: Driscoll  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-11-06 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : As a freshman, I do not feel very confident in my leadership potential. I have usually been a follower, especially in this past year, and I would like to change this. Since I take many large lecture courses as a pre-med, I no longer get the chance to become as much of a leader in my classes since they are so intimidating and do not offer much time for discussion, unlike my high school classes. I believe BOLT, considering it concentrates on outdoor leadership training, will help me become aware of my leadership potential and help me become more confident and less intimidated of speaking with others and speaking my mind. I am never confident enough to say my opinions on any matter, but this will not make a leader, and I am determined to change this habit. Also, since I am mostly involved in large lecture courses, I do not often get the chance to work in a team, and I miss this opportunity. Life is much more lonely and less productive without a team dynamic, and I would like to expand my teamwork skills, since they are so important to life. Additionally, I have never participated in an outdoor backpacking trip before, but I have always wanted to, and I would love to immerse myself in the outdoors and unplug from the world. I believe that BOLT, with its opportunities to engage in team activities, embrace the outdoors, and learn how to be a leader and the importance of it, will help me accomplish my goals for next semester and beyond.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: For the upcoming year, I have many goals, based on how freshman year went. I hope to speak up in class, and ask questions in large lecture courses. I also hope to engage in more discussions, in class and out of class to become more aware of issues happening in society. Also, I hope to build closer relationships with science faculty, because I have not built close relationships with any science faculty yet, and I would like to have conversations about the topics I am interested in with them. Also, I would like to study more with friends so we better learn the material. I believe BOLT will help me build my confidence with the various leadership workshops and experience backpacking that are offered, so that I will feel more comfortable expressing my ideas and escaping my comfort zone. Also, since backpacking with a new group of people would also take me out of my comfort zone, I believe I would be more likely to continue to expand my comfort zone this upcoming year. Likewise, learning to build close relationships with friends and learning the importance of working as a team will push me to form study groups in my classes, since they are like little teams of their own. Maybe learning how to accomplish tasks in such a different setting from that of school will also give me different ideas of how to stay on top of my work at Brown as well (as it is much needed).  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: My hometown of Portsmouth, RI is very sheltered, and coming to Brown already has awakened me so much to issues of identities, culture, race, and different experiences that I should have been aware of before. However, I still have much to learn, and I hope to learn so much more from an experience such as BOLT. I believe a bonding experience such as that of BOLT will help me become more acquainted with and aware of other people’s circumstances, identities, and social concerns. My BOLT experience could help me grow so much by listening to others’ stories and comparing them to my own. Also, I am still trying to find my own identity and what I am truly passionate about. I know I am passionate about science and medicine, but regarding social issues, I am lacking and need to hear more of others’ experiences. Especially at Brown, I have started to question all that I know, and I would like to hear others’ stories to explore different perspectives on the world and form my own opinions based on what I know and separate myself from the opinions that my parents have instilled in me. BOLT will help me become more culturally aware, and may also give me insight into how I function as a person and what I am passionate about. I hope I have the opportunity to explore the possibilities.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Hannah  
Preferred Name: Hannah  
Last Name: Eliot  
Gender: Female   
Date of Birth: 1998-05-07 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : As a Varsity water polo player I haven’t had the opportunity to go camping and backpacking the last few years. I love the outdoors and would relish a chance to go again! BOLT would be a wonderful and fun way to connect with others and a great experience to help me build self-confidence and leaderships skills.   
  
Being outdoors is calming and challenging at the same time. At times it’s serene, being in a beautiful place, and at times it can test my ability to adapt. Being in the mountains makes me happy and ready to deal with whatever happens. Overall, I’m a low maintenance person so camping is an exciting adventure.   
  
Being an introvert Freshman year has been challenging finding a group of kids that I fit in with. Going camping with fellow Brown students would be such a different way to interact. There are different expectations being on an adventure in the wilderness. You are all moving in the same direction, working together for a common goal of enjoying nature.   
  
I’ve always felt the best way to make friends is to have a shared experience. BOLT would transform my journey at Brown.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In the upcoming year I want to challenge myself to be my best self, to get outside my comfort zone, take more risks, grow in my self-confidence and make more friends. I believe BOLT will help me achieve these goals. I am excited to build deeper meaningful relationships through a BOLT adventure with my fellow sophomores and help one another along life’s path. It would also be great to learn how to survive if I ever apply for a Discovery survival show.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Growing up in Los Angeles I’ve lived with many different cultures and learned to respect different ways of doing things. I’m always open to new ideas and perspectives and on BOLT I can build friendships with people who I might never have bonded with otherwise. In doing so I will expand my knowledge of others and understand myself and the world better.  
  
A key part of leadership is bringing a group together. In order to do this you need someone who can listen to others. As an introvert I am sensitive to the difficulty of others expressing their viewpoint and always try to include others in group decisions. I think BOLT will help me explore and promote new perspectives, and learn more about my leadership skills.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Ana Lucia  
Preferred Name: Ana Lucia  
Last Name: Espinosa Dice  
Gender: cis female  
Date of Birth: 1998-05-07 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : After an insightful first year at Brown, I could not imagine a more rewarding way to begin my sophomore year than alongside a community of challenge-seeking, engaged, and diverse leaders and individuals. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity would provide me with endless opportunities for reflection, a skill I strive to cultivate and integrate into my life regularly. I treasure the affirming prospects of new friendships and new peer mentor relationships that would prosper throughout my sophomore year and beyond. I value the unpredictability and boundlessness of this leadership training and of this community, in that BOLT becomes what BOLTers and leaders make and want it to be.   
  
 The wilderness leadership training trip is undoubtedly very compelling to me. In all honesty, this trip would be a true challenge for me – a mental challenge that genuinely excites me and that I would love to overcome through team building and the power of shared experiences. At the same time, however, I truly seek the continued leadership environment of the numerous BOLT events that occur after the trip. This lasting community will provide me with resources and friends that hopefully define many of the highlights and memories of my sophomore year and of my overall time at Brown.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My ultimate goal for the upcoming year is to discover and develop my passions outside of the classroom setting. I view my first year here at Brown as a successful academic year. I discovered classes that were enthralling to me, areas of study to which I am excited to pursue further, and community lecture events that provided me with new and challenging perspectives on social and public health issues. That being said, I look forward to engaging more extensively with various Brown and Providence communities through my role as a Meiklejohn, through my continued participation in Brown’s Elementary Afterschool Mentoring Program, through Connect for Health, and hopefully through BOLT as well. I seek to step outside of my comfort zone and to begin developing my niche as a community member and leader of Brown University.  
  
 In my opinion, BOLT is the inclusive and inspiring community I need to guide me through these endeavors that I seek during my second year at Brown. Through BOLT, I will learn how to better cope with conflict, challenge and failure. I will gain better insight regarding what it means to be a leader at Brown and will develop meaningful connections with a diverse group of leaders before I arrive on campus. I seek to learn from those who are different from me and to build common ground and shared experiences amid our diverse backgrounds and experiences. I will empower and be empowered by my BOLT family and community, gaining the confidence and leadership skills I need to develop my Brown niche even further.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I define myself as an introverted leader and would love the opportunity to collaborate with leaders of various personalities and experiences. I would like the chance to explore alongside my BOLT group the subtle yet meaningful ways in which different communication styles contribute to leadership and to teamwork. For example, as an introvert, I am an observer, an analyzer, and a thinker, bringing deeper and richer conversations to my learning community. I am a quiet person with an extremely loud mind and hope to grow more confident and informed regarding the ways in which introverts can lead in a world that favors extroverts.  
  
 Through BOLT, I also hope to develop a stronger sense of trust and comfort within groups of which I am a part and believe that this will greatly benefit my leadership and social skills. I hope to better rely on others as strong and dependable leaders, just as I would like people to place trust in me. I recognize that leadership requires strong independence and even stronger collaboration. I hope to break out of my more reserved shell through the power of shared experiences and memories and through a continued exploration of what it means to lead and to help others lead.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, As having a disability (mental, physical, etc.)

First Name: Christian  
Preferred Name: Christian  
Last Name: Esquivel  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1991-07-12 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): brand new RUE student - starting this fall  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : As a RUE transfer student, the piece of advice I’ve consistently received from current Brown students who have gone through a similar transition is: sign up for BOLT! They rave about the experience, the friendships they created and support they received. While I was surprised to hear that Brown doesn’t host a transfer student event/weekend prior to the school year like many other schools, I was excited to hear about BOLT’s pre-orientation trip.   
  
Making the leap from community college to the academic rigor of Brown and the challenges that may arise won’t be easy. However, entering my first year as part of a the BOLT community will make it manageable. The unique structure of the program, going beyond the orientation trip, will ensure that I not only get off to a great start but maintain that momentum through the group gatherings and workshops.  
  
I also look forward to having fun exploring new trails! I grew up in Michigan and one of my favorite memories is hiking along the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Having spent the last three years in New York City, I’ve learned to appreciate the access I previously had (and underused) to the wilderness. I believe that there is a level of personal reflection that can only occur in the open spaces of the outdoors. I have no doubt that these moments of reflection, along with the activities your program has planned for us, will contribute greatly to my transition to Brown.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: A few of my goals for this upcoming school year are to reach a level of consistency in my academic performance, develop the strengths will allow me to contribute the most in group settings, and to continue refining my abilities as a leader.   
  
The healthy balance of a social life, extracurricular activities and projects are interconnected with my ability to do well academically. The follow through of the BOLT program, including the check-ins and support of the Family Group, will help me with accountability and evaluating the best strategies to juggle the various demands of being a Brown student.   
  
Shifting from community college, where all students are commuters, to residing on campus will place me in all kinds of group situations- inside and outside of the classroom. I view BOLT as an opportunity to identify and address major weaknesses in my ability to participate in group decision-making and to contribute to win-win outcomes.  
  
During my time in community college, I learned that leadership, rather than a stagnant concept, is an art, improved by practice and evaluation. Working within a group comprised of RUE’s, transfers and sophomores is bound to create a range of personalities and leadership styles. BOLT will allow me to learn from others and to work on my ability to identify situations in which it’s best to step up and share or to step back and listen.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: As I read about the history the BOLT program, I was struck by the way its evolution has revolved around the rising needs of different groups. This is exactly what I hope to take away from the overall experience: the ability to identify and evaluate the allocation of resources to serve groups within larger communities that can otherwise go overlooked.  
  
A big component of this is awareness. The best way to become sensitive to the problems of others is to spend time with people from different backgrounds, identities, and experiences. BOLT will provide an environment where I will be able to learn from people that I may not have otherwise had a chance to have a meaningful interaction with.   
  
One of the many differences I want avoid during my time at Brown is the separation that occurs between students of differing majors and academic interests. I’ve noticed that even on the admitted students FB group, students have already begun to branch off into separate chats. Although I acknowledge the value of coming together with like-minded people, one of my goals is to proactively venture beyond the business-minded, pre-professional groups an Econ student like myself will naturally gravitate towards. I want to engage with different personalities, and learn from students who are in areas that I might not have otherwise explored. I believe BOLT will provide the perfect setting for this to happen.   
  
Finally, I am excited for the new POC group initiative. I had the privilege of attending one of the most ethnically-diverse community colleges in the country. It will definitely help to become part of a similar community that I can identify with to ease the transition into what will be a new environment once the school-year kicks off.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Karlly  
Preferred Name: Karlly  
Last Name: Feng  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Ever since watching Simon Sinek’s Ted Talk “How Great Leaders Inspire Action,” I have wanted to a confident and charismatic leader, and I know that BOLT will help me grow in this capacity. I believe that to be an effective leader, I must first learn to be a good follower.  
The idea of being a follower really clicked for me this past year as a first year pole vaulter on the track and field team at Brown. In the beginning of the year, I faced the challenge of entering into a different training regimen than what I was used to. I learned that in order to have efficient practices, I would have to set aside what I was comfortable with, and trust in my teammates and the new program I was in. I would like to build upon that by immersing myself in an environment completely foreign to me through BOLT, and being able to trust my fellow group members, so that we can have the best experience with BOLT.   
  
Having the opportunity to participate in BOLT will give me the chance to better learn to work with a team to become a unit and make sure every individual is valued and included. As an athlete in a sport that is both cohesive and at the same time, quite individualized, I don’t often have the opportunity to experience participating in a team environment in a conventional way. I believe BOLT will teach me to be an individual yet also work with others to form a cohesive unit, an experience I don’t often get on the track and field team.   
  
I am confident that I will be able to apply what I learn through BOLT to being a leader on the track team and contribute to a more unified team.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: I spent most of freshman year adjusting to the time commitment of being a student-athlete, managing the workload of collegiate classes, and the physical demands of my sport. Most of my time was spent at practice, studying, and in class. As a result, I could not dedicate much time to make meaningful connections with many of my peers outside of the track team. Identifying this as something I want to change, I plan to intentionally reach out next year to create more relationships with people in various activities on campus. It is important to me to connect with people who are different from me. I believe participating in BOLT is a way for me to accomplish this goal of meeting people on campus who have different interests than mine. BOLT will help me grow as a person because interacting with people who have unique experiences from me will open my mind to different perspectives.  
  
On my track team, I would like to contribute more to the team by inspiring the team to work hard regardless of how their body is feeling. Last season, I believe my commitment to training well even through soreness and fatigue served a great purpose in regards to helping the team dynamic. BOLT will help me reach my goal of providing even more to my team through its belief that every individual in a group has the potential to contribute great things.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I believe that the best way for me to grow is to spend time with people who spend their time in different ways than I do. I find that I have the most meaningful conversations when I speak with others who do not have the same opinions as I do. Spending five days solely focused on working as a team in a new and challenging environment, and with people from all different backgrounds will provide me with the opportunity to learn to see the world through different angles. We may come across seemingly unsolvable tasks together, but drawing on our own and different background knowledges and experiences, we may come up with an exceptional solution. This will also encourage me to step out of my comfort zone and have conversations with people who may challenge my ideas. I believe this is very important to my personal growth, because I can only develop as a person when I have conversations that allow me to see the perspectives of other people on different subjects.   
  
Contrary to many typical summer programs, BOLT plans events for group members to reunite with each other during the following year. This ensures that I follow through with my priority of building new relationships, and that I will be able to reconnect and hold myself accountable to my goal of building relationships with people of different backgrounds than mine. The accountability system is something I want to incorporate into my life at Brown. This network will allow us to encourage each other to keep growing even after our initial experience with BOLT. With this in mind, I expect to be able to cultivate conversations with other people not only about current events, but also more broadly, life philosophies and beliefs.   
  
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Gloria  
Preferred Name: Gloria  
Last Name: Feng  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-07-14 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I’d like to be a part of a supportive community that provides me with a more formalized setting for self-reflection and community building. Having grown up and lived my entire life in the same middle-class (and predominately Asian) suburban community, I have never been exposed to the level of diversity and acceptance I’ve gotten in my first year at Brown. With the constant pressures of achievement and ambition looming over my head in high school, I feared that empathy and community building activities have been shoved to the bottom of my priority list. In some ways, I think I was losing sight of what’s important to me—building lasting and meaningful relationships. Upon speaking to my roommate, who has gone to a UWC before Brown, I started to realize how badly I wanted to immerse myself in something of the like: an environment where I could build trust with my peers and develop a caring for more worldly causes. Throughout the years, I’ve convinced myself of a lot of things cerebrally: helping others is a good thing, and becoming an activist or a volunteer to serve the community is super virtuous. I hope that participating in BOLT would help me better internalize those values. Along with that, I want to do BOLT to help me push myself out of my comfort zone of outdoor adventure; I am a clumsy novice when it comes to backpacking or doing anything outdoorsy, but I think going on my first real trip with a supportive team through BOLT would be the best way to do it.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: For the upcoming year, I would like to be more strongly involved with an extra-curricular student community where I can assume more responsibilities, and be able to meet more people. My freshmen year, I focused largely on my academic commitments, and did not invest very much time building social networks beyond my classes. While I did participate in many different student organizations (mostly cultural clubs such as CSA), commitment was low and intermittent. For my sophomore year, I’d like to diversify and discover a supportive community that isn’t so centered around achievement or what’s happening in class, yet is well structured. I hope BOLT will be able to help me grow personally, and allow me to reach these goals. Of course, an ongoing goal for myself every year is also to improve myself through different mentoring relationships and leadership training, all of which I’ll be able to have through BOLT. Finally, I can imagine my BOLT experience helping me better understand and notice my habits and values, knowledge I could use towards helping me decide a more solid academic/career path—something I would certainly need to think a lot about during my sophomore year.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope to develop a broader outlook, and become more comfortable interacting with a diverse array of people with different opinions and backgrounds. I think I have become rather complacent last year, socializing with people that mostly shared my opinions and perspective about life’s more controversial questions. I hope that BOLT will provide an environment that would challenge me to engage with all sorts of people, and develop a level of comradeship that only comes from the various team-building activities I will be able to participate in. I want to train myself to overcome my implicit biases when it comes to meeting new people, and bolster my confidence when it comes to breaking the ice. I also hope to be less afraid to confront tough issues with people like race or inequality, and be more open (and unapologetic) about my personal insecurities that I’ve always kept hidden from view. I think my ability to open myself up and to show vulnerability will give me a greater curiosity and capacity for caring about the struggles of others. I am also simply open to meeting and making more friends, something I wouldn’t mind doing before the kicking off a brand-new school year.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Nicole   
Preferred Name: Nicole   
Last Name: Fraga  
Gender: female   
Date of Birth: 1997-12-13 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to do BOLT because as a freshman I didn’t I immerse myself as much as I could have into the Brown community. I wish I would’ve gotten more involved and joined more organizations. BOLT seems like an integrative and worthwhile experience that won’t only get me more involved in the Brown community; but also, teach me valuable leadership skills. I’m interested in this club because it isn’t just social, it’s about learning how to become a leader and how to work well with others. I think the skills that I will learn from being in BOLT will help me grow as an individual. These skills will give me more confidence entering the working world and help me to manage groups when I look to apply for leadership positions in other organizations. BOLT interests me in that it provides an escape from everyday life. BOLT teaches people how to be better people and it creates an escape from an academically intensive environment. BOLT being a diverse community interests me in that I want to learn from other people. Being in a diverse community can help me widen my perspective of the world. Not only do I want to learn essential leadership skills, but I want to learn from others. I want to be a part of this organization because it will teach me essential skills in how to become a strong leader and, provide me with a collaborative and supportive community. I know I can give to this community as much as it can give to me.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: For the upcoming year I am looking to take on certain leadership positions in a few clubs that I am already involved in. Specifically, I am interested in being the captain of the Women’s Club Volleyball team on campus. In addition, I am interested in taking a leadership position in an organization called Camp Kesem at Brown. Camp Kesem is an organization that puts on a summer camp each summer for children that have parents who are affected by cancer. I am not entirely sure which role I would be interested in yet, but I know I would like to be more involved in Camp Kesem. With these goals in wanting to take leadership positions I think BOLT is the perfect program for me. BOLT will help give me the tools to be the best candidate for the positions I am looking to fulfill. I think BOLT will be a great preface and introduction before I take on said roles in these two organizations. Another goal for me next year is to open myself up more to the Brown community and seek others for support, differing perspectives, and guidance since Sophomore year is such a large transition. Since Sophomore year is an essential year in choosing my academic path at Brown and is really the first year of the “real” college experience I want to gain as much support and guidance as I can. I hope BOLT will provide me with a solid group of peers that will provide authentic friendships and that will challenge me to be the best I can be.  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: In my BOLT group I hope to learn how others’ personal and cultural backgrounds effect how they perceive the world. I want to escape the bubble that I live in. I want to learn from people that come from all places of the world. My goal is to better understand how other people perceive the world and be better at thinking before I act. I know by exposing myself to a boarder range of people with different identities and experiences, I will become a better person. I will be able to think and anticipate how people may perceive my actions before I act. I think learning from others will make me a better leader in that I will learn how to best present ideas and listen to others. I feel that I am not the most cultured person as I went to a uniform school and haven’t done much traveling. College has already been an eye opener for me in how diverse the world is, but I want to expand my exposure to even more people. I think other cultures are intriguing and I want to take advantage of the opportunity I have in college to be around so many people that come from various backgrounds because I probably will not have another opportunity like this in my life. Listening to others’ experiences will teach me how to best handle similar situations. In addition, hearing other people’s experiences will give me a sense of belonging and help me feel like I am not alone. I hope to provide the new insights and perspectives to my group that they will provide me.  
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Asha  
Preferred Name: Asha  
Last Name: Franchi  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to participate in BOLT because I want to connect with my peers and grow as individual in a natural setting. While I love attending Brown, I often feel that I only have the opportunity to meet people in an academic context or at sporadic social events. I would truly enjoy the chance to get to know other students holistically and away from campus life. Additionally, I want to challenge myself to explore the world with tenacity, positivity, and curiosity. I think BOLT will provide a space for me to reflect on my current path in life and to develop a greater understanding of how I function as an individual. Furthermore, I want to engage in an inclusive community that encourages people from different backgrounds to empathize with each other and learn as a group. Also, I love nature, but have not had the chance to actually go camping with my family. I want to learn the skills necessary to survive in the wilderness and to travel in a sustainable manner. I believe it is valuable to learn how to enjoy nature in a way that respects the environment. Last, I would love to receive mentorship from the leaders and my peers. I want to become more confident and be a leader in many facets of my life, so I want to learn to assert myself and stand up for my beliefs in both my personal life and professional life.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: During the upcoming year, I will be figuring out what I want to concentrate in and continue to grow in my personal life. I feel like BOLT will help me find my voice and determine which paths in life I would like to pursue. I think I would highly benefit from disconnecting from my busy academic and professional life–and reconnecting with nature and myself–as I start to deeply contemplate my values and goals. Outside of classes, I will stay on as a writer and an editor for The Rib, which provides me a creative outlet and space in which I can learn how to be a leader. I will also still be an active member of Benevolent Records. Through my participation in BOLT, I will hopefully become more confident and courageous in my artistic capabilities. I want to start performing more on campus and I think sophomore year is a great time to do so. BOLT will not only allow me to authentically make more friends, but also provide me the support system I need to remain confident throughout the year. Overall, BOLT is a wonderful opportunity to understand myself and my potential to grow, which will positively affect every part of my experience at Brown.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I am excited to be surrounded by people who come from a variety of backgrounds. As a mixed race woman, I feel that my life has been filled with unique experiences and has influenced me to keep open mind about people and their lives. However, I also think that I have never felt like a whole member of one culture and seem to be in a constant state of flux. I would love to participate in an inclusive space where I can connect with other people who are working to form their identities, as well. BOLT removes the distractions of normal life and gives students room to explore how they identify as an individual and within communities. I think it is extremely productive and beneficial to talk through these identities with other students who struggle similarly. The natural world is a place where people can find common ground and appreciate the unique stories that other people carry with them. Away from the pressures and burdens that students bear at Brown and their home lives, I want to encourage my peers to be in touch with themselves and be the leaders they aspire to be. Fundamentally, I believe that the BOLT experience stimulates reflection and growth individually and collectively.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: William  
Preferred Name: Will  
Last Name: Friend  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1997-07-13 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): brand new transfer - starting this fall  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : During my sophomore year of high school, I got a hold of Patrick Leigh Fermor’s travelogue A Time of Gifts, about the author's youthful journey from the Netherlands to Istanbul by foot on the eve of the Second World War. However, what really hooked me was a quote from the preface, in which Fermor was described as “ready to sleep anywhere, talk to anybody, live on almost nothing, eat or drink anything, have a go at any language, make friends with strangers rich or poor, and brave the worst that heat and cold, mishap and blister, officialdom, prejudice and politics could do to him”.  
This was an appealing exemplar for me at the time, and is still a notion that influences my thoughts and actions. I’m not a thrill seeker in the classic sense – for example, things like don’t really appeal to me. However, when it comes to the geography of humanity – culture, politics, social dynamics – I have an insatiable appetite for exploration extending far beyond the bounds of anyone I know. I believe that BOLT will not only give me the opportunity to explore the geography of New Hampshire, but will also provide a unique opportunity to explore the human geography of my fellow classmates and make deep bonds and connections. Beyond that, I have experience hiking but I’ve never had any formal training with a camp stove, first aid and things like that so I’m very excited for that component!  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My central goal for my sophomore year blends both social and academic aspects. I’m planning to pursue an independent concentration studying Conflict and effective Conflict Resolution across a variety of disciplines and contexts. I have heard that trying to set up an Independent Concentration – especially in an eclectic field of study like the one I’m interested in – is a difficult task as a transfer. Of course I want to make friends and successfully integrate myself into the community at Brown as a sophomore transfer. But I also want to try to find sources of mentorship and spaces for intellectual discussion, exploration, and praxis in my interest in conflict and conflict resolution, not only from Brown faculty but especially amongst my peers at Brown. BOLT will allow me to form strong bonds with my fellow BOLTERS. In addition, these bonds will also serve a dual purpose of helping to integrate me into the different networks in the Brown community. I feel that I will be able to use BOLT as a stepping stone to make connections outside of the BOLT community just as much as inside, and this excites me both socially and academically.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: During my Freshmen year, I felt deeply embedded with the Washington University in St. Louis community. I like to think that during my time there I served as a conduit to bring diverse people together and make the student body feel more interconnected as a whole. I formed an acoustic guitar duo with one of my dorm mates and we played concerts around campus whenever the weather was unseasonably nice and the campus buzzing with outdoor activity. At the start of the second semester, I embarked on a project to meet everyone in the class of 2020 by doing an activity of their choosing with each one of my peers. My favorite part about this project was connecting the people I met on the project with others whom they probably wouldn’t have met otherwise and watching connections and friendships grow.    
  
With BOLT, my goals are much the same: not only to make connections with others myself but to help facilitate connections between others as well. I hope that the BOLT experience will help me learn about myself and how interact in brand new social contexts, and grow as an effective leader in the social community. The added responsibility of the rotating leadership positions on the backpacking trip will present an extra challenge while also managing to meet and bond with new people, and I think I will rise to this challenge and grow in the process.   
   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Joel  
Preferred Name: Joel  
Last Name: Fudge  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1991-03-25 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): brand new RUE student - starting this fall  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Aside from my passion for the outdoors, I want to be apart of the BOLT Community so I can take advantage of the great opportunity of getting to know my fellow students ahead of schedule and improving my leadership capabilities. One of my favorite experiences growing up was serving as a Camp Counselor at the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington. It was there that I first learned of the impact that nature can have on an individual’s leadership skills. I then honed in on these skills as I served in the United States Marine Corps as a Reconnaissance Marine and then in the timber industry as a Hand Faller. The BOLT program will improve my leadership abilities and my relationship with nature even more. My passion for preserving nature is the reason I will be focusing on Environmental Studies during my time at Brown. Exploring the White Mountains of New Hampshire will allow me to experience a new environment than I am used to. I have also always had a love for interacting and communicating with people. The opportunity to work as a team with members of the Brown Student Body will set me up for success long after the camping trip is over.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My personal goals for the upcoming year are to impact my fellow students and local community in a positive way, while learning as much as possible from every challenge I face. By being a part of the BOLT community I will be gain an advantage in achieving my goals. I am striving to get to know and learn from as many of my peers as possible. With experience in and a passion for the outdoors, I know how important a natural setting is for creating strong relationships and achieving goals. The interactions, experiences, memories and what we learn in the wilderness is important. I want to learn from every situation, every person, and cultivate my own leadership skills and style. With this new repertoire of skills, I will apply those to my Brown experience and help be a positive role model for fellow students. With my BOLT experience I plan on gaining new skills and having great experiences with a variety of people I would not meet on a regular basis. I love the opportunity that BOLT offers its participants. BOLT will give me the opportunity to achieve my goals in an environment that I love and value.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: To learn and to grow, you have to see opportunity in every experience, every success and most importantly- every failure. In my BOLT group, I hope to be a positive and encouraging backbone that is there to help everyone. I want to lead by example, take my own strengths and apply them to the team in the best way possible. By seeing the opportunity in failure, you can learn from your mistakes. I am also excited to learn from everyone with different experiences and identities than my own. When I was in the Marines, I applied this concept to training with militaries from different countries such as Korea, Thailand, Philippines and Cambodia. Each of these groups had different specialties and ways of doing things that my team and I would learn from. I was always taught to take advantage of every opportunity that presented itself to me. I applied this lesson early on in life in sports clubs and relationships. I see BOLT as an amazing opportunity that I am excited to fully experience. I plan on taking this opportunity from the BOLT program to gain more leadership skills and grow in my own understanding of other people, communities, and identities.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Stefany  
Preferred Name: Stefany  
Last Name: Garcia  
Gender: female  
Date of Birth: 1997-10-03 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : One of the major drawbacks of being raised in a large city with lots of sprawl is the lack of accessible greenspace. Though I’ve always been a fan of outdoor running and exploring the city and all its small or large parks, getting to these places from my home is typically at least a 15-minute drive. As a result, though I love being active and I love the outdoors, I have minimal experience with outdoor activities. Additionally, BOLT offers an extra layer: group bonding. I’ve found that I enjoy interacting within small, intimate communities – especially when the community is centered on a common goal or activity. These are spaces where I feel most comfortable and make connections with ease. Because BOLT extends into the fall semester, I believe the relationships I will form during the initial trip will be able to flourish outside of the trip. That prospect is very exciting, because I am definitely always looking for great new friends.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In the upcoming year I hope to find a balance between my academic and social life. I believe this is a fairly common goal, but I’ve struggled and thought about this issue greatly. Throughout my first year at Brown, I’ve noticed that I tend to either withdraw from social activities to focus solely on academics or I spent too much time trying to build relationships that I neglected my work. Essentially, I have an internal and external schedule, and either I stick to it rigidly or disregard it completely – neither really seems to be working. At the root of my precarious centers of focus, I think, is my tendency to compare myself to others. It likely goes without saying that I usually don’t come out feeling too great about myself, and overcompensate in one form or another. I think the BOLT experience can be very helpful with my goal. Though it may not explicitly help me balance my academic and social life, it will definitely have a positive impact, because I tend to find the most effective encouragement from small groups of people with whom I’ve shared bonding experiences – like sharing a living space for days at a time. Healthy relationships make my emotions feel balanced and that reflects onto my productivity and ability to manage myself. Having the Fall Trip as a base for future BOLT events will likely solidify the bond that is built during that first week. Adding on to that mentorship, community events, and workshops to further those relationships while practicing self-improvement would only allow me to reach my goal with more ease.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I think there’s no better way to engage with different identities and experiences than making a personal connection. Relationships are incredibly powerful in their ability to teach and arouse empathy. This is what I hope to gain from my BOLT group. Though I had always lived in a heterogenous community, most of us, different as we are, were usually from similar socioeconomic backgrounds. My friends and family warned me against getting too used to the comfort of the “ivy league one percent” – as they called it – and consequently forgetting about them. My experience at Brown, however, has not been about forgetting one group in favor of another. It has been about meeting, learning about, and becoming friends with people whose backgrounds differ extremely from my own. It’s fascinating and I love it. Through BOLT I hope to expand on that, especially in regard to the class of 2020, because I don’t think that I’ve made a real effort this past year to connect with people specifically in my year.   
 Additionally, despite my fascination with people, I have a difficult time reaching the feeling of comfort necessary for me to speak with another person intimately about our identities and experiences. This is exacerbated in a place where I feel like everyone is so amazingly cool that it’s intimidating (like Brown!). However, within close spaces that emphasize camaraderie and acceptance, I find that I open up with a bit more ease than usual. Thus, I hope that within my BOLT group I am able to reach intimately engage with other students and allow connection to teach us both about who we are and how we become that person.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning), First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Christina  
Preferred Name: Christina  
Last Name: Ge  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-03-22 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): brand new transfer - starting this fall  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Juan de Fuca Trail, British Columbia, June 2014  
  
Huffing and puffing, carrying a 40kg backpack almost my height, I struggled to traverse the rugged trail. As I stopped to catch my breath, a sudden lull of serenity washed over me. Everything zoomed into focus. I became acutely aware of birds chirping around me, waves crashing into the shore, and blood pumping through my aching muscles. In that moment, I felt invincible. As the warm rush of empowerment arose from within, I wanted to shout in euphoria, celebrating my existence. This is what being alive feels like.  
   
In a society that prioritizes productivity above mindfulness, spending time in nature is my way of revitalizing. At home, where blaring text messages, endless to-do lists, and routine schedules bombard me, I lose sight of what matters. Yet, nature always grounds my fluttering mind. Next to the vastness of the skies and the grandness of mountains, I am small and insignificant. In those moments, I achieve an inner peace that allows me to slow down, to breathe, and to be liberated from self-imposed constraints.   
   
As a sophomore transfer, I’m nervous about new beginnings and starting over. However, backpacking in the mountains before school even starts will give me a community of like-minded peers -- people who also search for meaning and deeply appreciate nature. Although I transferred out of my previous institution -- Claremont McKenna -- many of my fondest memories included the outdoors. From my freshman wilderness orientation in Sycamore Canyon, to hiking Angel’s Landing in Zion National Park, to beach camping in Morro Strand, I found my closest and most understanding friends through these shared experiences. I can’t imagine anything more empowering than immersing myself in a similar community at Brown before classes begin.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Last fall, during Claremont McKenna’s orientation week, all the freshmen were sorted into “Welcome Orientation Adventure” groups, or as we affectionately call them, WOA groups. After our four-day adventure together, I stayed close with my WOAmies, who became my closest friends at Claremont. They were the people I went to when I wanted to go on another adventure, or when I didn’t know if transferring was the right choice. WOA is extremely special for me, and I want to develop similar connections and relationships through BOLT.   
   
BOLT also aligns with many of my reasons for transferring. I chose to leave Claremont not because I didn’t have close friends or was struggling, but because I didn’t think there wasn’t enough room to explore individuality. The institution places too much emphasis on a pre-determined “mold,” pushing students towards fields such as economics and government, to learn for the sake of doing, rather than for knowledge. Of course, this “go go go” mindset isn’t unique to Claremont, and the pressure to conform exists everywhere. In response, I’m spending my summer taking a break from this “racetrack” students are on, and rather, conducting an independent writing fellowship. I’m exploring the notion of solitude by backpacking alone in nature. I’m comparing Thoreau’s Walden to Wordsworth’s poems by visiting their homes and further exploring the romanticist movement. Therefore, after spending a summer on exploring nature/solitude, I hope to share my better understanding of purpose with BOLT peers. People who choose BOLT are a self-selected group, and I hope we can discuss our views on the human condition and fulfillment.  
   
Different from most outdoors programs, BOLT is a community that will continue to exist after the trip. Rather than seeing all the “commitments” as mandatory meetings, I see them as opportunities to further relationships from the trip. I long to feel like I am a part of a family, something greater than myself, and I think BOLT/the outdoor community in general will be where I find my niche on campus.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: A little bit on my background first...  
  
In high school, I was heavily involved with debate, a field widely dominated by Caucasian males. At competitions, I often found myself to be both the only woman and person of color in a round. Though intimidated at first, I thought about all the inspiring young women in my all-girls high school, and ignored gender imbalances and subtle sexism as best as I could. Thus, winning at competitions became very validating and empowering, because more than proving my skills, I asserted my identity.   
   
I was also involved in Challenge 10- my high school’s outdoors leadership program, in which 15 girls camped in self-made igloos, sailed the Pacific Ocean, and rock-climbed mountains. With the Outdoors Initiative at Claremont, I continued to seek out identity group experiences finding mutual empowerment and empathy -- others who also understand discrimination due to gender and race. While I plan to join identity groups on campus, I want to find something different in my BOLT experience. Part of achieving genuine comfort in my identity is also engaging with others who may not have shared similar backgrounds or struggles. In line with my goals of self-discovery and introspection through transferring and my summer project, I wish to bring an open mind and willingness to learn from people who come from all walks of life, rather than two specific groups that I identify most with.  
   
As someone who feels deeply and empathizes intensely, I hope to build meaningful relationships with people who may be unfamiliar to my challenges, and explain mine while understanding their life experiences. I want to explain the double standards I experienced in debate, and the empowerment I felt when surrounded by people who understood. In exchange, while others’ identities may not have been shaped as much by gender and race, I hope to hear their life stories and family dynamics.  
   
Ultimately, since I heard about BOLT when I visited Brown in May, I have been ecstatic about the program and waiting for the application to open! Backpacking before school will help me stay committed to values of mindfulness and reflection, and at a new school, I don’t want to live to “get-through” each day, but live to celebrate existence. Here’s my favourite quote from Whitman: “I inhale great draughts of space. The east and west are mine...north and south are mine...I can stop here and do miracles.”  
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Annie  
Preferred Name: Annie  
Last Name: Gersh  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I would love to participate in BOLT to be more mindful, to build new relationships, and to challenge myself. Before returning to school each fall, I look forward to the opportunity to escape technology and focus on myself and my surroundings as a way to rejuvenate and prepare for another school year. Backpacking will help me be present and engage all my senses without the everyday distractions or stress one experiences. Additionally, at school I often feel rushed and overwhelmed, and rarely have time to reflect. After a busy summer and before another taxing school year, participating in BOLT will be an excellent way for me to regain focus. This experience would therefore help me be more intentional and mindful about my choices once I return to school. The absence of technology will also help me build genuine, deep relationships with the other BOLTers. I would love the opportunity to meet new friends, especially without the distractions of phones or social media. About half way through freshman year, it seems as though people take comfort in their friends and consequently make less of an effort to make new ones. It will be refreshing to meet new peers with whom I will have a special connection to based on our shared BOLT experience. Lastly, I want to challenge myself in an entirely new environment that will push me beyond my comfort zone. I am an avid hiker, but have never been on an extensive backpacking or camping trip. I am eager to have this new experience to push myself, both physically and mentally, beyond what I perceive I am capable of accomplishing. Because backpacking can sometimes be treacherous, BOLT would help me realize my own individual strength and also facilitate an unparalleled sense of camaraderie. I hope that the new skills and experiences I gain will equip me with a newfound sense of confidence which will be helpful in other realms of my life. Surprising myself by discovering strengths or new abilities will be empowering and will be a huge asset as I begin the new semester.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In my sophomore year, I would like to further my involvement in new activities and clubs, specifically in the realm of political activism. I hope that the experiences I will gain from participating in BOLT will help push me outside of my comfort zone. Hopefully, when I return to Brown, I’ll be fearless and ready to take more risks and have the courage and confidence to apply for positions for which I previously felt unqualified. Although BOLT varies from my other interests, I believe that gaining confidence in my physical and mental abilities on the trail will transfer to other aspects of my life. Additionally, by cultivating new friendships on the trail, I may discover new activities in which I’d like to become involved. I also hope to expand my perspective through my interactions with people who have different backgrounds or views than me. My new friends may share similar interests and help further them, or may introduce me to entirely new activities and help me discover new passions. While my current interest lies in political activism, I find myself very frustrated and stressed out by the current political climate. A break from the constant media coverage and a chance to focus on the beauty of nature will help me clear my mind so I can more effectively continue my work during the school year. This trip will also help me gain appreciation for the Park Services and reinvigorate my demands for environmental justice. Upon returning, my experience can help me more effectively advocate for environmental protections. I also know that the leadership styles I will learn will be invaluable to me as I pursue my interest in politics.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope to build strong bonds and bring an open mind to the group experience at BOLT. I loved meeting so many new people at the beginning of my freshman year. By the end of this year, though, I feel people are less open to making new friends and most people feel pretty settled. I hope to meet people who I have yet to encounter and with whom I likely wouldn’t otherwise cross paths. In such a unique environment, I would like to develop tight bonds with people who may share my interests or those who have entirely different backgrounds, and cultivate bonds that will last for the remainder of my time at Brown and beyond. Hopefully the group will be filled with diverse students so that each person can bring unique qualities, experiences, and goals. I also would like to develop a bond with the group leaders, so that I may have a mentor-like role model even when I return to school. I believe I have a lot to contribute to the group experience. I bring an open mind and open heart; I am also very outgoing and positive. I enjoy working with others. I want people to be able to rely on me on during the program if they have difficulty. Through the remainder of my time at Brown, I want to be a consistent and loyal friend to my group members, even if I do not see them all the time, I hope to be someone who they know they can always approach. I also hope to bring optimism and encouragement. Even if this is a new experience for all of us, I will try my best to wake up every day excited for new adventures and ready to encourage others.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Gabriela  
Preferred Name: Gabi  
Last Name: Gil  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-07-09 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I am not someone who has a lot of experience with wilderness, with my typical “hikes” being more akin to leisurely strolls with a focus on photography. I am more likely to be seen on adventures that take me around city sidewalks with a camera in hand instead of those that would place me within wild habitats. This is something I want to change. I want to become more comfortable exploring new environments, both physical and social ones. In doing so, I hope to become more confident as a person and as a leader. This is something I hope to do by taking more opportunities to spend time outdoors, and outside cityscapes, and by expanding my social horizons beyond the social bubbles that are so easily formed upon College Hill. I believe that BOLT is a program that would enable me to do just that.   
  
I want to do BOLT because both the design of the program itself and the people within it will provide opportunities for empowerment and for me to be pushed outside of my comfort zone. Not only will the fall trip itself provide me the opportunity to embrace a new environment, but it will do so within the context of a supportive social network. Within this group I will be able to help others succeed in their goals as they help me develop the skills and confidence I need to face challenges head on. Beyond this, through the programming of the rest of the semester, I would be able to advance these skills to be applied to the rest of my time at Brown and engage within the unique collaborative and meaningful environment that is the BOLT community.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: I have found it difficult to become actively involved in leadership within Brown during my first year, and I want to be able to persist and improve my skills in order to effect positive change within the groups I have joined in the future. In the following year, I want to be more effectively engaged on campus in ways that make an impact on student life and on the greater Providence community. For example, I hope to utilize the collaborative skills developed through the BOLT experience in my classroom at the William D'abate Elementary School in creating the best possible learning environment alongside my BEAM (Brown Elementary Afterschool Mentorship) co-teachers. More generally, I believe that BOLT will help me become a more proactive member of the Brown community, going after new opportunities and exploring roles that I have not had to confidence to pursue in the past.  
  
In the next year, I aim to continue to push myself outside of my comfort zone in order to continue to be introduced to new people and modes of thinking. In this first year at Brown, my pre-conceived notions have been thoroughly challenged through my continual interactions with new people that make up with essence of freshman year. Even as I become more at home at Brown, I do not want to stop exposing myself to new ways of thinking that will encourage me to grow and think critically of my own perspective and experiences. I believe that the BOLT experience will contribute to this, helping me make new connections and literally placing me in an environment I am not accustomed to. BOLT will help me develop positive skills in situations that will help me achieve my goals for the following year by engaging with new people and highlighting confident team leadership.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences is the best way I can think of to expose myself to more ways of thinking that challenge my own and enable me to construct a better understanding of the way my own experiences shape my biases. By bringing together a group of unique people for the first time and providing a program where these groups can have a shared experience in which responsibility has to be taken by every member of the group, BOLT provides a perfect platform upon which this exchange of ideas can take place.  
  
It is the shared experience of the BOLT trip in which every member of the group contributes equally and must collaborate with others for success that can form a stronger bond than shared identities could. By listening to and communicating with my BOLT group, I hope to gain a better understanding of other backgrounds and how each individual’s identity informs their decisions. Through this, I will be able to reflect upon my own decision making process and address limitations I may not have seen before.   
  
Ultimately, it is most likely that different individuals in a single group will approach a challenge differently, and there may be no single “better” way to overcome an obstacle. This promotes the cooperation and cohesion of multiple approaches to form a unique solution. Therefore, through BOLT’s philosophy of learning from others, I hope to be able to build upon my own knowledge using the experiences of other members in my group to become a more effective leader. By engaging with my BOLT group, I hope to develop a more well-rounded critical approach to obstacles by learning, reflecting on, and deepening my own way of looking at the world.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Michael  
Preferred Name: Michael  
Last Name: Gold  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1998-07-31 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : BOLT is an opportunity to live, if only for a short while, in a world of complete compassion and concern.   
  
Last spring, my high school offered me the chance to make a walking pilgrimage throughout the countryside of Spain. The trip was intensively reflective, mostly looking back at the past four years. The time I spent on that trip is when I began to see in a clearer light my own tendencies and how my tendencies affected others - in both good and bad ways. After my first year at Brown, I think I have more to reflect upon than from my four years of high school. This has been an extreme period of growth for myself, often times overwhelmingly so.   
  
BOLT will help me learn how to transform my experiences of the natural world and the social environment into sources of calm for others. BOLT will allow me to escape Brown for a short time to learn about myself and others, and then return to the real world emboldened to stand up for myself, others, and the natural world.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Over the two weeks of shopping period for this semester, I created five different carts on CAB and shopped a total of twelve classes. Eventually (read: on the last day to freely change registration), I settled on a schedule that both includes classes with friends and covers requirements for three of my possible concentrations. Needless to say, a main goal of the upcoming year is to figure out my future academic plan.  
  
But while I hope to find a major that is both enjoyable and intellectually challenging, I know that the concentration on my degree is the not sole determinant of my Brown experience. Certainly, these four years are a time of academic growth. Yet more importantly, I think, these years are about self-discovery and cultivation, allowing me to graduate as an individual who can best apply the knowledge I’ve learned by stepping outside of myself.   
  
BOLT, at it’s core, would teach me how to better live as a community, not just as an individual. During the trip, BOLT will help me reflect on my relationships with the natural world, my friends, and myself. I would emerge from BOLT hopefully with a vision for my future shaped by the impact my path with have on the world.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Throughout high school, I participated in many retreats and eventually led the same retreats in my senior year. While the retreats were incredibly rewarding, my high school was a mostly homogenous group of suburban, white males. And while I certainly do not mean to diminish or generalize the lived experiences of any individual, our struggles and identities had common themes.  
  
When I came to Brown, I was confronted with the privilege of my race for the first time in my life. Race, for me, is one of the most visible and obvious aspects of my identity, which made conversations about my race relatively easy to volunteer. The intimate group settings of BOLT, however, create the opportunity to be more vulnerable in our expressions of identity and experience.  
  
I hope to become more courageous and open in my identity due to BOLT. I hope to walk away having been inspired to live as who I am, not who I am expected to me. Most importantly, I hope to learn how my identity and experiences can be a source of help for others, and vice versa.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Nicolas  
Preferred Name: Nico  
Last Name: Goldberg  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1998-04-22 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Discussing BOLT with other people, I’ve found that one detail in particular is usually the deal breaker: the lack of showers. At first glance, everyone seems excited about spending time outdoors and connecting with other Brown students, but as they start to think about it practically the lack of amenities starts to weigh on them. When they realize they won’t be able to shower for a week, that’s usually the end of it. However, I feel the exact opposite! I’ve never backpacked before, but (somewhat naively) I’d actually be excited to experience life without showers for a week! And it’s not just no showers either; I think that living off mac and cheese and setting up tarps and bear bags would force me well outside my comfort zone, teaching me a lot about myself. I love hiking and being outdoors for that reason: it forces me to reflect and learn about myself. Being isolated in the BOLT experience, being exposed to leadership opportunities sans phones or worries, would only magnify that effect. Furthermore, the idea of being a part of the BOLT community from Sophomore year on seems incredible. From all the past BOLTers I’ve met it seems to be a place where I would fit in great!   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: As with many rising sophomores, the most daunting task in the upcoming year will be choosing my concentration. At this point, it could still be anything… Which I am totally fine with! In my case, it’s not a matter of having nothing I like, but liking too many things to choose! I strongly believe going through the BOLT experience and having time to reflect in nature and talk with other Brown students going through the same process could help me gain much needed clarity. Additionally, next year I aim to pursue leadership positions in some of the on campus groups I’ve been involved in including the Brown Outing Club and Brown Model United Nations. This year I was a bit timid in seeking responsibility within my extracurricular activities, but I’ve resolved to step it up next year. For that reason, the leadership skills that BOLT teaches would be incredibly useful to me moving forward. Lastly, my most trivial reason is that I need more people to go hiking with during the school year! Hiking and being outdoors was such a staple of my life pre-Brown, and I’d love to increase my level of outdoors exposure during the year by meeting a bunch of other cool outdoorsy people!   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: As I’ve said, I strongly believe that being in the outdoors is conducive to reflecting and gaining clarity in your life. I’m sure everyone else will also be thinking about their futures and looking to grow from the BOLT experience, setting the stage for lots of sharing within the group. I’m picturing a stereotypical “everyone sitting on logs around a campfire sharing their innermost thoughts (and maybe some horror stories too)” type of scenario! Regardless of whether that’s actually the case, I’m sure sharing will occur in plenty of intimate settings along the backpacking trip. I think having everyone around me open up and opening up myself will expose us to the various identities and experiences we each possess. As Brown students I have no doubt these will be incredibly diverse and interesting, and I’m sure people will have gone through things I can’t even begin to imagine. I believe this melting pot of personalities and experiences will help me grow by allowing me to see the world through new perspectives, and I think sharing my own thoughts will be beneficial to others as well (at least I hope so!). Nothing would make me happier than coming out of the BOLT experience with a fresh perspective and a new set of friends, each with their own unique outlooks, who I can seek out for help and who hopefully would seek me out as well!  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Jacob  
Preferred Name: Jack  
Last Name: Gramlich  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1998-03-10 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : BOLT is a fantastic opportunity to connect with a slice of the Brown community. In my time on campus I have loved learning about all the different ways people see the world. From my freshman hall to dining halls, it is always a joy to talk to people who come from all sorts of different places and have all sorts of different stories. By nature of this trip taking place deep in nature, there will be a unique opportunity for getting to know people from all over the world. I have loved hiking with my family in the past because of the way it allows for deep and extended conversations. As part of the Brown Debating Union, I have found that no matter the activity, being with a group of great people and sharing a unified experience can be a great way to build friendships. I am really excited about how BOLT involves not just an opportunity to get outdoors and learn about living in the wilderness but also to share an experience that will extend over a period of months with a cohesive group. I would love to have the chance to go on a BOLT trip and gear myself up for sophomore year.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Over the next year I want to learn as much as I can from as many people as I can. I hope that BOLT can be a space in which I can really get to know a lot of people who have unique ways of viewing the world. Brown's huge array of academic and extracurricular opportunities can sometimes be overwhelming; there are so many great places and ways to spend time that it can be difficult to choose. I hope that by breaking out of the bubbles in which I currently travel through BOLT I will gain a better sense of how different people navigate Brown. Everyone has different ways of balancing productivity and leisure, exercise and academics, remembering to sleep, and finding ways to meet up with friends who travel in different social circles. I would love to be able to talk about my first year experiences and figure out ways to do Brown better with my BOLT friends. In the past I have found that exercise and conversation are both fundamentally important to academic success, in that I learn best with a clear head and an open mind. I believe that BOLT will help me develop even stronger work habits by helping me see how to apply knowledge from beyond the curriculum to my life.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?:   
Coming from a position of privilege as a white man, I recognize that my perspective on diversity is limited, given that I am inherently blind to many aspects of the life experiences of other people. With that caveat, in my view diversity is a complex subject stemming from the basic ideas that everyone should have access to opportunities and feel welcome in all kinds of environments. Many factors—including racial prejudice, sexism, and wealth inequality—conspire to prevent the ideal of diversity from coming to fruition. One reason that is that people with different kinds of backgrounds experience different types of marginalization. We all have a responsibility to educate ourselves about how factors like prejudice and inequality affect people, and to then do whatever we can to make everyone else feel welcome. To reach equitable outcomes, we all must be mindful of how our words can either inspire or hurt others.   
  
I hope that in my BOLT group we will be able to break down barriers that too often divide us as a community. Too often we become segmented into groups of people that are similar to us; even in places as diverse as Brown friend groups can be unfortunately homogeneous. BOLT is a great space to develop friendships that bridge across these lines. Exploring and learning together in the wilderness while remaining cognizant that we have all had different life experiences promises to yield uncountable valuable conversations. Though there is of course no panacea to the problems of exclusion that too often characterize social dynamics in any large community. I hope that my BOLT group will together gain a better understanding of how despite our different backgrounds and different social positions, we share common humanity and are all one at heart.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Benjamin  
Preferred Name: Ben  
Last Name: Gross  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to participate in BOLT because I want to join a group of students committed to self-reflection and bonding through outdoor activities. Camping and hiking with new people has helped break down some of the social hierarchies in my life. In high school I regularly participated in the venturing croo, an outdoors club open to all high school students. Sophomore year I went on a canoeing trip down the Delaware river without really knowing any of the other participants. Away from school work, away from peer pressures, away from the school environment, I felt like I could approach new people much more easily. Seniors, juniors, and freshman and myself all played contact, talked about the glorious fall scenery along the Delaware river, and puzzled over directions to the outfitter. Once we hit the water, I got to intimately know about the details of my partner’s life, and she mine. We both felt a lack of pressure to perform and that made getting to know each other so much simpler. I feel like that sort of freedom is somewhat difficult to come by at Brown where people are always stressed about this p-set or that essay on top of grade level and social affiliations that separate people. BOLT intrigues me because not only does it open up the kinds of close relations that the wilderness can help forge, but it gives ample opportunity to continue those relationships throughout the semester.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Next semester I want to deepen my involvement in groups working to make change in Providence. This semester I joined the Rhode Island Student Climate Coalition and have helped plan panels on the environment and learned a lot about local legislation by attending policy hearings on issues like the proposed natural gas plant in Burrillville. My work with RISCC has been meaningful, but climate change in RI still feels like such a large scale issue. I plan on continuing to work with RISCC next semester, but I’m also looking for avenues to impact individuals more directly. Organizations like BEAM and BRYTE seem like great opportunities to engage in interpersonal work. I learned about both of those programs through friends who have worked with them. I know that there are other ways that I can make a difference in Providence and I think meeting a diverse group of people will help expand my understanding of issues facing the community at - and surrounding - Brown. I put the most effort into activities that involve my friends, and I think BOLT will help foster relationships between me and others striving to change their environment.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Part of the excitement of BOLT is that I have no idea how specifically I might grow or change. While I have the general goal of hearing from people that I may not have met without BOLT, I think the most exciting part about the journey is not knowing where it will take me. With that in mind, I do hope to specifically challenge my relationship to preparedness and leadership. I often feel a desire to be a leader and I think I accomplish that through making preparedness a part of my identity. Whether that means having a rain coat (and rainfly for my backpack) or taking a Wilderness First Responder course, I want to have as much of the relevant tools with me as possible. This way I feel like I can take charge when a situation changes in a negative way. I do think having someone who is in charge and responsible for the basic life necessities is valuable, but I am excited for the opportunity to not feel a need to be exceptionally prepared or lead in the ways I have traditionally gravitated towards. I want to learn on BOLT how other people’s backgrounds and identities become a part of their leadership. I can imagine leadership styles that doesn’t focus on skills, but rather an understanding of group dynamics and interpersonal relationships. However, I have yet to live that kind of leadership in an outdoor setting. I don’t know exactly what this will on a trip, but I look forward to discovering more in the fall.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Isabel   
Preferred Name: Isabel  
Last Name: Guarnieri  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-02-03 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to do BOLT primarily for the community and BOLT family. My experience at Brown has been amazing so far, and while I have a lot of friends, I have found myself searching for a community that I can truly feel a part of and connect with. This is important for me because my personal identity is very in-between in a variety of ways, as I am multiracial and have never explored my own racial identity. I am also an American who has grown up her entire life overseas, therefore stuck in this awkward not-quite international and not-quite local state that at times, can be quite isolating. While I am not looking for BOLT to fulfill either of these roles, I feel like having a close-knit community through BOLT that has bonded over this unique experience would allow me to feel a part of something, which I’ve always struggled with.   
Less significantly, I would also like to use this opportunity to meet more people, as I feel like my social group at Brown has become very centralized in a certain crowd that I would like to expand. I also want to spend some time in the outdoors and develop the technical outdoors skills. I want to use this opportunity as a chance to humble myself, detach from the material world, and immerse myself in an experience where I can connect with new and interesting people.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My goals for the upcoming year are to become more engaged in extracurricular activities, gain experience in leadership and team-building and to develop a tight-knit community I can rely on throughout the year. This semester, I have not been involved as I would like in extracurricular activities at Brown, as I have been trying to adapt to the work load and to having an on-campus job at the same time. So, I think being in an immersive experience like BOLT, and working towards building leadership and team-building skills will give me a solid foundation to become more involved on-campus, which is important for me in the long-run. In terms of building a community, what I really love about BOLT is how it creates a family that continues throughout the year, and is not just a one-off trip. I want to be a part of that BOLT family, and know that it would help me develop more of a sense of home at Brown.   
  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I have grown up overseas my entire life, most recently Nairobi, Kenya – where ethnic, racial and class diversity have always been inherent in my school environment. Coming from there to Brown, I realize how I’ve always taken that for granted – previously perceiving diversity as a given rather than understanding the structural factors that limit it (to a certain extent) at an Ivy League university. I hope to grow and learn at BOLT by making that – diversity – my norm again, expanding my horizons and meeting people from all different backgrounds. Moreover, I also hope to explore more of my racial identity – being from a mixed background and not having had a lot of opportunities to explore and connect with other people who may be going through a similar internal conflict (also why I’m interested in hearing more about the POC group!).   
Apart from that, another way I hope to learn and grow is just by detaching myself from the tech-driven world and letting myself think in the silence of nature (as cheesy as it sounds). I did a lot of similar trips in high school in the Kenyan wilderness and have found that not only does the isolating effect of nature bringing you closer to others, but it also brings you closer to yourself, and could potentially allow me to reevaluate my path.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Federico  
Preferred Name: Federico  
Last Name: Guevara  
Gender: trans male  
Date of Birth: 1998-08-21 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I’ve been interested this semester in engaging more with the landscape of Rhode Island and the northeast. I’m from West Texas where you can see the Milky Way belt every night, disappear into the desert by running only a few miles away from town, and get to mountainous state and national parks for a day trip. I miss the casual engagement with the outside world-- even if school demands made it so I didn’t spend many full days hiking, I knew the plants, knew the animals, could predict when the rainy and windy seasons would come. It’s been extremely difficult to cultivate any of the same connection here-- the overwhelming schedule of school and work compounded with a lack of transportation and a friend network not necessarily sharing the same goals has made it difficult enough so that I have not prioritized it and made it happen this year. I think it would be a real disservice to myself to allow the same inertia to prevent me from committing myself to the outdoors in my remaining years at Brown, and the structure and even more importantly community of BOLT seems like the perfect opportunity for me to do so.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One of my main goals for next semester is to figure out how to keep myself stable, safe and healthy while remaining productive and accomplishing my goals in an academic environment. I’ve had an intense and tumultuous freshman year with respect to mental health, and although I have begun to take concrete steps in ameliorating that situation, I know that I need to restructure some of my priorities moving forward in school and life in order to avoid slipping backwards, particularly when I will be coming back in the fall as a sophomore living apart from anyone I know on campus and joining a new concentration where I may not know anyone in my classes or any other sophomores pursuing the same concentration. An important part of this re-prioritization is to focus more than I have been on forming and continuing meaningful relationships and taking care of my body, and BOLT aligns neatly with both of these goals. I think the BOLT community seems like a really positive group, both from the examples I’ve seen on campus of those who are already a part of the organization and those who are interested enough to be applying along with me. Furthermore, I think a social experience not based on academics or the physical space of Brown University could be immensely useful in maintaining perspective even while more fully engaging with the people at Brown.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I think a group such as BOLT would be a really useful experience in engaging with students of various identities in groups that aren’t specifically related to those identities. I have had some great experiences and met interesting people in these sorts of groups, particularly those for queer/trans and Latinx students, but I feel that oftentimes they can be impactful in making those initial connections, but then without compatible schedules or shared hobbies or time commitments it can be difficult to sustain and deepen those relationships in a meaningful way in the context of a busy and stressful academic environment. As such, I think BOLT would be a wonderful mix of the coordination and structure to facilitate connection and friendship while not being centered around an ultimately stressful pursuit, creating an environment where I can bond with those in the group with shared identities as well as those whom I have very little in common with as far as surface-level identity goes. I also think the piloted POC BOLT group could be a super positive experience. I’ve been taking classes mostly in engineering first semester and after flailing around a bit I’ll be taking a lot of my classes from here on out in economics and math, and while there are certainly wonderful POC individuals in these concentrations and classes, I’ve had the experience that most of the students I’ve connected with in this context have been much more focused on the humanities, leading to schedules that make socialization and academics feel like very separate spheres and my prioritization of the latter often leaving me feeling isolated-- not always comfortable with what feels like the dominant atmosphere of students from socioeconomically elite backgrounds, but feeling somewhat alienated from anything else.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Ana  
Preferred Name: Ana  
Last Name: Guimaraes  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-01-08 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to do BOLT because I believe that as a rising sophomore there are still plenty of people in my class that I do not know and would like to have an opportunity to meet and form bonds with, but as sophomores the school generally offers less opportunities to do this because the administration is focused on integrating the freshmen into the campus (a very understandable goal as freshman year can be a difficult transitionary period). Furthermore, I believe that this five day hiking/back-packing experience isn't one that comes along everyday. I've never been on a real hiking trip but have always wanted to, so this would definitely be an opportunity for me to cross it off my bucket list. In fact, when I came into college I thought Brown would offer us an opportunity like this one during orientation because that's what my brothers school (Williams College) and other schools I had looked into did. So I was slightly disappointed at out orientation weekend events but super excited to learn about BOLT. It gives us a chance to really relax and appreciate nature with our peers before coming back to a stressful year on campus. And finally, because BOLT has events throughout the year, I think the support it offers is essential to not falling victim to the sophomore slump.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In the upcoming year I am really hoping to forge new friendships and relationships with both peers and professors as I get more involved with campus-life. I believe that the BOLT fits really nicely into this goal. I think that through it's various events I will be able to make lasting relationships with not only my BOLT group but possible the other BOLTers as well. I also believe that having this time to connect with upperclassmen (our BOLT leaders) could be very beneficial because college is a learning experience and it's always nice to hear the advice and pro-tips from those who have been here longer than you have.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Besides the fact that as a hiking novice, the sheer experience of a five-day hiking trip will be a huge learning experience I believe that having grown up as a hispanic in Miami I am well-aware of the issues and life experience of the hispanic minorities in our country but I feel slightly out of touch with those experiences lived by other minorities here. I hope to learn from my fellow BOLTers their life experiences as minorities or even in fact as the white majority; I think it is important to hear about everyone's lives. I also hope to learn more about their thoughts on the Brown campus and the Brown experience - be it through their time in extracurriculars, courses, or away from school. What are their recommendations or major faux pas to avoid. With that said, I know that as a STEM major it can be easy to hole yourself up in the sciences, but in order to be a well-rounded and informed individual it is important to dable in all areas of study so I would love to hear the recommendations of humanities concentrators. I really think that Brown has so much to offer but it can be hard to appreciate it all if you set out to do it on your own.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Tristan   
Preferred Name: Tristan  
Last Name: Harris  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1997-08-01 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): brand new transfer - starting this fall  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : My decision to transfer to Brown from NYU this upcoming Fall was primarily motivated by a desire to have a more intimate undergraduate experience. After discovering BOLT, I have been eagerly awaiting the opening of the application as I hope to have BOLT serve as the bedrock for my next three years at Brown. In participating in BOLT, I look forward to forging meaningful friendships through the undertaking of the same weeklong trip before starting the school year together.   
  
  
BOLT is especially appealing to me as a pre-orientation program by allowing me to experience the White Mountains of New Hampshire with my peers. I have always considered myself to be a city person, but appreciate spending time in nature away from day-to-day demands and artificial boundaries that often prevent meaningful relationships from being formed. My appreciation for outdoor activities was largely fostered by my time as an Eagle Scout, and solidified through a program similar to BOLT that my high school holds for rising juniors in Pisgah National Forest. Through the Pisgah trip, I had the opportunity to have deep conversations with classmates I had passed in the hall, but never had a chance to hold real conversations. Some of the people in my group became some of my closest friends my junior and senior years. I look forward to having the same experience of making long-time friends through BOLT.  
  
As excited as I am for the week in the White Mountains, I am also strongly compelled to participate in BOLT owing to its incorporation of semester-long programing. Last year, I found as the school year picks up, many friends made during orientation programming can be lost as activities and classes pull everyone in different directions. I am impressed with how BOLT thoughtfully fights this phenomenon with dinners and events throughout the semester, and concludes the first semester with a Thanksgiving Potluck Celebration.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Coming to Brown as a transfer student is a strange experience. Although I have a full year of college behind me, it still feels like I am starting over again as a first year. Having to learn a new campus and make entirely new friends is equally exciting and intimidating. My initial priorities at Brown will be to engage in as many social and extra-curricular communities as possible to establish a strong network of friends who allow me to be myself and encourage me to grow as a student and an individual. Through BOLT's leadership training, I also hope to begin to become more comfortable leading within my community as I transition to being an upperclassman.   
  
BOLT will present a unique venue to begin my time at Brown by allowing me to access a diverse community of new transfer students and already established rising sophomores. I look forward to forging close friendships with those in my group so we can support each other in the coming year. I also hope to utilize the insight of rising sophomores to gain information on everything from the best philosophy electives to the best places to grab a meal on Thayer Street.  
  
BOLT’s programming will also be the perfect venue to self-reflect on what I hope to gain from my three years at Brown. Through BOLT led activities and the time spent hiking, I look forward to reflecting on what I aim to gain academically, personally, and professionally from the remainder of my undergraduate education. The transfer process has already been an incredible opportunity to explore my priorities and interests. Now, I look forward to clarifying and strengthening them as I begin my time at Brown.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Exposure to foreign cultures, thought, and perspectives, is what I have cherished most about college. Brown’s emphasis on exposure to a wide-range of experiences from the Open Curriculum to its well-known campus activism is what drew me to the school in my transfer decision process. I look forward to my participation in BOLT to catalyze interaction with students from a wide-range of backgrounds, especially those I may not encounter otherwise whether it be because they are in entirely different majors or live in housing across campus.   
  
BOLT’s emphasis on inclusion appeals to me because as a gay male I know what it is like to be excluded and treated differently for something that inherently makes me who I am. Through BOLT, I look forward to participating in an inclusive environment where I can bond with peers around camp fires, challenging hikes, and record-long periods of going without a shower, rather than artificial identities that often prevent genuine connection between otherwise like-minded individuals.   
  
Outdoor experiences allow a perfect opportunity to learn about oneself and others outside the busy, competitive environments of work and school. Through participating in BOLT, I hope to form friendships with a wide-range of peers who can stand as connections to groups and experiences across the Brown campus in the coming years. I particularly look forward to gaining greater awareness of the many identities of those around me to allow a greater understanding and appreciation for the vast array of passions, challenges, interests, and talents of my classmates. Through BOLT’s leadership training, I also look forward to learning about how to be an inclusive and aware leader within diverse communities.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: John  
Preferred Name: Jack  
Last Name: Hegarty  
Gender: male  
Date of Birth: 1998-01-22 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Of my experience at Brown, one of the things that I regret most is not being able to spend more time connecting with the myriad people on campus. Brown has such a diverse student body, and I know that I have so much to gain as a person from learning from the various perspective and backgrounds represented on campus. However, during the course of the semester the constant stress of schoolwork pushes this important opportunity for personal enrichment to the back of my mind. At times I feel as though I am isolated from much of the Brown community. This is not to say that I have not met new friends and expanded my perspectives, but, that my connections often seem superficial. BOLT, I hope will give me a shared experience with a group of people that will foster more meaningful connections allowing me to grow as a person and and a friend.   
  
Moreover, I enjoy spending time in the outdoors. BOLT, therefore, will allow me to engage in task I already enjoy while simultaneously providing me an opportunity to reflect on my time at Brown and my priorities moving forward. This reflective process, will also be strengthened by the leadership aspect of BOLT. BOLT will help give me perspective through which I can evaluate my own life; it will also give me responsibility of guiding others. This is, one of the most appealing aspects of BOLT: I’m not only interested in it to receive guidance, but to learn how I can guide my peers. moving forward, effective leadership skills will give me a confidence to pursue my personal goals and provide a framework around which I can build on in the future.   
  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: While I came to Brown primarily for the academics, over the course of my first year it quickly dawned on me that my priorities in life could not be solely about schoolwork. In essence, I realized that it is not fulfilling to live with such an emphasis on how well I perform while sacrificing parts of my life that were once integral. In high school, for instance, I found community service and volunteering to be a valuable glue in my life, anchoring together both my motivation to help others and my pursuit of personal growth. The increased difficulty that came with college schoolwork, however, resulted in a drop off in the time I give back to the community. In a similar way, my love of art and athletics have been neglected. Coming into college, I hoped all of these things would augment my college experience in unison, but the reality has not matched this ideal. While next year I hope to be able to get back to my old passions, I now realize how difficult it is to weight my various goals--from academic, to artistic--against each other. I believe the most important way that my BOLT experience will affect my goals will be through honing my perspective for my future priorities. Self-reflection is a difficult process, and it is all too easy to push to the side when college offers countless distractions. I welcome the open canvas that BOLT presents for this important type of growth.   
  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: The town I grew up in, Brookfield Connecticut, is primarily white, Christian, and middle class. At school my peers, for the most part, matched that demographic. To put it bluntly, my childhood was not characterized by diversity. At the time, though, it was all I had ever know. Not until I came to Brown did I begin to understand the breadth of different perspectives and identities that existed. While it was shocking at first, I soon came to realize that the diverse student body is one of the most significant benefits of the university as a whole. I realized that there was so much I could learn from these different types of people, much of which I would have never have had access to had I chosen to attend one of the many colleges that mirrors the makeup of Brookfield. I also realized that every time I had a conversation with somebody different from myself I learned so much about other their background and even about myself. This was a type of learning that I could not get in a classroom, it was tangible and immediately applicable to my own perspectives. From my BOLT group, I hope to extend my outlook even further. Something I have focused on at Brown is imagining others complexly. That is, I have made a concerted effort to remind myself that people who come from different backgrounds than myself have rich and important stories to tell, stories that I should listen to and learn from. Luckily, the emphasis that BOLT places on grouping people from a range of identities will augment this pursuit for deepening my appreciation of others, and the value of their experiences.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Mari  
Preferred Name: Mari  
Last Name: Herrema  
Gender: Cisgender female  
Date of Birth: 1998-02-16 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to apply to BOLT because I’m drawn to the idea of belonging to a support network of people who share some interests with me – namely, hiking and the outdoors – but at the same time come from different backgrounds and experiences and therefore have different perspectives than me. While I have never been backpacking before, I have been on extended outdoor-adventure excursions sans electronics, and the friendships I developed on these trips have been some of the closest and most genuine relationships I’ve had. In terms of support, I’m still looking for mentoring relationships at college – while I do like my academic advisor, my Meik, and my RPLs, I haven’t quite found mentors with whom I’ve really clicked, and BOLT seems like a wonderful way to pursue those kinds of connections. Moreover, I’m interested in the leadership training that BOLT offers. Having gone to a small high school, leadership opportunities were easier to come by, but now that I’m at a medium-sized university, I find myself uncertain with how to proceed in searching for opportunities to lead and make a mark on campus. Being a BOLTer would connect me with people who are not simply good resources in reference to leadership, but who are also good friends.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My primary goal for the upcoming year is to continue to expand my horizons and meet new people. By this point in my life, I know that I’m an adaptable person who can quickly meet new people and settle down in a new environment; however, once I settle, I really do settle, and it can be hard for me to encourage myself to continually seek out and engage new people and situations. Brown is a community teeming with individuals from diverse and interesting backgrounds, and I never want to become too complacent and stop exploring that. I’m afraid I’m already doing that – becoming too complacent – at the end of freshman year. I believe that by starting my sophomore year with BOLT, I’ll be naturally pushed back into that mindset of seeking out and meeting new people in my community, whether that community be a BOLT family, the Brown community, or the Providence community at large. Secondly, I want to find more leadership opportunities on campus. I enjoy the activities I’ve participated in during my freshman year, but I feel like I could be doing more to make a difference in the Brown community. Through BOLT, I believe I can develop the skills to be a more effective and self-sufficient leader and gain the confidence to put myself forward for more leadership opportunities and positions.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: As someone who has always been interested in humans and storytelling, I believe that the best way to learn and grow from the experiences of others is by providing a space for people to tell their stories and then to honestly listen to those stories. BOLT’s end-of-summer trip provides the perfect environment for this: in a day that is mostly devoted to hiking, stories are inevitably the primary mode of entertainment. Listening to the stories of others is one of the ways in which people grow and become both more understanding and empathizing. Additionally, in being a leadership program, BOLT provides a unique opportunity to learn how to work with people who come from cultures and backgrounds that might have different expectations of leadership, responsibility, and collaboration. I hope that BOLT will help me become not just a better leader, but also a mindful leader who is sensitive to the naturally different expectations of the people around them. With the direct experience derived from the end-of-summer trip and continuing input and advice from leaders and mentors, BOLT is a program that I believe can create lasting changes, rather than elevating an individual’s ability and sensitivity for a few weeks before the new knowledge and skills are forgotten.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Olivia  
Preferred Name: Olivia  
Last Name: Hinch  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-01-23 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Although I grew up on the border of Vermont and New Hampshire, I rarely took advantage of my proximity to the White Mountains as a child. In high school, I was allowed the freedom to take smaller day hikes with friends on the nearby Appalachian Trail. After hiking Mt. Moosilauke last summer, a friend and I decided that our goal would be to complete the Presidential Range Traverse. We planned to stay in huts located along the trail and even set a tentative date. Then schedules changed, and our trip was cancelled. My goal from last summer hasn’t changed: to complete a backpacking trip in the White Mountains that are so close to my home.  
  
More than wanting to experience a new part of Vermont and New Hampshire culture, I want to be a part of a community of fellow Brown students and leaders that continues throughout sophomore year. It’s easy to get caught in the same routine with the same people, but through BOLT I would have the opportunity to form relationships with people from incredibly different backgrounds from my own. I am most interested in BOLT because I want to have mentors and friendships that I can count on in the year to come.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In the upcoming year, I would like to become more involved in the Brown community. Even though it’s impossible to ever know every student at Brown, I feel like I have become stuck in a routine that allows me to spend most of my time with a handful of people. This routine is comforting, but next year I would like to push my boundaries by working with new people and even taking on leadership positions around campus. I would like to become more involved with the Brown Outdoors Club, specifically, as hiking, eating sustainably, and experiencing nature are important parts of the culture that I grew up in and would like to share. As a part of the BOLT program, I would not only meet new people on the Fall Trip, but also continue to expand who I know through activities throughout the fall semester.   
  
Another goal I have for the upcoming year is to live in the present and engage with the people around me. I find that one barrier in forming meaningful relationships for not only myself but also my peers is social media and cell phone use. In the past year, I have deleted social media apps like Facebook and Twitter from my phone, but this is only the start. My goal to be less attached to my cell phone goes hand in hand with a goal to form more meaningful relationships at Brown. On the BOLT Fall Trip, cell phones are highly discouraged. BOLT would allow me to meet new people without social media and text defining our relationship. More than that, these meaningful relationships would continue throughout the year to come.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Although I have stressed that being outdoors is an important part of the culture where I’m from, this means that I have experienced few differing viewpoints towards hiking. Being at Brown, I have come to realize the privilege I have had to grow up and feel welcome in the outdoors. I know that not everyone has had this opportunity and that people might approach BOLT with a host of different experiences, opinions about, or feelings towards the outdoors. Through my leaders and mentors, I hope to gain a better understanding of what it truly means to be outside.  
  
This past summer, I worked as a fourth grade camp counselor at a local day camp. On one field trip, we hiked Mt. Kearsarge, which is by no means an easy hike. The kids who I ended up leading had never hiked before. Although we took longer than the other groups to reach the summit, I got to know all of my campers personally before we got there. One girl who I had assumed was not athletic actually had parents who wouldn’t let her play sports, and as we reached the summit had me take a picture of her to show them what she had accomplished. This hike taught me not only that everyone in my hiking group came from a different background, but that, with a little encouragement, even those who were at first scared by the mountain in front of them came away loving the experience. As a part of BOLT, I hope to grow through similar experiences that test my patience and lead to a new understanding of the peers and mentors in my group. I look forward to making lasting relationships and friendships through these experiences.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Jordan  
Preferred Name: Jordan  
Last Name: Hodder  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : When I was a kid, I read and reread Calvin and Hobbes religiously. From the title characters’ escapades in the woods behind their house, I first learned to see the outdoors as a place for exploration and adventure. I spent much of my childhood doing my best to enact these fantasies in the rivers, hills, and forests of the “Open Space” near my house, undeterred by the ever-present threat of poison oak. However, my friends eventually moved on to video games and YouTube, and I, a chronic extrovert, passively followed the crowd inside. Soon, my connection to the outdoors had been almost completely severed, supplanted by routine and habit.   
  
However, college has been different: without the easy comfort of a relationship or the constant distractions high school provided, I’ve been challenged to make decisions about my identity and reflect on how I truly love to spend my free time.  
  
In mid-march, I finally won my first Brown Outing Club lottery. Excited but unsure of what to expect, I woke up bleary-eyed at 7, threw on the best semblance of hiking clothes I could muster, and set out. After a car ride of introductions and small talk, we started hiking. I was shocked to rediscover something I had forgotten: immersed in nature, I could let go of my worries and just be present in the world around me. I have yet to find that feeling anywhere else, and I now realize how much I missed after I fell out of touch with the world that meant so much to me as a kid.  
  
Another surprise was the connection I discovered with the other hikers. I realized on that first hike just how many like-minded people share my meditative relationship with the untouched wilderness. We spent plenty of time laughing over little commonalities that we unconverted, but there was also an unspoken understanding between us about when to just share silence and take it all in. This has become something I am deeply passionate about: using the outdoors as a platform to forge unique relationships. BOLT represents a second chance for me to rekindle a buried passion as well as a way to build connections and share something beautiful with others.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: The leadership aspect of BOLT is also important to me. In the time I’ve been at Brown, I’ve come to realize that I have some way to go before becoming fully the person I want to be. I want to leverage my experiences and privileges to help people and be an agent of change in the various communities that I’m part of. I want to make people feel included and listened to, I want to give back to the people and places I care about, and I want to be the person that people always feel like they can come to. In other words, I want to be a leader.  
  
I’m better at some of those skills than others. I’ve never really been much good at inspiring other people to action, as I have a very hard time articulating ideas in a way that people listen to. Of particular difficulty for me in high school was the powerlessness I felt as I watched friends be exclusive or inconsiderate towards others. I hope to learn in the next year how to better express myself and speak up for people that aren’t being thought of. I think BOLT could help me be a better leader and friend to those around me, which is one of the changes I most want to make over the next year.  
  
Another goal of mine is to be more active in pursuing my own happiness. This might not sound that complicated, but over the last year I’ve found it far too easy to get sucked into routine and distraction while neglecting the hobbies that leave me fulfilled. I’d like to get more in touch with myself about the activities that truly enrich me, and BOLT will help me develop a passion for one of the most important ones.  
  
Lastly, growing up, I always envied the people that knew outdoor skills like pitching tents and building campfires. I felt a sort of unacknowledged, distant pull to the outdoors, but I simply didn’t have the experiences that many of my classmates did, and every time people talk about camping or backpacking I feel like an outsider. I’d love to deepen my connection to the outdoors by learning those skills with BOLT.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Growing up in an affluent suburb, I wasn’t exposed to the largest range of experiences. However, moving to New York City at the end of my freshman year in high school proved to be transformational. My friend group was both culturally and economically diverse, and I begun to learn how one’s upbringing and access to different resources shapes their experiences.   
  
That process is an ongoing one that I’d like to continue over the next year. Brown has been challenging for me; I have shied from sensitive topics, afraid to risk encroaching on spaces where my limited experiences render me somewhat unqualified to speak. I don’t think this is a solution, and I hope that I can learn how to participate in conversations and be an ally while still remaining cognizant of my privileges and how that disparity impacts some of my peers.  
  
I also believe in the value of the individual. I think every person has a unique spectrum of experiences and beliefs, and think the juncture of those is what makes a group of people great. The groups I have the most memorable experiences with are those where the widest variety of people are contributing and actively involved. Each fresh set of eyes looking at an obstacle makes it easier to surmount. The diverse set of perspectives and stories I will find in my BOLT group will help me gain a more nuanced and complete understanding of the problems of leadership and how to address them.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Shawna  
Preferred Name: Shawna  
Last Name: Huang  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to be a part of BOLT because it would allow me to step back from the hectic world that is life at Brown and regain a deeper appreciation for the people and the world around me. In an era where our society is becoming increasingly dependent on technology for basic daily life, I often feel that I spend too much of my day staring at my laptop and my phone. As college students with chaotic schedules, I think we sometimes forget that there is another world beyond course grades and summer internships. I am always so focused on debugging my CS homework or building a stronger resume that I don’t take the time to appreciate the many wonderful people and communities that surround me.  
I believe that being a part of BOLT will help me to change that. While BOLT is, of course, about spending time outdoors away from the pressures of student life, it is about so much more than that. BOLT is an opportunity to build a small community united by a shared experience; it is an opportunity to develop teamwork and leadership skills in a setting far removed from our normal daily lives; it is an opportunity to reflect on our personal goals, our plans for achieving them, and our progress towards personal growth. I want to be a part BOLT not just for the chance to step away from my turbulent life as a student, but also for the chance to grow and develop my personal skills in a unique environment.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: When I first came to Brown, one of my main goals was to step outside of my comfort zone and try new things. In my first year, I really pushed myself to do this – I joined student government on campus, took computer science courses, auditioned to be a campus tour guide, and more. Some of these trials were very successful; others, not so much. For one, I found that have a passion and talent for CS and that I want to pursue it as my concentration, but I also found that student government was not something that suited my interests and personality. I want to continue to explore beyond my comfort zone in the upcoming year. As someone with no backpacking experience whatsoever, BOLT would be another opportunity for me to step outside my comfort zone. Beyond just this, though, the mentorship and leadership workshops that come along with BOLT will help me to analyze my progress towards my goals. It will give me a chance to reflect on my first year of college, determine what worked well for me and what did not, and make changes to help me get the most out of my college career.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: On the physical science tours I give to prospective students every Thursday, I get a chance to reflect on the many things I love about Brown. Though there are a great number of things that I truly appreciate about this school, my favorite thing about Brown is ultimately the wonderful diversity of our community. Students and faculty come to Brown from all over the world, all with unique identities, interests, and experiences, and Brown fosters an environment for all of us to share our many passions with one another. I really value spending time with other students, learning about what they love, how their experiences shape their worldviews, and how they understand their role in this world. Even after a year of eye-opening experiences, I know I still have so much to learn from my fellow students.   
I hope that within my BOLT group, I will be able to find common ground with and learn from other students in a similar way. Ultimately, BOLT – and, really, any sort of leadership – is about building and fostering a supportive community, which requires us to develop an understanding of each other’s experiences and identities. I hope that my BOLT group will help expose me to new worldviews that I might never have encountered in my typical path at Brown, and that this will help me to better understand what good leadership entails.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: James  
Preferred Name: James  
Last Name: Huang  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1998-02-28 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to meet new people, explore new places, and join in what seems like an amazing club. BOLT seems like an unparalleled opportunity to connect with Brown students I would never otherwise meet, to bond with classmates through overcoming shared challenges in the outdoors, and to have a fun, fulfilling trek through the mountains of New Hampshire. Especially as an incoming sophomore, I want to see how the first year experiences of my classmates were similar and were different. I want to discover a new side of Brown and of the people there, through the lens of a new environment: coming from San Diego, I've never been to the White Mountains, and I hope to experience them firsthand.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In my upcoming sophomore year at Brown, I hope to grow as a person, as a writer, and as a leader. I hope to meet new people from new backgrounds and create new friendships that I hope will endure long after my graduation from Brown. BOLT is the sort of program that can create those human connections, and create a lasting experience that will leave everyone in each BOLT group with so much more than fond memories. As a writer, I'm inspired daily by our interactions with the world around them. It's the central tenet of Romanticism: BOLT can help me develop a sensitivity to the environment that I haven't felt before. Finally, Bolt can help me grasp a new and different sort of leadership. It'll be an organic sense of teamwork that arises from each situation we find ourselves in. It'll be about how each person in each BOLT group can contribute to our adventure, and how the group as a whole can accomplish so much more than could each person individually. It'll be the realization that after five long days, through our leadership, our group will have conquered the White Mountains. And everything we've learned, all along the way, will have helped us grow. BOLT will have lasted more than just five days: it will continue through our sophomore year through the rest of our lives.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?:   
I hope to learn to see from the different perspectives of everyone in my BOLT group, from international students to students of different socioeconomic backgrounds. For five days, we'll be together in the New Hampshire mountains, going through the same struggles and sharing the same vistas of experience. We'll learn how to work together, how our different identities and experiences lend themselves to different insights and perspectives, how we can learn from each other and grow together so that we are greater than the sum of our parts. I look forward to getting to know everybody, and I hope to do so soon.  
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Lauren  
Preferred Name: Lauren  
Last Name: Hunt  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 2017-07-31 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : A piece of advice that I offer all prospective Brown students is: “absolutely do a pre-orientation program” – an opportunity that I regret not taking advantage of as an incoming freshman. Through others, I have come to realize the benefits of such programs, including community-building, lasting friendships, and the ability to bond with upperclassmen. BOLT provides a chance to finally take my own advice and participate in a program to foster relationships and help facilitate a smooth transition into the school year. What particularly sets BOLT apart from other programs is its emphasis on the “long-term.” Rather than simply being a one-week backpacking trip, it extends the learning and leadership experience throughout the following year to allow students to grow from the various workshops and social events. I really appreciate the mentorship aspect of the program because it offers support and guidance during a time in which students are expected to make significant decisions in their academic careers. BOLT would help to build a stable foundation going into my sophomore year, and I could use the skills learned towards the rest of my time at Brown and beyond. In addition to the mentorship element of BOLT, I am attracted to the inclusivity of the program. The outdoors tends to be a white male dominated space, but BOLT’s emphasis on diversity is extremely appealing because it acknowledges the benefits of transforming the outdoors and making it a more inclusive space.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: During this upcoming year, I hope to spend less time consumed by technology. Especially in a college environment, it is so easy to fall into the trap of memes, Netflix, and lecture capture. While social media is an outlet to express oneself, it also can lead to stress and definite sleep deprivation. I appreciate BOLT’s emphasis on disconnecting from technology because it encourages a more personal means of communication. In addition to putting down the electronics more often, I aim to take on more leadership roles in the Brown community. Not only would an improved sense of communication assist in this mission, but the BOLT leadership workshops offered at the beginning of the year would also provide me with resourceful information to put towards my ventures. Lastly, I want to apply for more programs during my upcoming year at Brown, and take advantage of the endless opportunities and experiences that are offered at the institution. These next 3 years are going to go by faster than I even know, so I should try my best to make the most of my time here, and being a part of BOLT would be a fantastic start.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: During my time as a freshman, I have fully embraced my artistic background and immersed myself in the acapella and theater scenes. I have found some of my closest college friends in the Chattertocks and Shades of Brown due to our shared interests in the arts. By participating in BOLT, I hope to expand my horizons and form connections with people from a diverse set of backgrounds and passions. College is the perfect time to explore new interests, take chances, and step outside of your comfort zone, and BOLT provides the resources and environment to do so. By presenting both physical and mental challenges, BOLT is an experience that is not only rewarding, but that also promotes growth. I hope to take what I learn from BOLT and apply it to future academic, social, and professional experiences in my life.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Alina  
Preferred Name: Alina  
Last Name: Husain  
Gender: Cis female  
Date of Birth: 1998-07-07 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I hail from a land far from Providence, where meager forests often give way to rolling hills, which eventually terminate in vast farms. Welcome to Iowa. Growing up, I wanted nothing more than to find a place to hike and explore nature in my home state, but I always found myself confined to suburbia and the cornfields. I think I'm still growing, and I still face the same restrictions unwillingly. Iowa is famous for having almost 100% of its lands tilled, farmed, and fertilized, leaving few traces of uninterrupted nature and rich, unaffected environments.  
  
Now that I am on the East Coast and surrounded by like-minded people who also wish to explore nature in good company, I would like nothing more than to hike and explore nature through BOLT. The prospect of hiking and camping with fellow Brunonians is pretty amazing by itself, but even better is the notion that BOLT fosters community and creates bonds. I admire the friendships that I see amongst BOLTers, and hope to be a part of many going forward. I constantly challenge myself to try new things, to meet new people, and to live in new stories. What better way to make that first step than by immersing myself in new experiences within a supportive environment? Through BOLT, I hope to challenge myself by testing my physical endurance, as well as the limits of my comfort zone, all while exploring all that nature has to offer. And I want to share in that experience with others. BOLT will provide me the opportunity to join a unique community—one comprised of adventurous individuals who seek to grow personally and with others.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: At some point in my life, I began focusing too much on potential future experiences rather than present ones. I was constantly moving forward, onwards to the next extracurricular activity, the next exam, or the next application, without appreciating my current circumstances. As I’ve finally (hopefully!) settled into my freshman year, I realized I’ve continued to focus on certain aspects of my life and neglected others. I’ve prioritized academics over activities, and next year I would like to achieve a better balance in my life. I want to experience a greater sense of community at Brown through different activities—like BOLT. I would love to join an organization that values a strong sense of community and promotes friendship through outdoor activities. Through BOLT, I will be able to grow with other individuals as I challenge myself in an entirely new environment—and once the trip is over, I can continue to develop the friendships I formed while camping and celebrate the new experiences I made during the trip.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: As a Pakistani Iowan, I have lived within two cultural spheres at once—those of the Eastern and Western worlds, which has allowed me to develop a unique outlook on life. And while I may not have met Mark Zuckerberg at an In-N-Out (as one of my friends here so casually remarked), or flown to Iceland for only $99 (a different friend this time), I have been able to attend Eid festivals with fellow Pakistanis and driven a 20-ft tall tractor down a country lane. Everyone has entirely unique experiences, and as I test myself, physically and mentally, through the BOLT program, I truly believe I will be able to share my experiences with others in order to foster long-lasting friendships. Each BOLTer will have their own background, and I would love to grow with other BOLTers as we each use our own perspectives to create a new joint experience. In addition, going on the trip with BOLT will truly test my boundaries as I go camping for the first time (and force myself to accept the truth that bugs are not out to get me), and I think bonding with others with entirely different backgrounds throughout the process will help me better overcome my fears and increase my willingness to take risks.  
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Nola  
Preferred Name: Nola  
Last Name: Iwasaki  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-08-14 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : When I first heard about BOLT, I immediately was excited by the possibility of spending five days in the wilderness with a group of people I have never met before. One of Brown’s most attractive aspects is that every person I encounter has an interesting story to tell, a new viewpoint to offer, or a unique skill to share. The BOLT trip sounds like the ideal opportunity to form connections with people whom I might not otherwise cross paths with because of differences in majors, clubs, or even locations on campus. The various meetings and events that follow would help continue these relations beyond the initial five days we have dedicated to spending together. I am also drawn to BOLT because it presents a challenge to me, and I feel that putting myself in situations where I need to push myself, whether physically or mentally, to adapt to the environment around me, can be one of the best ways to grow as a person. A goal I’ve had since I was much younger is that I will always try to learn from whatever situation I am in, because, in my opinion, there is always something to learn from every person, place, and experience. Being with new people and in a completely new environment seems like the perfect opportunity to further this lifelong goal. Over this past year I, perhaps unconsciously, have missed the presence of more nature in my life. Nature presents challenges, because of its unpredictability; fosters internal reflection; and generates a feeling of connectedness with the rest of the world. Being able to simultaneously reconnect with nature and reflect with others can enhance both the connection with the bigger world and the individual reflections in a way that might not be achievable without one aspect or the other.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Being at Brown is an incredibly multifaceted opportunity. There are people from vastly different geographical, cultural, economic, and spiritual backgrounds; abundant talks and workshops on a range of topics, many of which I’m only vaguely aware of, much less educated about; and numerous clubs, groups, and events, all with different focuses. Because my time here is already one quarter over, this upcoming year, as well as the two years after that, I would like to immerse myself as much as possible in Brown’s diversity. I would like to push myself to meet and talk with people I might not normally interact with and to take advantage of the learning experiences I am fortunate to have so readily available because, for me, to not do so would be to squander my time here. Beginning the year with the BOLT outdoor trip, in which I would be surrounded both by people and an environment that is unfamiliar to me, would be the perfect way to begin my year (or more) of exploration. I have never been on a trip like this, and that is precisely what I am looking for. I also am hoping to more clearly identify what my particular passions truly are and what problems or interests drive me to action. I have realized that in order to find out what is most important to me, I first need to speak with others about what they are passionate about and to try things I have never considered trying before. Meeting people during the BOLT fall trip and then extending those connections into the year can help me to learn more about the variety of passions and interests of others, and consequently learn more about what is most important to me.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I believe in constantly trying to make myself a better person. When I meet other people, I always hope to recognize the qualities that they have that I respect most, and then I try to adapt those qualities to my own character. Being in a BOLT group, in which I can spend considerable time learning about the experiences of people who likely come from different backgrounds than I do, will help me to broaden my awareness of others’ ideas and perspectives and to develop my own self. By trying to understand the problems people from different experiences face, the interests and values those people have, and the reasons they are who they are, I hope I will strengthen my listening and communicating skills, as well as my respect for people whose ideas may differ from my own. Being a leader involves working to see things from the viewpoint of people who may not share the same values or beliefs you do. I believe that this can be one of the most difficult aspects of leadership, and yet one of the most important because, to me, being a leader is about drawing people together despite differences. I think that being a part of a community, like a BOLT group, in which there is a large diversity of experience and ideas can help me to strengthen this important quality of leadership that will apply to all aspects of my life.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Rohan  
Preferred Name: Rohan  
Last Name: Jha  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : For a lot of my freshman year, I felt somewhat adrift in terms of what I wanted to achieve in my time at Brown. I'm deciding between a couple concentrations -- Computer Science, Math, and South Asian Studies -- and I sometimes felt a lack of direction in what I want to do. I was also involved in a couple friends cicles and clubs -- BSE, Brown ACLU, and SASA. I enjoyed everything but often felt a lack of commitment to any one thing. It also felt sometimes that I wasn't really in control of my time. Throughout the year, when I looked back at some days, I'd feel like I'd accomplished far less than I'd hoped because I was being pulled in so many different directions by classes, clubs, events, and social obligations. I think the mentorship framework that BOLT provides and the five days away from everything would help me think about how I wanted to refine my focus for sophomore year.  
  
I also love the outdoors and regret not spending more time outside in my freshman year. I'm from Seattle, so hiking, skiing, etc. were a huge part of my upbringing, and I'm excited for outdoor activities in another beautiful part of the U.S.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Next year, I hope to expand my social circle, become a stronger communicator, and take control of my time.  
  
I see the emphasis on creating bonds between BOLTer's as an oppurtunity to expand my social network, meet people I wouldn't have met otherwise, and feel less socially trapped than I did freshman year when it sometimes felt like I was always with the same group of four of five. I think this will make my social life less dependent on a small group of people, and it'll help me feel more integrated into Brown's social fabric.  
  
I also think that BOLT's emphasis on discussion and leadership will help me with my communication. Sometimes, my freshman year, I was so wrapped up in my work that socializing fell by the wayside. I had a strong enough friend group by the middle of the year that it wasn't a huge problem, but I think it's important to talk often and in different settings. I don't think I did that enough to achieve growth in that regard, so I hope to restart the development of my communication skills in BOLT's leadership workshops and family groups.  
  
Finally, like I stated above, I want to define even clearer goals for sophomore year than I've listed here, and I think BOLT will provide the time, the community, and the mentorship for me to do that.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Brown is huge step up from my high school in terms of diversity (racial, socioeconomic, geographic, etc.), and I have friends at Brown from a number of races, classes, states, countries, etc. I've learned a lot from these friends. My closest friends, for example, are from Massachusetts, rural New Hampshire, Atlanta, and India, and hearing about their experiences really has broadened my worldview and conception of how people live around the country and the world. However, it's hard to avoid feeling that I haven't even scratched the surface of the knowledge of Brown's student body, and I hope to meet and learn from more people of diverse backgrounds through BOLT.   
  
In my experience, the Brown bubble can be really suffocating and insular at times, and I've found that in addition to actually leaving campus, talking to students with very different experiences from my own can have the effect of reversing the feeling that I'm trapped at Brown in an community of students with similar experiences and beliefs as me. I've started attending the Spanish and Hindi conversation tables at Brown, and this has been really amazing.  
  
I'm also Asian, and although I've met a lot of amazing Asian students this year, I'm hoping to meet even more Asian students next year and through BOLT. I'm undecided on the People of Color Group, but I think it might be something I'm interested in for that reason.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Angie  
Preferred Name: Angie  
Last Name: Kang  
Gender: female  
Date of Birth: 1998-09-07 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore -- Brown/RISD Dual Degree student  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : As a rising sophomore of the Dual Degree Program, I don’t feel as fully involved at Brown as I’d like to be. I’ve only made several acquaintances through classes, and the communities within the two clubs I joined were not as tight as I’d hoped. While I feel comfortable on RISD campus, going to classes and just walking around the campus up the hill feels foreign and a bit painful.   
I’m nervous about the transition from living on RISD to the dorms on Brown, and BOLT seems like a fantastic opportunity to meet people and form friendships. I feel like most Brown sophomores have already formed their friend groups and found their “people,” and I’m terrified that it’ll be difficult to make any friends at all. A rising junior of the Dual Degree highly recommended BOLT as an experience but also as a means to meet others and create lasting relationships.  
I was further drawn to BOLT’s extremely apparent inclusivity and respect of diversity. Having had to deal with some individuals last semester with micro-aggressive tendencies, BOLT seems like both a great escape and means for cultivating abilities to deal with similar issues. I also adore the outdoors, but I’ve never backpacked before. I’d love to explore and learn valuable wilderness skills within a nonjudgmental community.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: This upcoming year, I hope to become more ingrained in Brown campus life and culture by joining clubs and attending more events such as talks, movie screenings, socials etc. I’ve spent so much time at RISD freshmen year that I’ve neglected to attend community events and meet other individuals with similar interests. I love that BOLT doesn’t just end after the Fall backpacking trip – the fact that it continues into the semester will encourage me to continuously reach out and not get lost in my classwork. Meeting every week or more as individual groups sounds like a really nice way to build onto lasting friendships and perpetuating a feeling of community.   
I’m also interested in developing skills to foster better communication and productive conversations as well as understanding from where dissent views arise. The leadership workshops sound both beneficial and just fun -- I’d love to hear how upperclassmen and peers have dealt with issues in their past and how I could learn from them.   
I’m also hoping to find more time to exercise – not only would the Fall Trip be an exciting and enjoyable means for exercise and adventure, I also feel that the people I would meet on the trip inherently would enjoy exercising and being outdoors!  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: This past year, I’ve dealt with several friends who have come from non-tolerant backgrounds and have patiently helped them realize their occasionally hurtful behavior (in the form of micro-aggressions and such). I’m aware that while I try to be respectful of others, I probably also have views that could benefit from change and exposure to others with different experiences. I’m open to different identities and cultures, and I’d honestly love to learn from and interact with those with diverse backgrounds and ideas.   
In the past few years, I’ve struggled with my own Asian identity. I know that there are many Asians in Brown, but I’ve never felt completely comfortable with my heritage and culture. I’ve actually never really been proud of being Chinese, especially while being friends with some people who would constantly sprout derogatory statements that made me feel proud of “acting white.” I’m slowly unlearning my shame and I know that BOLT’s inclusive, understanding members will help me with this process. I’d also, of course, love to help other people who have similar (or different) issues.   
Another means I hope to both learn and grow from in BOLT are from the experienced leaders (in both the Fall Trip and later leadership workshops). Because these are targeted specifically for teaching purposes, I feel I can gain a lot directly from them as well as, of course, from my peers.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Eliana   
Preferred Name: Eliana   
Last Name: Kaplowitz   
Gender: Female   
Date of Birth: 1997-10-09 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): brand new transfer - starting this fall  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Although I was initially unsure where I wanted to transfer, the BOLT program made it apparent that Brown is where I belong. Ginger Holmes, Brown Class of 2017, (also a transfer student from Barnard) mentioned her participation in BOLT as being pivotal in finding the community she sought. From my own research, the more I learned about BOLT, the more certain I felt that I’d found where I belonged. This unique program offers so much of what I looked for in my new school.  
I decided to transfer from Barnard College with the hope of finding a more collaborative and supportive community. BOLT will be an amazing introduction to the smart, brave, and adventurous people who go to Brown. From previous experiences with outdoor adventures, such as with the Feminist Hiking Collective at Barnard, working as a camp counselor in a rustic summer camp, and my own travels around the world, I know that the connections you make with fellow explorers is incomparable. BOLT will give me the community I’ve been looking for.  
Beyond my immediate need for community, I am also drawn to BOLT’s commitment to diversity. Social justice and diversity work are my academic and extracurricular passions. I love that diversity is an important component of BOLT’s mission, and I look forward to uniting my appreciation for the outdoors with my commitment to creating positive social change.   
Ultimately, a wilderness experiences before starting the school year will provide a great transition into a new community. It can be daunting to transfer to a new school, and BOLT will both challenge me to grow and provide me with a sense of a supportive community. BOLT could not be a more perfect way for me to enter this new phase of my educational experience.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Although transitioning to a new community and finding my academic home at Brown are goals in and of themselves, along with that I have a plethora of goals I hope to accomplish. I want to find good friends who I belong with in a community that is supportive and challenges me to continue to grow. I also want to continue my identity work and participate in intergroup dialogues across differences which will help me become a better and more inclusive leader. I want to stay physically engaged and stay connected with the outdoors. And, I want to be happy.   
 The entire BOLT program will help me achieve precisely these goals. First, from my past group wilderness experiences, I have created lifelong friends from being in a challenging outdoor environment. The students who select a program like BOLT are exactly where I will find my people. BOLT’s commitment to providing workshops, mentorship and activities throughout the whole year will allow me spaces to continue to build my relationships with these people. Secondly, I’m eager to participate in the diverse group that BOLT provides. Throughout my life I’ve worked on leadership skills that emphasize inclusivity, and I believe that BOLT offers a unique setting to continue these challenging conversations across differences. Through BOLT I hope I will be able to continue to sharpen my facilitation skills, and my understanding about diverse identities. Finally, I love the fact that BOLT’s foundation is a wilderness experience. I will learn about my new geographic home, and with BOLT’s introduction, I will be able to feel comfortable continuing to explore this new area. BOLT will not only allow me to achieve my goals but it will also offer me the components to create a happy and inclusive environment.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope that my experience engaging with a diverse group of participants in BOLT will help me to become a better, more compassionate leader, social justice advocate and ally. Leadership to me is not about commanding from above, but about amplifying everyone’s voices. It is about recognizing systems of power and oppression and creating a more equitable space for everyone.   
Since I was in 6th grade, I’ve participated in intergroup dialogue work, first as a participant, and then as a facilitator. Through these dialogues I have gained a better understanding of other people’s identities and the way they interact with the world, as well as my own personal identities – both my privileged and my targeted identities.   
 At Barnard, I was selected to participate in a program that allowed me to continue my identity exploration in a small collegiate environment. Although I have a lot of experience in intergroup dialogue, I recognize that my work is far from over. As I enter Brown I want to continue having these conversations, but I recognize that I am entering as somewhat of an outsider. BOLT will give me the foundation of a strong, intimate community to navigate these conversations, which I hope will continue on campus. Though I don’t know what I want to be when I grow up, I know my future includes working in diverse communities, and BOLT offers me a stepping stone towards that.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: As having a disability (mental, physical, etc.)

First Name: Oren  
Preferred Name: Oren  
Last Name: Karp  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1997-04-23 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : The first reason that comes to mind is that I love being outside. I know that BOLT is about more than just camping, but I think that being outside and just experiencing nature is something that is missing from my day-to-day life at Brown, and I will take any chance to get outside. For some reason, I’ve always found that just being outside is enough to change the dynamics of how people interact and help people develop close, understanding relationships faster than they normally would. Backpacking creates a team mentality that allows members of the trip to get to know each other in a unique setting and work together toward a common goal. Everyone always has something different to contribute to a trip regardless of their experience in the outdoors, and I love watching a trip come together as all the members learn about each other and begin to create a team. The more diverse a group is in terms of background, abilities, and ways of thinking, the more fruitful a trip will be for the participants. When these differences come to the forefront, that is when the members of a trip must come together to learn to work as a whole. The relationships you build while together in the outdoors are the ones that you can continue to rely on and come back to, and those are relationships I want to have going into my first semester of sophomore year.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: I want to push myself further academically, and establish more definitive extracurriculars. I’ve spent a lot of this year trying out different things and I’m still very far from knowing what it is I want to study, but I feel that I want to reach further. Balancing a heavier course load will make balancing extracurriculars a bit harder, but I think that will just force me to choose which ones are the most important to me. I think that no matter what happens this upcoming year, the most important thing will be to have people I can rely on. During freshman year you are surrounded with resources and people you can go to whenever you need help, but during sophomore year you’re just tossed into the mix, and I think that BOLT will be very important in giving me a new group of people that I can depend on, whether it’s for academic advice or help or more personal issues. I think that BOLT will give me important experience working in with a team in a strenuous situation, which is a skill that will be important in everything that I do throughout the year. It will also give me confidence in my ability to work with others and build positive relationships, something that will also be helpful going into sophomore year.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: BOLT is so important because it gives people who are from a range of identities and experiences a chance to see each other in a non-academic setting. Too often I find myself here at school interacting with only a small group of people, or being to busy to build stronger relationships with people who I think are really interesting and I want to get to know better. By doing BOLT, I could meet a whole new group of people and take advantage of that situation to really get to know them while I don’t have to worry about all the other commitments I have at school. BOLT is a fantastic way to really get to know people different from yourself and, I expect to grow in only positive ways from my experiences with them. I am a very outgoing person and I love making friends and getting to know new people. I pride myself on working well in groups and getting along with a wide variety of people, and BOLT seems like an amazing opportunity to expose myself to new perspectives and work with people I don’t know while also making friends I can go back to throughout the semester. BOLT is the kind of experience that I couldn’t go through without learning from everyone else on the trip.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Marie  
Preferred Name: Marie  
Last Name: Lachance  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-04-13 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : When I was a kid, my parents unintentionally painted me as the ‘indoor’ child. Raised by two environmental scientists, my older sister naturally became involved with Science Olympiad, accompanied my father on fishing trips, and always returned home with muddy knees and torn shoes from being outside. I, on the other hand, initially rejected the STEM and outdoor nature of my Dartmouth alumni parents, and became fascinated in the fashion and art industry instead. While there’s nothing intrinsically wrong with that, in retrospect I think my family dynamics made me suppress a part of myself that was connected to the outdoors, that I am just recently starting to rekindle. This Spring Break, I decided to challenge myself and do something completely out of my comfort zone- join the Brown Outdoors Club on their six day backpacking trip and Appalachia. Although I was certainly uneasy about it at first, all of my nerves were settled when our group became a family, and my legs became accustomed to the trail life. I felt incredibly empowered when conquering the mountain tops, and completely weightless when I took in the breathtaking views. I truly tapped into a side of myself that was buried deep inside, and I see BOLT as an incredible opportunity to continue to embrace my newfound wild side.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: After hearing about my best friend from high school’s experience with her pre-orientation freshman backpacking program, I was immediately disappointed that Brown didn’t offer a similar life changing experience. However, once I learned about BOLT, I understood why having this experience before Sophomore year had the potential to be even more transformational. Everyone on the trip will be familiar with Brown, already have an idea of what they want to study, formed some sort of friend group, and escaped the hecticness of Freshman year. Yet at the same time, all formal support systems including Meiklejohns and First Year Advisors will fade, leaving you to feel somewhat helpless during the year you need to declare a concentration. As a Sophomore, I hope to branch out from the friend group that made me immediately feel comfortable at Brown, and engage with more diverse and interesting students in a meaningful way. I also hope to narrow my passions in a way that translates into a concentration, and feel empowered doing so. I believe BOLT will help me achieve my goals by providing me with a diverse community I may have never engaged with otherwise, and equipping me with clarity and necessary leadership skills I will utilize to navigate the tricky decisions to come in the following year.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Brown prides itself on an incredibly diverse student body, however, it often feels like students fall into social scenes with other students of similar backgrounds. Although this isn’t conscious or even intrinsically negative, I feel so blessed to be a part of a community with students from all different backgrounds, each with their own story to tell. I believe that BOLT provides an incredibly unique opportunity to engage with these students in an entirely distinct way- out in the woods for several days at a time. Snuggling under tarps, commiserating over rain and sore legs, and sharing stories around the campfire bonds people in ways that simply can’t be achieved on campus. I believe these bonds will allow me to learn from people of all different backgrounds, become a better leader and friend, and also help me appreciate and better take advantage of the diversity that Brown offers when we return back to campus.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Kalvin  
Preferred Name: Kalvin  
Last Name: Lam  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1998-07-05 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : To me, BOLT seems like an opportunity to not only get to know others here at Brown, but also to reawaken my love for the outdoors. As a Boy Scout throughout my entire childhood, I’ve always been surrounded by nature -- camping every month, weekend outings, you name it. Ever since starting college, however, I’ve found that I’ve had less and less time and opportunity to explore the wilderness like I used to.   
  
There’s an indescribable sense of peace in the world that comes from spending time in the outdoors -- from spending time in deep reflection, taking time away from society, time away from the daily school-study-work grind.   
  
I’m hoping that this trip will connect me with other students at Brown who are looking to develop into more aware, insightful people. I’m looking to grow spiritually and to share meaningful experiences with others here at Brown. I want to do BOLT to be a part of a community of other like-minded individuals. The meaningful experiences I’ve had so far here at Brown have come from being part of loving and caring communities, and I believe BOLT can offer that.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My goals for the upcoming year are to discover more groups on campus that have similar interests, to take care of myself physically, mentally, and emotionally, and to make sure that I’m spending time in pursuits and with people that I actually care for and about.   
  
I see the BOLT experience affecting these goals in a few ways. First and foremost, I feel that the BOLT experience can help me find new friends and discover interesting people. I’m a sociable and open-minded person that’s always looking to meet new people and make new memories with others. With regards to taking care of myself, I think BOLT can help, with its gatherings and events. I want to be sure that I take care of myself by not letting stress get to my head and by reminding myself that life is not 100% about academics, school, or work. I think BOLT can help me put this into perspective by providing me with a meaningful experience that de  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope to meet people that come from different places. I hope to meet people with varied experiences, in different concentrations. I feel that, at times, in school, I’m always hanging around the same people -- people studying the same thing, people with all of the same interests. Naturally, I’m gravitated to those who are similar to me.   
  
But with BOLT, I want to push my comfort. I know it won’t be easy, but I want to find common ground with people I’ve never met. I want to have conversations with people I’d never get the chance to talk to otherwise. I want to challenge myself to get to know others -- their stories, their experiences, their hobbies/habits/etc.   
  
I want to learn from other people. I feel like stepping outside of my “social circle” bubble and seeing how others live is a refreshing experience in and of itself, since, often times, we surround ourselves with people who live in a similar fashion to the way we live, and in doing so, we isolate and reinforce our beliefs about ourselves. I want to push myself beyond what I do on a day-to-day basis, and I believe that being part of a BOLT group will help me do that.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Theodore  
Preferred Name: Theo  
Last Name: Lau  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1996-12-17 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): transfer student - one semester at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to do BOLT, because it reflects my childhood love for nature: I grew up wandering through the forests and trails of Northern California, during a childhood filled with twelve years of scouting. My parents would call me “Nature Boy,” because I was endlessly enthralled with flora and fauna: my early fascination with insects got me the secondary nickname “Bug Boy,” because of my tendency to capture and study the six legged creatures. I’ve always felt at home in the forest, whether hiking, camping, fishing, or otherwise just standing and observing, as it re-centers my heart and heals my mind from over-stimulation. This is, in turn, the first reason why I wish to do BOLT: it has been a while since I last got to go on a hiking trip, and I miss it terribly. I’ll always relish the chance to get out into the wilderness, and to free myself of the urban environment, so I believe BOLT would be a great means of achieving that aim! On a similar note, hiking “builds character,” and I have always enjoyed the challenges that come about during trips, knowing that I will somehow have to rise to them, and will subsequently grow from the experience.   
On a different note however, I transferred into Brown this Spring: I accidentally misread the application date to apply as a BOLT leader, which was what I initially wanted to do, but in retrospect it seems almost better that I attend the program solely as a participant. Walking into a new school midway through the year offers a very particular set of challenges, often centering on finding spaces to get to know people or activities to participate in, and consequentially building familiarity or eventual friendship. Since I have gotten on campus, I’ve been attempting to frenetically meet as many new people and make as many new friends as possible, and I believe doing BOLT as a participant would be a fantastic means to that end. Over the years, I’ve experienced the strength of friendships that emerge from backpacking trips, and have resultantly become a firm believer in the isolative familiarity between hikers as a means of getting to know people better. The additional events in the postscript of the trip will serve to further cement these friendships, and establish community. As an extension of this reason for applying to BOLT, I also believe that the BOLT experience would help me redefine how I view myself as a member of the Brown community, by positioning both myself and other participants in a setting that we would have otherwise never seen each other in. There is a particular discomfort, among transfer students, with discussing the specifics of their year(s) at other institutions, because it makes us feel very particularly “other” from the normative Brown community, and I think going on BOLT will help me overcome that sense of separation that even today quietly pervades my everyday life on campus, by establishing concrete experiences and shared memories.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: For the forthcoming academic year, I have two primary goals: to keep myself above water academically, and to practice expansiveness in every facet of my life, from social circles, to connection with things that have brought me joy in the past.   
Academically, the BOLT experience I see as a great means to build confidence in a nontraditional setting, a means of empowerment that will consequentially enable me to excel in my schoolwork. In its emphasis on overcoming obstacles, I think BOLT will quite easily transcend the allotted bounds of the trip itself, and that the leadership workshops and mentorship provided in the postscript will serve as an additional bolster towards finding academic success by giving me another resource to draw upon. Additionally, I think BOLT will be a great way to essentially detoxify myself after what I can only imagine will be a relatively taxing summer of interning. I believe BOLT will settle my mind before I begin the year, giving me a chance to enter the semester refreshed and ready to tackle whatever is academically thrown at me. It will be the needed change of pace before the year begins, and hopefully the activities during the fall will serve to prolong this refreshment, to bring back a small taste of summer in the forest.   
Moreover, next semester I am aiming to expand upon my interior and exterior conceptions of my life and identity. Socially, as a transfer student, I spoke briefly before about the necessity to essentially aggregate the amount of people that I am acquainted with. BOLT would serve to create more concrete, established friendships based upon shared experience, ensuring that they remain relevant to the semester through the continual string of events and activities tied to BOLT. The BOLT alumni that I know have listed their fellow attendees as some of their closest friends on campus, and I believe BOLT could hold a similar outcome for myself. Additionally, BOLT would serve to expand my understanding of the world by exposing me to the diverse experiences of my fellow BOLTers in a setting which allows for focused understanding of others to develop. Again however, this would extend continually into the following year through the various activities planned with the BOLT cohort. In the past, a lot of hiking trips I went on lacked any kind of debrief in the postscript, leaving the attendees with a singular event to ponder on their own, rather than a continual experience and reflection that BOLT purports to provide. I can see BOLT allowing me to continually unbox the lessons learned during the trip across the course of the year, a welcome refresher from the somewhat stuffy process of learning within the academic context. The activities would therein take on their own importance as well, providing me with continuous BOLT related experiences that expand beyond simple reflections. Expanding my mind in this direction will also allow me to reconnect with something I have missed dearly in college, which was another goal of mine for the following year. This current semester, it felt like I was getting away from what had previously brought me joy, and I yearned for the nostalgic familiarity of my past. I feel that BOLT will help me sate this impulse across course of the year, with its regular programming providing a continuity of form stretching comfortably back into my past. In this, participating in BOLT will develop for me a new peer group that I can therein relate mentally to those I have previously made in similar scenarios, allowing me to appreciate them in an entirely different light as we progress through the follow-up activities throughout the year.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope to learn and grow in my BOLT group through the diverse examples set by my fellow BOLTers, their personalities, perspectives, and means by which they solve challenges during the trip, providing a fantastic cross section of humanity. I also hope to learn and grow through expressing my own unique identity in such a setting, to hopefully gain confidence in my individuality, but also to perform a self-reflexive checkup on my flaws and hopefully work towards improving upon myself.   
Within a day to day context, meeting people who come from different backgrounds can be seemingly repetitive: unless you’re very lucky, the conversation will often consist solely of broken small talk, before each of the respective parties heads their own way. In contrast, I believe the BOLT group would allow me to grow by exposing me to the means by which people actually act, how they overcome adversary, which is a priceless individual lesson. In the vacuum of nature, it oftentimes becomes abundantly clear how special individuals are, the traits that define them firmly outlined against the silence of the trees. Additionally, I l have found that oftentimes the best lessons gleaned from others are learned over extended periods of time spent together. This is why I hope to continually learn throughout the year from my BOLT cohort, to meet and interact with new people over an extended period of time, developing close friendships and becoming a better person in the process.   
The second means by which I hope to learn and grow is more of an inward glance, in developing the confidence to express my own individuality to others, but also to work on what I consider to be flaws in my own character. I believe BOLT will be a means to empower me to embrace myself, by providing a community of solidarity, despite the diverse backgrounds of participants. In getting to know these people, I will reaffirm who I am, and how I choose to act, but can also choose to recursively look back on my identity, and seek to improve my character. I hope to be pushed physically and mentally, and in the process gain a greater confidence, but also a greater sense of self, as I experience through nature my own ability to overcome obstacles. Again, I believe the continual group activities in the postscript of BOLT will allow me to continue glancing inwards throughout the year. Dually however, I hope to develop friendships that will allow me to continue the expansive lessons originating from BOLT, to meet people who will expand my mind by their example, their courage, excellence and friendship.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Gerard  
Preferred Name: Gerard  
Last Name: Laurent  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1997-10-21 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I would like to do BOLT because I enjoy going into the outdoors and I love nature. I climbed a mountain for the first time in August of last year and I had a great time. The physical challenge was compelling and the sense of accomplishment that one feels at the top of the mountain is very rewarding. I also found that tackling physical tasks like mountain climbing is one of the very best ways to bond with others. After climbing that mountain with the other students I was with, I felt closer to them in 4 hours than I did in the past week of interacting with them.  
I’m also attracted to BOLT because I’m fascinated with the effect that nature can have on people. I’m currently reading Walden by Henry David Thoreau. Thoreau decided to build a house near Walden Pond and almost completely detached himself from society. The book is about his experiences on the land and his thoughts are very profound. I am hoping that doing BOLT will give me similar insights about myself and other people. Distractions like technology and social status make it very difficult to assess one’s life honestly. I think the only way to remedy this is to go into nature.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My goals for next year obviously include doing well academically, but they also include doing well socially. I think it would be helpful for my personal growth to open up to people more often than I have in the past. Given this I think BOLT would be extremely helpful in helping me accomplish my goals for next year. Like I said in my previous response, I think that undergoing an experience in nature (like mountain climbing or hiking) with other people is a great way to get to know others. For some reason the process of getting to know someone is accelerated when you are in the outdoors sharing a physically strenuous experience.   
Another goal I have for next year and for the rest of my college experience is getting to know myself. Engaging with mentors in BOLT and immersing myself into the outdoors are valuable things that BOLT offers to help me accomplish that goal. Interacting with others actually sheds light into how you see yourself. For example, someone close to you can point out a certain characteristic of yourself, that you may not even notice. Since BOLT is a largely social experience, I think that I can indirectly learn a lot about my personality.  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I would like to learn and grow in BOLT by engaging with people that I would not normally think to engage with. I think it’s natural for people to choose to associate with people that are similar to themselves or have a similar background but this kind of interaction can sometimes be counterproductive. Choosing to socialize like this can narrow one’s worldview and sometimes lead to ignorance. Because BOLT is a diverse group of people, I would like to grow by engaging with as many people as I can. It’s definitely scary to do this and I admit that it’s not something that I do very often, but I think doing so can make a world of difference in someone’s life. It is sometimes difficult to keep in mind that everyone has a valuable story to tell and that we are all actually not that different. By participating in BOLT I hope that I can keep this lesson closer to heart in my everyday interactions. BOLT can help me grow by challenging me to step outside of my comfort zone and interacting with people that I normally would choose to stay away from.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Jeremy  
Preferred Name: Jeremy  
Last Name: Leary  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1997-11-29 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : To me, BOLT represents an opportunity to explore. This exploration goes far beyond the White Mountains, in my mind having just as much to do with the exploration of oneself and a new, supportive community as it does with the backcountry landscape. Coming from Northern California, my exploration of nature has always been a foundational part of who I am, broadened by both my passion for cross country running and my hobby of building netted platforms between the branches of giant redwood trees. So in that sense, I am incredibly drawn to the adventure of backpacking through a foreign mountain range, completely removed from both home and College Hill. But that’s not why I’m applying to BOLT. I hope to become a part of this diverse, collaborative community because not only do I see it as an opportunity to practice and hone my own leadership skills, but also as an opportunity to listen and learn from the leaders around me, each of us bringing something unique to the trail and most importantly, back to campus together. And that in itself is what I value most about the BOLT philosophy: while the camaraderie among BOLTers may be discovered in the mountains of New Hampshire, it is not abandoned there, and is rather cultivated back at Brown as a foundation from which participants can build friendships and connect throughout sophomore year and beyond.   
  
Lastly, I want to be a part of something greater, a larger group that I can explore, learn, and identify with. I want to welcome into my life this team of entirely new people that otherwise I may have never met, challenging myself and others to reach beyond the relationships we forged freshman year and embrace those found around the campfire with BOLT.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Earlier this semester, for personal reasons, I had to step away from Brown’s Varsity Track & Field program. Although I’m confident in my decision to take a break from the team, with this break has come a certain distance from the larger group I’ve always been part of here at Brown. That said, one of my major goals for the upcoming year is to find solidarity and support in a new community. The BOLT experience offers exactly that, and if granted the opportunity to become a BOLTer, I envision it as the perfect medium that will allow me to work toward achieving my further goals. One such goal is to listen and reflect as a leader in my involvement on campus. BOLT facilitates practice with these leadership skills by encouraging conflict-resolution on the trails through communication, accountability, and a supportive outlook. Another goal of mine is to become more self-sufficient and comfortable with independence as a student and young man. Traveling across the country to attend Brown has presented quite the transition into not only life as a college student, but also life in an entirely new place. I believe the BOLT experience and even more so the community born from it could help ground me, allowing me to experiment with self-sufficiency through breaking camp and taking initiative on the trails before returning to Brown and developing these newfound qualities in my everyday life. At the same time, though, another goal of mine is to work within a team, yet still find this independence in my own way. BOLT offers the unique opportunity for both. While Leaders of the Day are held responsible for the route, Expedition Behavior, and more, every single day is a team effort, challenging BOLTers to work collaboratively and build their own community out on the trails.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I like to think of BOLT as a bag of trail mix. Between the peanuts, almonds, raisins, chocolate, and sunflower seeds, there is an enormous amount of valuable diversity, each ingredient adding a unique flavor to the mix and contributing to the greater taste. The same can be said of each and every BOLTer, who I truly believe has something very different and special to offer. Personally, among other qualities, I will bring an open mind, strong leadership, empathy for those around me, relentless optimism, and of course, a love for the great outdoors. I will embrace any adversity as an opportunity to learn and grow both as an individual and as a group, and I will listen to and engage with fellow BOLTers to further my growth within the team. And in the same way that I’m committed to bringing my personal strengths to BOLT, I look forward to the rest of my group doing the same, each of us recognizing that we have something unique to give and creating an atmosphere in which we are all comfortable sharing these qualities. Surrounded by such a diverse array of identities and backgrounds, I expect to grow as an individual by reflecting on my strengths and weaknesses through observing, admiring, and understanding those around me. By doing so, I hope to develop a more well-rounded personality, inspired by engaging with the fascinating people hiking right alongside me.   
  
If BOLT is a bag of trail mix, then I hope to be chosen among the handful of students granted such a unique and adventurous opportunity. Because it’s more than an exploration of the White Mountains; it’s an exploration of myself and a new community, and I’m ready for it.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Jee Hoon  
Preferred Name: Jee Hoon  
Last Name: Lee  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1997-11-15 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): brand new transfer - starting this fall  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I love wandering around. I love experiencing the unfamiliar with just a single backpack. My 10-day backpacking trip to China last week with minimal knowledge of Chinese language was fun and meaningful not only because I and my friends visited UNESCO historic heritage of ancient Korean kingdom Koguryo but also because we only carried a backpack. We could wander around, stop whenever we wanted to, and go into any local store with just a smile and a ‘ni hao.’ In short, we could take a step out of our comfort zone to experience the unfamiliar.   
I want to become a BOLTer to explore out of my comfort zone at my new home, Brown. Though I have lived two years in the US, a year in Boston when I was in fifth grade and another at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland as a college freshman, I never got a chance to adventure out to the great nature. During my freshman year, I was busy with my transfer applications. The only time I got close was when I visited Yellowstone and Grand Canyon with my family. But even that was a bus trip, stopping only at good photo spots. Now, with great friends and mentors at BOLT, I want to explore the mountains and valleys of New Hampshire.  
In addition, I like meeting people and cultures. I know that BOLT is not only a singly backpacking trip but a sustainable program and a strong community. Facing numerous questions and concerns transferring to a new school, I want to make genuine friends and become a member of the inclusive BOLT community where I could both share my stories and help others.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: I study anthropology. I transferred to Brown because it provides the best environment to do anthropology: open curriculum brings diversity to all classes and Brown’s inclusive environment encourages dialogue and allows me to understand different perspectives. Fulfilling this expectation by engaging with diverse opportunities, both academic and non-academic, would be my biggest goal for the sophomore year. I find BOLT a great start. BOLT is a greatly diverse community, including rising sophomores, transfer students, resumed undergraduate, and of course wonderful BOLT leaders. Each adds a unique story into the community. As a student studying anthropology I want to listen to and respect their backgrounds, stories, and aspirations. What motivated them to come to Brown, take a year off, or transfer? I would also like to share my stories—how I chose Brown out of five great schools I have been accepted to, what I am expecting at Brown, and concerns about my new adventure at Brown. Enduring and surmounting different challenges during the backpacking trip will enable us to build conversation, connection, and most importantly, trust.   
  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: The charming point of a group backpacking trip is that I get to slow down. Unlike traveling alone, a group trip necessarily involves making group decisions, settling disagreements, and overcoming unexpected group challenges. This quality makes group backpacking trip not the most convenient, effective, and fast type of traveling. Nevertheless, I learn how to, and why in some case it is important to, slow down. I learn that being the only one swiftly and rapidly running up the hill is not what I want, especially at Brown.   
I acknowledge that all who are willing to embrace the philosophy of BOLT are welcomed regardless of past outdoor experiences. By completing this trip as one team and beginning my Brown experience with BOLT, I would like to reiterate the value of slowing down, moving along together.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Asher  
Preferred Name: Asher  
Last Name: Lehrer-Small  
Gender: male  
Date of Birth: 1996-12-21 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : BOLT serves two functions which I am particularly excited about. The first is quite simply that BOLT is a great opportunity to spend a chunk of time outdoors. As a Vermonter, hiking and backpacking have been a fairly large part of my identity, but at Brown for the most part I have decided not to get involved with the Outing Club in order to have more time to explore new opportunities. While I am thankful for the space this decision has allowed me, I have missed integrating outdoor adventure into my Brown experience, and I see BOLT as a perfect way to take some time before the school year starts to get on the trail with members of my Brown community. The second aspect of BOLT that I am excited for is inherently linked to the first. By nature of being outside with a group of people, spending undistracted time together and being mutually responsible for each other’s well-being, there will be the opportunity to make close connections with people. I have met people who have made best friends through BOLT, and it makes sense to me that such connections would come out of time spent in the focused group setting that BOLT creates. Once we get to Brown, days are all hustle and hubbub. Between assignments, clubs, and iPhone culture, the amount of face to face time with others can be extremely limited. I’m really hoping to have the opportunity to slow down and exist with a new group of people as a way to take a metaphorical deep breath before the start of the semester.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One central goal of mine for the upcoming year is to take a more active role in creating community at Brown. I have worked to create environments of openness and communication within my friend group and also within the Ultimate Frisbee community, but these efforts have been largely small-scale. Realizing that I wished I had had a formalized opportunity to connect with my peers in a non-academic, more socially supportive kind of way, a friend and I are working with Res Life to create a program for small groups of freshman to gather regularly according to a specific model that encourages open sharing, listening, and engaging with each other. I’m very excited for this program to materialize, but while it hopefully will augment the community for the freshmen who take part in the program, it doesn’t give me the opportunity for the same type of community. BOLT would allow me to bring such intentional gatherings into my own Brown experience, and to form meaningful relationships with my fellow BOLTers. I see this community, especially the smaller individual group, as a potential grounding force, and I hope to be able to help make the dinners, community events, and workshops places of warmth and support for us all to come back to through the stress and busy nature of the semester.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: The fact that BOLT brings together a randomized group of people (that I otherwise may not connect with) is one of the main things that draws me to the BOLT experience. Though I ideally would like to be surrounded by people who have a range of different experiences and ideas, I have found that throughout my first year, my social group has largely been made up of people who are pretty similar to me. BOLT cuts into many of the social factors that might cause for this unintended segregation. Backpacking groups are formed across concentrations, across freshman units, across various club involvements, and many other social boundaries. I hope that with this assortment of people, I will be able to listen to stories, share my background, compare first-year experiences, and reflect on goals. I think it is important that this dialogue will be amongst people who have different backgrounds and will be able to share perspectives with both overlap and maybe disagreement. Furthermore, because groups are made up of people who largely did not know each other the previous year, people will not hold presumptions about each other (negative or positive) based on the identities we created within our first years at Brown (or in other places for transfer and RUE students). Hopefully, we will be putting the self forward that we feel is most genuine, as we will have an extended amount of time to get to know each other. That is one of the things I find most difficult about Brown, that you can “know” a lot of people and be their “friend” without really knowing a ton about their lives or the things they hold most central in their belief systems. If I have the opportunity to go on a BOLT trip, I look forward to exploring the depths of my fellow BOLTer’s personhoods, and I very much appreciate that there is programming throughout the ensuing semester to create a space for those relationships to continue into the college hill context.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Ellen  
Preferred Name: Ellen  
Last Name: Ling  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-01-03 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Growing up in New Jersey, I had many people around me who valued adventurous experiences in the outdoors. Before fifth grade, I was frequently taken on skiing, hiking, and camping trips with family friends and peers. At the time, I didn’t see the value in these experiences. However, after I moved to Shanghai, these experiences became increasingly rare. Not only were the opportunities hard to come by, but they were also underappreciated. Every year, my school had a week-long trip to different places in China. My first trip in sixth grade was to a small village in Tonglu, where we stayed in yurts and tents, brought our own bowl to eat each of our self-cooked meals, and hiked on the surrounding mountains. After that trip, I returned home and could not stop telling my parents and sister about my experiences. As a result of the post-trip surveys and responses from students, the locations and living arrangements of the trips each year increasingly resembled luxurious vacations as opposed to trips that put students outside their comfort zone. Now, as a freshman in college, the memories I made on my first trip in sixth grade are more distinct to me than any of the others. I want to do BOLT because I want to feel the way I felt on that one trip again – to feel like I’m being challenged by people, activities, and environments that are outside of my comfort zone in a way that leads to growth.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Over the course of my first year of college, I’ve accumulated a list of academic, personal, and social goals. What I’ve realized is that all of them are related to continuing to explore the Brown experience through different lenses and not becoming complacent with a monotonous college experience. I’ve made a great group of friends, but I hope to meet more students with different interests that I haven’t run into at Brown yet. What I find particularly enticing about BOLT is the conscious effort it makes to continue activities and relationships into the school year. I’ve found that on far too many occasions, I’ve been introduced to new ideas, activities, and people, but have never been given the opportunity to stick with them and develop a passion, relationship, or project further. Additionally, I’ve been extremely happy with my involvement in dance and Hack@Brown as my main activities on campus. However, there are so many events at Brown that I still want to explore. For example, I’ve constantly been intrigued by the trips hosted by the Brown Outing Club, and I hope that I’ll be motivated to go on more of these trips even if it means going alone this coming year. Finally, I’m excited to have another support group of mentors and leaders who I can look up to in a non-academic setting.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: During IMP and freshman orientation I was thrilled by the diversity of backgrounds and experiences I saw in the students around me. I was sure the number of new things I could learn from my classmates was limitless. However, as second semester set in, I found myself reaching out for new relationships less frequently. Even in situations that put me in the company of incredibly interesting and different people, something about typical daily interactions on campus (getting food or studying together) allowed us to function on a superficial level. I think that BOLT is unique because it allows students not only to be around new people, but to learn about and connect with them in ways that would be difficult to at school. Past BOLT participants I’ve spoken to have repeatedly emphasized that BOLT challenges students physically and mentally in ways that allow these special human connections to form. I hope I can learn different ways of overcoming difficulties, cooperating as a team member, and taking on the position of a leader from the group of students I’m surrounded by. Being an inexperienced backpacker, I am excited to learn outdoor skills from the BOLT leaders and more experienced peers. While I’m not expecting to be an expert of any sort, I do hope to learn from this type of trip to not be intimidated by the outdoors so I can go on many more adventures like this after college.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Jennifer   
Preferred Name: Jennifer  
Last Name: Lopez  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-04-03 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : The first thing that caught my attention when I heard about BOLT was the backpacking trip. As someone who has never been backpacking, hiking, or camping and has live in a city their whole life, the opportunity to escape our technological world and finally experience nature myself is extremely appealing. I have never been able to truly answer the question of whether I am an outdoors person or not because I haven’t really experienced the outdoors. As I learned more about BOLT from others, their opinion about the program was really positive, and they only had good things to say about the program. The repeating theme as I researched more about BOLT was the close knit community aspect that is created. I think that’s really the cornerstone of BOLT; making connections and memories. Now, although I am still interested in testing myself and seeing if I will be able to survive in nature, I just really want to be part of a close knit group. Of course being able to witness beautiful views of nature is very appealing, but being able to meet new people, connecting with them, tackling the same challenges, and just making fun memories that will last a lifetime is why I would like to participate in the adventure that is BOLT.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One of the biggest regrets I have as a freshman is not being involved. I mainly focused on my academics this year, which did allow me to adjust to the new rigor of my courses; however, it came at the expense of missing out on everything else Brown has to offer besides academics and limited my freshman college experience. Next year, my main goal is to change that; I plan on being more involved at Brown and in the community by joining clubs and volunteering. As consequence of not being involved in groups, I was also not able to improve my leadership skills outside of class and missed out on forming social groups outside of the “engineering circle”. I see BOLT as an opportunity to start off my sophomore year on the right foot. The BOLT experience in general represents the goals I have set for myself of expanding my horizon. It is a great way to become active at Brown while getting a chance to work on and enhance my leadership skills, but it is an even better way to meet new people outside the “engineering circle” and just becoming part of community which is what my college experience has been lacking thus far.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I consider myself to be a very open minded person. I believe close mindedness is a direct result of ignorance instead of things like prejudices. The only way to grow as a person, is to be open to new ideas. There is academic learning, and then there is “social” learning, which are equally important. Everyone you meet teaches you something in a way. The reason I highly value diversity is because that is where you are able to learn the most; everybody’s life has been different and everybody looks at life through their own unique perspective. I hope to learn and grow in my BOLT group by simply talking to others in my group. It always amazes me when a conversation can start with talking about your favorite artist but evolves to talking about one’s life challenges and how one overcame them or how it changed them. When you learn about a person’s story, it allows you to see life through their eyes and adjusts the lens you used to see the world with. The fact that the backpacking trip is just your group and nature ensures that there’s time to talk to your other group members and learn about their background and experience. With each life story you hear, a new lesson is learned and you think about things you had never thought about or considered before, and that’s how I hope to learn and grow as a person mentally in my BOLT group. Physically I would be growing by learning about how to survive in nature and gain a new appreciation for nature.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Isabela  
Preferred Name: Isa  
Last Name: Lovelace  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Writing this application, I’m staring at my calendar, warning me of impending due dates and upcoming deadlines. While backpacking, I remain in the present. The panoramic views of nature, the physical challenge, I can breathe in the crisp air and solely concentrate on what surrounds me. This entire semester I have constantly been looking towards midterms, then finals, then term papers, finishing one requirement after the next rather than enjoying the moment at hand. I want to do BOLT because I want to reconnect with the present. I want to start my sophomore year with connection; this includes inter and interpersonal connection. Being in nature and being physically challenged forces introspection that I have been missing this semester. I have felt so cooped up and I really want to be back in nature! Backpacking also forges strong friendships. I am very excited to make some long-lasting friends to share funny backpacking stories and nostalgic memories with. Lastly, everyone I have talked to that has done BOLT has nothing but great things to say. I would love to be a part of the community because the people I admire are usually people who have done BOLT!  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: This year has been focused on learning how I fit in at Brown, easing myself into the community. Next year, I want to become a leader rather than just a member. I have joined clubs, I have signed up for fun activities, but now I want to be the one that organizes events, the one that new students look to for advice. Leader, after all, is literally in the name of BOLT and participating in this trip will motivate me throughout the year to continue to pursue my ideas. This year, I found myself here being a lot more hesitant to raise my hand in class than expected. Being a leader and knowing that I’ve climbed literal mountains will boost my confidence and remind myself that I can face the challenges presented. Further, BOLT provides a support system that I feel I have been missing at Brown. Initiated with Sonia Sotomayor’s autobiography, I could hear her telling me to “find a mentor!” but I haven’t found a person yet that I could honestly call my “mentor.” The resources provided by BOLT will be a much appreciated outlet for me throughout the coming years at Brown.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: The bonds one forms while backpacking is unlike any other. You see the worst, and best, sides of people as you are pushed to your physical and mental limit. On a previous trip, I was the slowest backpacker in my group and instead of leaving me in the dust, a few people would always rotate back to walk with me and encourage me until we got to the pass. The feeling of making it over the final hill to find the entire group cheering and smiling will always stay with me. With those team building moments, of course, comes really bad moments, moments I thought I was going to cry because I felt so nauseous, or when I couldn’t make it up the next hill. Knowing how to deal with those difficult situations and what support is needed from you in that moment really brings backpacking groups together.   
Secondly, coming from a mixed background of Puerto Rican-Cuban and gringo descent, identity and duality has always interested me. Backpacking breaks down surface conversations because you are with each other every moment so deep conversations are entered after only knowing each other for a day. I hope to learn more about myself and connect with others with BOLT as we challenge ourselves physically, mentally and socially.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Kristina  
Preferred Name: Kristina  
Last Name: Lowndes  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1997-11-29 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I see BOLT as an incredible opportunity to immerse myself in a diverse new community of people with a passion for trying something new and exploring the outdoors. As an international student and a member of the crew team, I have two tight-knit and fairly uniform communities that I feel strongly enveloped in at Brown. I hope that by being a BOLTer, I can expand my horizons and make valuable new connections over the semester with people from a variety of backgrounds, with different interests and life experiences to my own. In doing so, I hope to challenge my own outlook on life, while developing confidence in my leadership and backpacking abilities.  
  
Prior to arriving at Brown, I heard about BOLT through an upperclassman, and have wanted to participate ever since. At home in New Zealand, I enjoyed spending a lot of time outdoors, usually at the beach or through organised sports. I participated in day hikes with my friends in some of our national parks, but have no experience with backpacking, and little knowledge of planning trips, ensuring safety, and ‘surviving’ out in nature.   
  
I believe that through BOLT, I could gain the tools to go on more backpacking trips in the future and perhaps meet some future backpacking buddies too! Moving to America from New Zealand last August, I have yet to explore the outdoors in this country. I anticipate venturing through the White Mountains National Forest while learning about sustainable backpacking and leadership.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: This upcoming year I aim to involve myself in a wider range of activities at Brown. Joining the crew team in my freshman fall, I was unsure of the level of commitment required, and thus hesitant to sign up for any other clubs or groups on campus. Now that I know what to expect from crew, I am confident in my ability to dedicate additional time and energy to other interests of mine. Currently I plan on working as a STEMs tutor and possibly a refugee youth tutor through Brown’s Swearer Centre.   
  
The BOLT experience would help me to achieve this goal as I would have a platform to engage with peers who are involved in a range of disciplines and I would have a new circle of friends with whom I could participate.  
  
Another goal of mine is to be more confident in my academic ability, both in classes and in extra-curriculars. Surrounded by such a high calibre of talent at Brown, I frequently second guess myself and doubt that I am intelligent enough to participate. This has prevented me from engaging in class discussions and from signing up for things like debating or advocacy groups in my freshman year because I often doubt that my opinions are sophisticated enough to compare with my peers.   
  
I think that being a BOLTer in my sophomore year will help me to build my intellectual confidence as I will hear more personal accounts of my peers’ experiences in Brown classrooms. Furthermore, I think that the support network that BOLT provides will help me to feel grounded at Brown in my second year and assist me in building my confidence.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I am a very community-orientated person and thrive in an environment where I can give and receive support from my peers. As a freshman I have benefited greatly from the network provided by my Meiklejohn and my unit and RPLs. I think that being a BOLTer will be extremely helpful for me to continue to grow and succeed in my sophomore year as I will continue to feel supported and a part of something. Learning from the experiences of my BOLT leaders, and also from my peers, I hope to continue to learn more about how different people are experiencing Brown, and how this can change my own experience for the better.  
  
During my freshman year I have made strong friendships within my international and crew circles, however I feel that I am yet to ‘find my place’ here. I think that I would benefit greatly from being a part of an organised mentoring group. Furthermore, I have a very social nature and enjoy meeting new people, so I think being a part of BOLT would be an awesome time all around!  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Madeline  
Preferred Name: Maddie  
Last Name: Mahoney  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 2017-02-12 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to do BOLT because I absolutely love meeting new people, especially when I am able to get to know them in fun, exciting, unconventional, and challenging environments. I cannot think of a better place to cultivate teamwork, leadership, and personal growth than out in nature. Outdoor activities and athletics have been a fundamental part of my life for as long as I can remember, and my favorite thing to do is be active outside in beautiful, serene, and invigorating places. Additionally, I think an amazing part of BOLT is the commitment to maintaining the communities formed through it. Learning lessons away from day-to-day life and then bringing them back to campus with a plethora of new skills and relationships is such an exciting prospect. The few opportunities I have had to go away with a new group of people have been delightfully challenging and enriching. The one thing I wish would have come out of these retreats is a steady continuation of the bonds formed away from home. I am excited about the opportunity to see things from a different perspective, both literally and figuratively, and then come back to reality with new people and lessons to enrich my life. Being active and involved in different types of teams in high school and at Brown has been wonderful and transformative, and I am so drawn to these aspects of the Brown Outdoor Leadership Training program.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My goals for the upcoming year are to enhance my leadership skills, engage with new communities at Brown, and make fulfilling connections with people. I see BOLT affecting each of these goals in unique and profound ways. First, backpacking for five days with people I do not know or do not know extremely well is an awesome and unique test of leadership. Team leadership is an incredible way to form bonds and learn from others. Helping each other out in various capacities, using skills we may not often use, is something I would be so fortunate to experience next year. Additionally, not only does BOLT seem like an amazing community in itself, but by meeting different people with different interests, I hope to learn about new areas of Brown and explore them when we arrive back to campus. Last, but certainly not least, I have heard the greatest things about what the BOLT experience is like in terms of making friends and getting to know more of the inspiring people that make up the Brown community. Brown has so much to offer that I do not know about yet, and I am eager to explore all these possibilities. I love that a program like BOLT exists here at Brown.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope to learn from my BOLT group by meeting people I may not have otherwise had a chance to get to know. Experiencing challenges in a beautiful environment seems like a great climate for cultivating relationships. I came from a high school that was rich in diversity in some ways, and weaker in others. It is a dream to be at Brown and experience an entirely new range of perspectives, backgrounds, and identities. I have not even scratched the surface yet in my first year at Brown, and this makes me excited and anxious to hopefully have new experiences like BOLT. We all come from different places, and that makes a new shared experience infinitely more exciting. I have lived in Providence my whole life, and as much as I adore it, I would love to immerse myself in a new environment for a few days with people from all over. One of my favorite things about being at Brown so far is the feeling of being surrounded by people whose first eighteen or so years of their lives look so different from mine. I would be lucky to get to appreciate this even more through a program like BOLT.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Cate Marchetti  
Preferred Name: Cate  
Last Name: Marchetti  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1997-12-30 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I have been interested in applying to BOLT ever since I climbed Mt. Monadnock with the Brown Outing Club and spent over an hour talking with my guides about their experience as BOLTers. They spoke of lifelong friends, sustained connections with the group even upon returning to school, and natural wonders. Just as the Brown Outing Club provided me with my first true mountain climbing experience, BOLT would be my first time on an extended backpacking trip. Personally, I view my time at Brown as an opportunity to educate myself through academics, but also learn through varied social experiences. The people I met during my freshman year have grown my mind just as much as the courses I have taken! Through interaction with similarly motivated, passionate, and adventurous students in my own class, I would facilitate strong relationships with my peers and grow my world understanding by hearing their perspectives. The social aspect of BOLT is a major pull, but I am also very intrigued by the chance for individual growth and self-exploration. The nature of the group will enforce values of collective leadership as well as the ability to be a constructive team member. As the (slightly terrifying, yet extremely promising) prospect of entering the “real world” looms ever closer, I feel that now is the time to effectively learn to be both a team player and leader. If given the chance to participate, BOLT would be an enormous contributor to my toolbox of skills that I will bring to my chosen career and utilize to be a productive member in the betterment of society.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: I am looking forward to becoming more actively involved in student groups on campus not just as a participant, but taking on leadership roles to address and rally awareness around causes I am passionate about. Freshman year was an eye-opening experience for me; I believe that my choice to become involved in community outreach organizations, religious life, and varsity athletics was essential (even if a little hectic!) to discovering where I truly wanted to dedicate my time and efforts at Brown. Two organizations that have undeniably shaped my first year experience were Tink Knit and HOPE. My role as an operations director in Tink, a student-run nonprofit, was to aid in teaching low-income single mothers in Providence how to knit hats and scarves which are sold in the Brown bookstore. All of the profits are returned to the mothers or used to purchase new supplies, so far over $14,000 has been distributed among the women. I also recently became a member of the HOPE (Housing Opportunities for People Everywhere) outreach team, which actively engages with the Providence homeless population and provides these people with food, blankets, and information on the resources available to them. Though I have very much enjoyed the participatory role I played in both groups this semester, I plan to take on leadership roles in both organizations as a sophomore, hopefully including advocacy and activism for these social justice issues at the political level and training new members. If accepted to participate, the experiences and skills I acquired through BOLT will be nothing but asset to my leadership skills which I hope to further cultivate as a sophomore. Efficient and effective leadership is imperative to community outreach because facilitators of these types of organization have the unique opportunity to positively affect so many lives through their decisions. I feel that while personally gaining valuable leadership skills through BOLT will enrich my own life, it is my responsibility to put this opportunity to use and utilize what I learn to give back to the community through Tink Knit and HOPE Outreach next year.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: The group experience I am hoping to find within BOLT goes hand in hand with the community I was originally attracted to at Brown. Having grown up in a fairly homogenous, middle class suburb of Boston, a large factor in my college decision-making process was the diversity of the student body. During the next four years at Brown, and hopefully week as a BOLTer, my goal is to expose myself to wide variety of perspectives, opinions, and cultures via relationships with my peers. In the constantly changing and totally unexpected nature of the great outdoors, I hope to find my place in a rich community as we attend to group needs and individual growth. One of the most attractive aspects of the BOLT experience for me is the sustained group relationship after returning to campus. I look forward to the close connections that will be formed in the raw setting of the White Mountains, where the central focus of our group interaction will be working together to complete the necessities of daily living, rather than the stress of academics. Coming to know and rely on one and other in an environment totally separate from Brown is a rare opportunity that will serve all of us well as we transition into sophomore year. As the pressure to become more independent and “have it all figured out” makes itself more noticeable than it was at the start of freshman year, I feel that having this community to fall back on for peer mentorship and guidance will be essential for us all.   
As a BOLTer, I am excited to bring my experiences and ideals to the group collective. As an element of acknowledging that every student has so much to offer, I will play an active role in the BOLT community as a team member but also celebrate the individuality and unique experiences of my fellow sophomores. Through coming to define my own style of leadership in this new environment, I look forward to offering support and listening ears as my peers do the same. When we return to Brown, I plan to remain an active member of this population through the continued support, peer mentorship, and friendship fostered by BOLT.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Rebecca  
Preferred Name: Becki  
Last Name: Marcus  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to apply to BOLT to have adventures with my peers in nature! I think surviving in the wilderness with a group of people creates space for some of the most beautiful connections and brings out the best in everyone. I love the people we get to be when we’re away from society and immersed in nature. I think this opens us up to less judgment, and a constant mindfulness of beauty. I also love the collective action and care that this demands of us—to work together to prepare food and put up tents. There’s something so satisfying about learning skills with people that fulfill basic needs like safety, shelter, or food. I love engaging this challenge and seeing how I can rise to the responsibility of doing what’s best for the group. I think this will be an amazing bonding experience, and I love living in the woods! I’m also excited about learning new skills from BOLT about living in the woods and being an effective, compassionate, receptive, and self-aware leader. I like that BOLT is an ongoing community after the trip, and I imagine that the connections people have with other BOLT members are profoundly special.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One of my goals for next semester is to build more meaningful relationships. I think BOLT would be an amazing framework to get to know people through a context in which we are each growing individually and devoted to the well-being of the group, beginning with the fall trip and continuing through the community events. I think that the leadership workshops will be invaluable to helping me be a more effective speaker in class and a better leader in my extracurricular pursuits such as working with Petey Greene or hopefully becoming more involved with environmental policy work, especially divestment campaigns. I hope to learn what practices and attitudes would help me be a better leader on my Frisbee team and other communities I inhabit. I think the mentorship could be deeply formative in helping with issues concerning intellectual, social, and emotional well-being. I would really love to get closer to a mentor, I think this would be a huge source of support that I would definitely take advantage of if given the opportunity.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope to learn how to become a better listener, to learn more about people’s perspectives and backgrounds that differ from my own. I hope to understand more deeply how people’s context and life experience inform their present attitudes and orientations and the relationship I may have with this person. I hope to more deeply contextualize my own identity as I learn more about and from others. Most of all I would be excited to form deep connections across difference, because being different from other people is such a source of joy and infinite wonder! Often when people think differently from me, they can make me laugh the most because they say things I would never have thought of to say in that way. I am also very interested in peoples’ different orientations to being in “nature” and what that means to them and has meant to them over the course of growing up. How does geographic, socio-economic context create different orientations to a nature-society relationship? I am also excited for BOLT to put people together in a close community who otherwise might not have became friends.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Claire  
Preferred Name: Claire  
Last Name: McEwen  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1997-12-19 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to do BOLT because being in nature inspires and relaxes me, especially when I’m surrounded by interesting people. Though I’ve done countless day hikes in New England, I’ve never been on an overnight hiking trip and it has been one of my goals for several years now. I honestly look forward to the opportunity to disconnect from technology and the stress that it can bring -- the stress it has certainly brought me this year. There are so many physical and psychological benefits of being outdoors, and certainly so many benefits of building a group of friends who will continue to support each other throughout the semester. Every BOLTer that I have met is so welcoming, friendly, and supportive. I would love to be able to join that community and foster its atmosphere. The close connections I would make with others in my trip group would be a great support system for me in the fall, as I am someone who thrives when surrounded by friends with whom I have faced challenges. I would especially like to participate in a Women’s Group, as I have found similar experiences such as playing on the women’s ultimate frisbee team to be so liberating. I don’t think there could be anything better than a bunch of strong, kickass ladies hiking together.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One of my biggest goals for the upcoming year is to learn to trust myself more. So far in college, I have struggled a lot with doubting myself and my ability to overcome challenges. I also have a strong tendency to compare myself to other people and base my self-worth off of these comparisons. I think the opportunity to be disconnected from the larger Brown population will be very useful for getting over this inclination towards comparison. Additionally, I think the trip would greatly improve my ability to trust myself. The trip as a whole, but especially the day when I’d be a group leader, would be a concrete piece of evidence that I am capable of doing challenging things, even if they seem overwhelming at first. Being responsible for the group and planning the day’s route would be a great opportunity for me to prove to myself that I can take a leadership role and succeed. I also want to be more engaged socially on campus next year, and the group gatherings in the fall would be a great way to do that. Meeting like-minded, adventurous people would be a terrific chance to form close friendships and expand my social connections on campus outside of my team and roommates.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: In my BOLT group, I hope to meet people who come from backgrounds other than my own. Ideally, the BOLT experience will allow me to develop better interpersonal communication skills, especially with people who have had different life experiences than my own. Often on campus, the opportunity to have profound conversations with people outside of a close friend group does not present itself. Being a part of BOLT would provide me with the opportunity to meet a group of people with whom I would not necessarily have a lot in common, and to have these genuine conversations about people’s identities and backgrounds, because we will be sharing such an intense experience. At Brown, I feel that I have a tendency to interact mainly with people who are similar to me. Though this is comfortable in a lot of ways, I am confident that interacting with a more diverse group of people will be a terrific learning and life experience. I hope to become more open minded and aware of other people’s challenges and to benefit from their wisdom. Hopefully, the other people in my BOLT will expose me to new beliefs and ideas that I would not otherwise have encountered.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Sophia  
Preferred Name: Sophia  
Last Name: Meng  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-05-11 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : As my first year at Brown draws to a close, I definitely believe that I have gone through an intense amount of growth as a person. One of the main problems that I’ve had this year lay in the social scene: as someone who had very close friends coming into college, I was extremely afraid of not finding the same connections during what everyone seems to laud “the best years of your life.” Especially since I am a relatively introverted person, I found reaching out to others and putting myself out there quite uncomfortable and stressful, and I thus was not able to build as many meaningful relationships. The past two semesters have been scary at times without the certainty of the support of a close-knit community, and I want to do something to change that for myself. Through BOLT, I hope to push myself out of my comfort zone and meet a larger variety of people, as well as cultivate the confidence in myself that I feel I am lacking. Also…it just sounds super frickin’ fun!!  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In the upcoming year, I really want to take advantage of opportunities more, no matter how much they scare me. A lot of times, I refrain from trying new things or putting myself out there because I’m afraid of failure or “not fitting in,” whether it be in terms of friendships or school activities, and I end up boxing myself into what I think I “should” do, and just ignoring other things that don’t fall into this category even if I may enjoy them. Brown is definitely helping me adjust this perspective due to the sheer diversity of students and resources available, but I still believe that I have a lot of personal development left, and I think being a part of BOLT will catalyze this pushing of boundaries. Things like community service and mentorship are aspects of being a student that interest me, but I have never considered actually going for them because they don’t directly connect with what I have always done. I want to be exposed to these experiences while simultaneously meeting new people!   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: As someone who came from an upper-middle class community comprised almost entirely of East Asian Americans, I think I definitely still grapple with internalized stereotypes and expectations that stem from my community, yet aren’t necessarily explicitly addressed or acknowledged; in part, I hope to meet people who identify similarly and learn how they come to terms with it. Many people I know, along with myself, retain a competitiveness that stems from a yearning to actualize the “model minority” myth, although this is clearly problematic, and hold condescending views on anyone who doesn’t pursue a path in STEM. Because I had internalized this belief for such a large part of my life, I had a lot of trouble convincing myself and my family that I wanted to go into the arts, which is a revelation that I had this year. I still deal with a lot of self-doubt about this decision, and I would like to hear about how others handle similar situations. Additionally, beyond my own experiences with my culture, I want to gain more experience in learning about others’ — even as a person of color, I have little exposure to what that really means in contexts outside of my relatively privileged bubble. My home community lacks a diversity that I want to be exposed to and learn from, and I hope that BOLT will give me an opportunity to meet people in a collaborative setting, where we can each live a new experience while reflecting on our old ones, and share these thoughts with each other.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Eleanor  
Preferred Name: Leny  
Last Name: Meshnick  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to do BOLT as a way to challenge myself and to get to know other students in an environment that is completely different from campus. I would really appreciate an experience that would allow me to explore leadership without all of the expectations of a campus environment. I have some experience backpacking, and I really appreciate the way that backpacking trips let me learn and play in such an autonomous environment. I find it so rewarding to bond with a group of people over a common goal, and I think it’s really incredible to be able to share that with people I don’t know.  
I have a significant amount of backpacking experience, because I worked for a conservation corps, and would go backcountry to build and maintain trails. I deeply value the time that I’ve spent backpacking, and I think that every time I’ve backpacked has been a completely unique experience based on the people around me. Backpacking is an incredible opportunity to understand what it means to be a part of a community, to feel simultaneously strong and independent, while completely reliant on the group. I have learned so much about myself through being isolated in the outdoors with a group of people that I just met, and I would love the opportunity to do that with a group of Brown students.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My first year at Brown has been extremely tumultuous for me. Although I’ve definitely learned a lot, I’ve had a lot of challenges with my physical and mental health (I have a concussion write this application), and I feel like it has stopped me from doing a lot of the things I came to brown to do. I think that I’m going into my second year with a much greater foundation of what I want to do at brown, as well as the support network I need in order to achieve these goals. I want to challenge myself to take a more active role at Brown, and to develop my connections within the community. I want that role to hinge on supportive and loving relationships across a lot of facets of the Brown community.  
I think that BOLT can help me achieve my goals in a lot of different ways. I’m really excited about the idea of building connections with people that I wouldn’t have met otherwise. I love that I can start my second year at Brown with the confidence of have just backpacked. I want to start off on the right foot of challenging myself, and doing something that is outside of my comfort zone. I’m hoping that it can help me to continue those patterns throughout the year.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I really value the fact that BOLT has a people who hold a lot of different identities. I backpacked for my job, and was constantly frustrated by the power-dynamics within groups, and the homogeneity of identities. I want to learn how to have constructive conversations about race, class, gender, ability, and other power dynamics, especially in the context of the outdoors. The American tradition of the outdoors is inherently whitewashed, classist, ableist, and cis-male centric, and I would love to see a model of outdoor leadership that attempts create more equity within the group.  
In the past I’ve found that the outdoors is an extremely valuable way to explore my own identities. In my experience backpacking trips create a culture of open and honest communication with the opportunity to talk and learn about deeply personal subjects that are hard to find the space for in everyday life. I identify as trans, and for my job I went on a five week backpacking trip that I used to try out pronouns, and talk about my identity with another trans person on the trip. Not only is it an opportunity to learn from the identities of others, but also it is a chance to reflect on my own identities, and share it with others.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning), Non-Binary Gender / Genderqueer

First Name: Abdirahim  
Preferred Name: Abdi  
Last Name: Mohamed  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1995-09-24 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : BOLT came highly recommended. Many students who have been part of the experiences the program offers that I talked to felt that it was instrumental for many changes in their lives. Therefore, I find BOLT very appealing. I consciously choose to take part of all experiences that I believe will have major impacts on my leadership journey at Brown. I want to work with other students in less academic spaces, like that BOLT offers. For instance, when I joined the Swearer Center’s Winter Break Providence in January, I realized how transformative such an involvement can be. The exchanges of ideas in such a setting differs than the one I am used to normally, and so that helps me to think differently. Moreover, since I cannot return to Somalia this summer because of the current administration’s ban on six Muslim countries, I understand that this experience offers more than anything else I could be doing.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: BOLT fosters long-term relationships that many at Brown would not have had without the program. I believe that a big part of my time at Brown is to connect with different people, who come from deferring backgrounds and so see the world in their own ways. I believe that my growth cannot be complete without such connections with others. Similarly, I want to do better academically, and a few days away with others around my age will a good way to start my semester. Our mood, and so personalities and lives, have so much to do with our surroundings, and since I would not normally be able to afford to partake in such an activity, this experience promises a good semester. Likewise, I think the experience will help me to learn more and grow personally. I think that my time with other students will contain many moments to learn. This is even made better by the fact that those around me also want to learn. In essence, I think BOLT will impact my semester by helping me learn other students, do better academically because of the change in my environment, and learn and grow with others who are all, more or less, on the same journey.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I look forward to working with Brown students. I will put effort to take advantage of all the moments that I can work with others. From starting conversations with others to initiating discussions, I will work to give others the necessary for us to all all grow and learn. However, I understand that my enthusiasm in learning and growing can only be good for all, if I do not only take space but also give space. I will be open-minded to the ideas that I might not agree with, and continuously think of my thinking as I converse and work with others. To these conversations, I want to add my experiences as an international student, who grew up in different countries in the African continent.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Victoria  
Preferred Name: Victoria  
Last Name: Morin  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-06-16 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to do BOLT so that I can engage with the Brown community in a different way. I think part of what makes this program special is that it is for sophomores (and transfers). I’m especially looking forward to making close friendships with people I haven’t yet had the chance to interact with. As someone who’s lived through Brown for a year, I’m eager to be outdoors, make new friends, interact with mentors, and perhaps even write if I get to go on the creative trip! I love to write creatively, journalistically, and analytically, and I think nature is a great place to change your mindset. I look forward not only to a week in the woods, but also sustained and continued relationships (movie nights, BOLT wars, and brunches at Louie’s – count me in)! The continued engagement aspect of BOLT appeals to me because it’s really aimed at fostering a lasting community. From what I hear, everyone seems to love their experience with BOLT. The program seems conducive to bonding, and I think it would be a lot of fun to tackle the White Mountains and the fall semester with some great people.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One of my goals – not just exclusive to sophomore year – is to consciously develop myself as a person. I think it’s easy to go through the motions but I’m more a fan of stepping back and really processing what is happening and how I’m changing (journaling is one of the ways I do this). I hope I’m not coming across too abstractly here. I think BOLT would be a great opportunity for me to challenge myself in a few ways: I think I spent a lot of my freshman year adjusting to life away from home in general and finding “my place” in college. With sophomore year in mind, I want to see myself grow in even more ways. I think forging some lasting friendships would be a great way to achieve that. As I mentioned in the first prompt, BOLT is really designed to foster those sorts of friendships and mentorships. I think it’s really a testament to how much the people in this program care that there is are 1:1 and group check in with leaders, months after the conclusion of the five-day hiking experience in August. I also think this program would challenge also me personally because I haven’t spent extensive time hiking, although I have completed one trip this long before.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I’ve noticed that a lot of growth, though I sometimes see it as solitary, is interpersonal. Interacting with people who come from very different backgrounds from me has been eye-opening as a freshman. Brown is filled with so many multifaceted and talented people that I would love to have an opportunity to get to know some more of them in a deep way. It can sometimes feel like you run into the same people in your daily routine, for me a lot of overlap as someone who studies STEM. I hope to get to know the people in my group as good friends over the course of the many activities that follow the hike. I actually think it’s difficult not to bond when you have 40 pounds on your back, are sharing a mutually physically exhausting experience, huddling in your sleeping bags, and playing telephone and other games. Learning happens in a lot of settings, and since much of my learning as a Brown student has happened on campus, I think it would be a unique experience to find myself in a new place with new people, learning about each other and sharing new experiences. I see a BOLT group as a microcosm of Brown – a diverse group of people eager to learn.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning), As having a disability (mental, physical, etc.)

First Name: Livia   
Preferred Name: Livia   
Last Name: Mucciolo   
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1997-03-22 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : One aspect of BOLT that really intrigues me is the essence of community that BOLT builds. My freshman year at Brown, I’ve made a tightknit group of friends who are extremely supportive and kind. I wouldn’t change them for anything. Even with this great support net, I’ve realized that I have limited reaching out to other friends because I know that I can always fall back into this net. While, I love having close friends, I am also very open to meeting new ones and entering new communities. During my high school years, I attended 4 different schools. Finding new communities became an integral part of me, and something that I cherished. Being in BOLT I would be able to form new bonds and meet new people who may be facing the same challenges that I am. Along with becoming a part of a strong and supportive community, I am interested in the leadership side of BOLT as well. Although I think that being a leader is an important trait to have, I find that learning how to be led and collaborating with others is equally as important. Having this sort of leadership dynamic could be extremely fruitful to helping me develop effective leadership skills as well as listening and reflection skills. I am also very thrilled to explore a new environment and part of the US! Having grown up in Florida, the prospect of hiking and camping in mountains (!!!) makes me very excited!!  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: This upcoming year I hope to hone in more into my personal and future goals and how I can shape my time at Brown to realize those goals. To be more specific, I would like to delineate my concentration and place myself into more leadership roles in clubs and activities that could help me maximize what I have learned this past year. My goals are not super concrete because I still feel a bit lost at even setting goals. I see the BOLT experience as aiding me in all of this. BOLT’s mission statement emphasizes community, leadership, and mentorship. I find that these three would prove integral to helping me assume greater responsibilities for the direction of my sophomore year and further years. Learning how to empower myself and others would continue not only through the five days spent together but also throughout the rest of the year. I look forward to having a home base of people I can count on to help me, and for me to help others through the ‘sophomore slump.’   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: As a person of color, representation of all groups is a very important topic for me. I find that everyone has something to contribute, regardless of their identity or level of experience. In my BOLT group, I hope to learn how to cooperate with others and participate in group activities. I find that I tend to be a bit too independent because I want to get things done fast, but I hope that in my BOLT group I learn how to let others take the lead and ultimately collaborate more successfully. Furthermore, I wish to grow as an individual through the shared experience of solving issues on the trail and working out resolutions as a team. I also aim to be more open to others, as sometimes I can be emotionally closed off for fear of being too vulnerable. With my group, I hope to break done those walls. I think that spending time with each other and getting to know them on a personal level can help me become more comfortable around others.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Vishnu  
Preferred Name: Vishnu  
Last Name: Nair  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1998-05-27 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to do BOLT because I think it will help me grow and develop important life skills. The five-day backpacking trip will not only teach me valuable skills such as setting up a shelter and cooking on a camp stove, but it will also help me foster leadership qualities that can help me in areas even outside of BOLT. For example, I think the leadership workshop can teach me some important aspects of public speaking so that the next time I have to give a presentation or speech, I can do it more effectively. I like how BOLT is such a supportive community, and that it can help foster good relationships with other people. I was also impressed by how there are four levels of support for BOLTers, including the BOLT Community, Family Group, BOLTer Group and 1:1 Leader/BOLTer check-ins. I feel like these different levels of support can definitely be helpful for me to connect with other BOLTers and share experiences together. After speaking to some of the BOLT leaders at the Lower Pembroke Community Social, I came away with the impression that the BOLT program is a meaningful part of their time at Brown. I think the BOLT program will be a fun and beneficial experience, and I look forward to joining it!  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In the upcoming year, I want to continue to motivate myself to be more productive and to take initiative. I think my sophomore year will be challenging for me, but I want to be able to rise up to the challenges that I face, both academically and non-academically, and push myself to accomplish my goals. I will be taking CS 33 in the fall semester, and I hope that I can do well in that class. In my freshman year, I did not do as well in some classes as I would have liked, and I want to improve my grades and be able to communicate effectively with my TAs and professors. I also want to continue to be physically active and try to do exercise at least three times a week. I think my BOLT experience can definitely help motivate me to accomplish my goals. I think having the support from BOLT will be a valuable asset because I can have people whom I can connect with. I think the workshops and hiking trip can also help me develop my leadership and communication skills more, which will be useful for me as I dive into my third semester at Brown.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I think the diversity in BOLT will allow me to connect with people from various backgrounds and experiences. It will be cool to learn from people who may have very different backgrounds than my own, because they might teach me something that I may not have known or understood before. We may have different strengths and weaknesses, so if I can help someone in one area, maybe they can help me in another area. I hope that in my BOLT experience, I learn from various people and acquire knowledge and skills that I did not have before. I also hope to foster good relationships with some of these people that can extend even outside of BOLT. Another aspect of BOLT that I will appreciate is learning from people who may have similar experiences as my own. I think it is nice to have people who can understand me and connect with me because they took a class that I took, or they are a part of a student group that I am in. I hope I can learn from the members of my BOLT group and gain advice from the BOLT leaders and mentors who play such a big role in the program.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Shelby  
Preferred Name: Shelby  
Last Name: Nicholas  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : This first year I have not had many opportunities to get involved in the Brown community because I am a Dual Degree student. Since I live at RISD first year (and my classes are mainly there), I haven’t been able to spend a lot of time with other Brown students. I think BOLT would really help me transition to Brown through its welcoming and supportive community. My RA (at RISD), who is also a Dual Degree student, did BOLT their sophomore year. They said it really helped them overcome the same anxieties that I am facing now, and it helped them feel like they were a part of the Brown community. I also really want to do BOLT to get a chance to spend time in nature and be able to reflect. When I was younger I went to a summer camp in Yosemite where I went on a 3-day backpacking trip each year. This trip was always my favorite part of the summer, and I really miss being able to detach myself from society and focus on friends and the outdoors. I would absolutely love to be part of both of the groups that I qualify for. The Women’s Group would offer me a safe space where I can get and give support to other people who identify as female. It is really important that I find other strong female-identifying friends who can help push and motivate me in BOLT and beyond. I would also love to participate in the Creative Group on two different levels since I am a literary arts concentrator at Brown, and an illustration/animation major at RISD. I would love to share my art and writing with other people who can help me to expand my horizons and broaden my perspective.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: I hope to use BOLT as an opportunity to engage with a wide range of people and groups that I might not be exposed to if we didn’t have the opportunity to come together through this program. Over the next year I hope to get deeply involved with Brown and truly feel that I have become a part of the community. I also want to try and push myself as a human being to gain better knowledge and empathy towards others, a thing that can only be learned through experiences such as these. I love the way that Brown puts so much emphasis on diversity and inclusion, and I hope that I can join and support that effort. BOLT is an amazing example of this inclusiveness, which is really evident in the groups that are offered. I hope to use the trip as a way to connect with other people from very different backgrounds, and also take my BOLT experience and expand it throughout my whole sophomore year and beyond. I love that BOLT keeps the participants in touch through all of the gatherings. When I have participated in similar experiences in the past, the saddest part was not necessarily the ending of the trip, but rather the ending of the new connections and relationships I had formed. But with BOLT, time and distance are less of an issue, because BOLT makes a point of keeping the community together and active. I also am really interested in getting involved in some form of leadership next year, and would like to seek out feminist and artistic communities. For me BOLT is so appealing since it brings together so many aspects of Brown that I would like to be a part of.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Whatever trip I am assigned to would bring together a group of people with vastly differing backgrounds and experiences. Being together on this trip would help me find ways to relate and sympathize with other people, and also help me keep my mind open to new ideas and insights. I consider myself to be a very liberal person as well as social justice advocate but I am still aware that personal experience in life can still limit me, even if I am not consciousness of it. I really hope that I will be able to better myself as a person and improve my cultural competency skills. There are so many human experiences I have not and will not ever experience. I think it is important that I put myself in constructive situations where I can learn about these things and better understand and sympathize, even if another person’s situation is very different from my own.   
I identify as an intersectional feminist and I think the Women’s Group would really help me clarify my views on how to fully support the movement of equality and celebration of difference across all races and genders. The BOLT woman’s group offers a really unique experience of being able to work through difficult situations, and exemplifies leadership and teamwork in an all-female-identifying group. I also think that as an artist and writer, the Creative Group would be very insightful. I love to see the different ways that all these unique individuals approach and create art. I think it would really help me push myself as an artist and make meaningful connections with others through a common interest, especially in such a beautiful environment. I would also love to offer my insight, exchange ideas, and try to help and inspire others who have a creative mind.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Liam  
Preferred Name: Liam  
Last Name: O'Brien  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1997-12-31 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : My interest in BOLT stems from my experiences at my summer camp over the last 6 years; I spent three years as a camper before deciding to become a counselor for the past three summers, and will continue for another year this summer. I see BOLT as an opportunity to build on the leadership and community building skills that I have developed as a counselor, while also providing me with the type of strong community that develops in shared outdoor experiences.   
 I know the bonding power of such experiences; spending summers in the woods with my fellow counselors creates friendships unlike any others I have had. We also explicitly use the environment around us to facilitate camper bonding. For example, we bring our cabins on overnights where we sleep under the stars; these always end with the campers closer than before. Through BOLT, I would continue to learn how to be a better leader in the outdoors and better facilitate those bonds. I would love to continue my outdoor leadership learning throughout the schoolyear, as opposed to just during the summer.   
 Given the opportunity to join BOLT, I would be excited for both the backpacking trip in the White Mountains and the Fall Program. I would gain a strong community through the backpacking trip, as well as an incredible experience; I have always enjoyed hiking and spending time outdoors, and love the feeling of connectedness that comes from being with nature. It would also be an immersive opportunity to vastly expand my outdoor leadership and community building skills. Through the Fall Program, I would continue to grow in areas I am passionate about throughout the year. I would continue to be committed to BOLT beyond the backpacking trip; I view both the trip and the Fall Program as great opportunities.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In my upcoming sophomore year, I have the goal to increase my engagement with the Brown community and with the opportunities that Brown has to offer. As a freshman, I have joined a couple of clubs, but have not been as involved as I would like to be. I came to school excited about the vast range of opportunities, but did not explore as many as I had anticipated as I tried to adjust to a new place. BOLT would be a strong community that I could join and about which I could be passionate. In high school, I participated in a few clubs and activities that were important to me and in which I became fully engaged; I found tightknit communities and felt very passionate about my athletics teams, my Peer Counseling groups, etc. I have joined the club soccer team, but feel the need to engage further and find more communities with people who share my interests. Through a shared outdoor experience, love for existing with the environment, and desire to improve leadership and community building skills, I imagine BOLTers build strong bonds and develop a very deep sense of community amongst each other. BOLT would be the perfect group and experience for me to join in order to achieve my goal of greater engagement with the Brown community and the opportunities Brown offers.  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: As I mentioned in a previous question, I have spent a long time working as a counselor at my summer camp; through this work, I have grown to first accept, and then thrive while working with people from a large range of identities and experiences. I not only worked with people who had vastly different counseling styles than myself, but also people of vastly different backgrounds. For example, in each of my four sessions as a Senior Counselor, I worked in a cabin with a Junior Counselor who lived in a foreign country. While such differences were a little difficult for me in my first year on staff, I had by my Senior Counselor year learned to rely on our different experiences to tackle different situations in the best way we could as a team.  
 I bring up this experience with diversity at camp because I find that I am lacking such a situation a bit here at Brown. While Brown is an incredibly diverse place with many different identities and experiences from which I could learn, I find that many of my current friends and people I interact with come from similar backgrounds to myself. I’m not sure whether this occurred by chance or through other reasons, but I hope to expand my social circle vastly in my coming years at Brown. I know that engaging with people of different backgrounds can be an incredibly valuable learning experience as well as an opportunity to improve oneself and reach new levels as a team; BOLT would provide me this experience at Brown, and allow me to grow as a person by expanding my circle of engagement beyond people with whom I mostly share a similar background.  
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Amber  
Preferred Name: Amber  
Last Name: Ogata  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-08-08 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I feel that I have yet to find my community here at Brown and that BOLT would be the perfect opportunity to meet new people. I love the outdoors but have very limited backpacking experience so BOLT would be a new and exciting experience that will hopefully encourage me to step out of my comfort zone. I have not had many opportunities to be in a leadership position but I would eventually like to have some sort of leadership role here at Brown and I hope that BOLT will give me some leadership experience to help me succeed. The beginning of freshman year was great because it was super easy to meet new interesting people but once groups started to form, meeting new people became hard. There are so many intelligent and interesting people at Brown that I want to get to know. I hope to participate in BOLT because it would be a great opportunity to meet new people, step out of my comfort zone, and develop leadership skills that will help me succeed in anything that I do.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: I hope to find a club or organization to participate in that I am passionate about and to find a better balance between academics and extracurriculars. The transition to Brown was hard for me so I basically dropped all of the clubs that I was participating in within the first few months of school. Now that I am figuring out my academics and feel more adjusted to college, I want to start trying new things whether that may consist of taking more classes in subjects that I am not familiar with or through clubs and other extracurricular activities. I feel that meeting new people through BOLT and hearing their stories will inspire me and hopefully give me some sort of guidance in determining what new ideas I want to explore. I also hope that the leadership aspect of BOLT will help me develop confidence and help me get over my fear of failure.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope to be inspired by other students participating in BOLT and to learn more about the different perspectives here at Brown. The students at Brown are all so interesting and I want to meet more people and hear their stories. I hope to also inspire other students and provide them support when needed. Backpacking can also be hard and draining but I am good at remaining optimistic and reenergizing groups of people.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Mira  
Preferred Name: Mira  
Last Name: Ortegon  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-07-13 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : As a freshman in high school, I went on a two-week summer hiking trip with a group of other teens to Northern California. This trip was one of the most transformative experiences of my high school life. Not only was it incredibly awesome to hike the backwoods of Yosemite and marvel at the wondrous wildlife of Tomales Bay, but it was also a great opportunity to learn more about myself and become more mature. The quick relationships made showed me how precious friendship is, especially because I was with people who had totally different background than I did. It also made me realize how easy and natural friendships are when in an outdoor, “plugged-out” environment without cell phones and access to social media. I am looking to find a community that can persist into the year as a support system and catalyst for me to be constantly improving myself. Since I will no longer have a freshman unit, a BOLT family that consistently gets together would be a really invaluable resource. I truly hope that I can make strong relationships with other students on a BOLT trip and continue to have these relationships throughout sophomore year. This will provide me with adequate structure to make me as successful as possible. Now, as a freshman in college, I feel it is the most appropriate time to remind myself of the values I learned 4 years ago. Going on BOLT would be an incredible opportunity to put myself outside of my comfort zone, create meaningful and lasting relationships with people who have had different experiences as me, and appreciate the beauty and importance of the outdoors. This experience in imperative in helping me come into sophomore year ready to grow and improve myself as a leader.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My main goal for the upcoming year is to challenge myself and have a larger positive impact on the Brown community. Starting at Brown, there are so many opportunities to challenge myself and break free from the social anxieties that stopped me from doing things I found interesting in high school. While I have already begun to get out of my comfort zone and engage in clubs and with people that are different from I am, I hope to be even better about this in the upcoming year. I already have settled into a group of friends and routine that I would like to push myself to move outside of in some ways. I believe that BOLT will be an excellent experience to learn with and from people who hold a variety of identities. This will give me a network of people that I can use to continue enlarging my social circle and my range of involvement on campus. Brown does a really good job of promoting the importance of interactions between people with different experiences than oneself, and I wholeheartedly support this notion. I believe that BOLT would be an amazing way to make connections with people different from myself and embody the Brown spirit. More than this, even, the BOLT trip and subsequent activities will further help me expand upon my leadership and broaden my engagement and my impact at Brown. I believe that the experiences I would have on BOLT and in activities will give me the best possible mindset to come into the year with.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?:   
 As I have mentioned, I believe that engagement with people who have had different experiences and hold different identities than I do offers me a chance to learn more about the world, and in turn, where I fit into it. If a Brown student isn’t able or willing to interact with and learn from those with different backgrounds, they are missing so much of what Brown is offering. Being insulated in a homophilous group disrupts opportunities to learn about different perspectives and reaffirms biased thinking. I believe that any group activity in which I interact with people different from myself is beneficial to me, but I think BOLT will be an especially effective stimulus for this growth because of the program’s structure. The 5-day hiking trip provides an experience stripped of the presence of outsiders, friends, and social media. This removes the factors that often promote social stress and--at least for me--sometimes stop me from interacting with people different from me. The trip will allow natural connections and friendships to form, providing a basis from with workshops throughout sophomore year can spring from. I hope that I can make meaningful connections with people on in my BOLT group and promote continuous friendship and dialogue with them. I don’t want this to be a special and enlightening experience I have just one time, but rather a relationship that lasts throughout my time and Brown and continues to spark my growth.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Kevin  
Preferred Name: Kevin  
Last Name: Ouyang  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : BOLT initially caught my eye as an opportunity to go backpacking and camping, as I have always found it incredibly restorative and rewarding to be outdoors. Upon further investigation, however, I found myself more drawn to the ways BOLT aims to manifest leadership and community among its participants. I believe in BOLT’s philosophy of creating leaders who are not necessarily empowered themselves, but empower those around them. This model of leadership is less self-centric, and I think would allow me to affect real change on a very local level. From my experiences working in student groups on campus, I have found that leaders can be ineffective when they fail to recognize the leadership potential of those around them, and so there exists an concentration of responsibility on just one person, often to the detriment of the tasks at hand. As a participant in BOLT, I would also relish the opportunity to meet and bond with a diverse group of people during my sophomore year, which is a year when friend groups tend to solidify and become more siloed off. Lastly, as someone who is interested in community organizing, I feel like the skillset that many people take from BOLT will be incredibly useful for me.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One of my goals for the upcoming year is to really discover the things that I love, both inside and outside of school. Throughout my first year, I have tried to explore as many different academic and extracurricular interests as possible, but I feel like I have been limited by the scope of what I know is possible. I want to be more honest with myself about what excites me and what doesn’t, and I believe BOLT will broaden my scope of what I see as possible through connecting with people from different disciplines, passions, and places. Next year, I would also like to take advantage of the leadership positions I will hold so that I can better advocate for the community ideals that I would like to see at Brown. My hope is that BOLT, through the camping experience and leadership workshops, will help me effectively utilize my positions on campus to encourage engagement and participation from others in my student groups. Also, being a part of network of other student leaders will give me guidance, mentorship, and support to help me navigate my sophomore year and help in achieving my goal of seeing a more just and diverse Brown body.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I think BOLT has the potential to become a program that promotes justice and better understandings of positionality and difference. Just the physical proximity with a group throughout the course of a few days creates a space for intimacy, and differences will naturally arise. In those instances, I feel it is important to not just try and erase or “bridge” difference, but engage with it and understand it. Engaging in difference really has the potential to expand my views and understanding of the world. Dialogue plays a crucial role in this, and dialogue can only occur when all involved feel comfortable speaking. I believe that being vulnerable, genuine, and holding space for the vulnerability of others will help us as a group feel close and develop trust. The specific skills involved in creating and sustaining dialogue are the ones I really hope to develop in BOLT. These skills will really allow me to take full advantage of the incredible and diverse student body here at Brown, and I believe that the tools that I leave BOLT with are all key components to leadership and effective teamwork, and these are skills that I hope to carry with me beyond the BOLT experience.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning), As having a disability (mental, physical, etc.)

First Name: Christopher  
Preferred Name: Chris  
Last Name: Packs  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1998-02-26 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to be involved with BOLT because I see BOLT as a platform central to exploring and discovering the talents and passions of our peers and the larger Brown community. More specifically, BOLT’s philosophies of communalism and awareness allow for a deeper sense of interconnectedness around a certain set of values and experiences. As an established and respected entity, I think BOLT is a unique opportunity to combine a variety of voices from our larger community and create a melting pot of mutual sharing and learning. With this space, BOLT contributes to the larger campus culture and fosters openness and discourse with members of its community.   
 In my life, the greatest connections I have made were facilitated through outdoor experiences. From my time working on the Appalachian trail to canoeing unexplored tributaries in Canada, lifelong friendships have developed through a shared experience of struggle and perseverance in nature. Given the academic intensity and geographic location of Brown, cultivating these deep connections has been nearly impossible. In participating in BOLT, I hope to gain powerful connections and contribute to a space of acceptance and learning.  
Beyond individual friendships, I believe that nature, largely through its isolation, is an idyllic space to create lasting communities. Moreover, given BOLT’s emphasis on leadership, I believe that translating connections made on the trail to Brown’s more domestic environment would create an empowered class of campus leaders. Outdoor education has always been something I have wanted to pursue at Brown, and, as a student leader, I would like to contribute to BOLT to my fullest ability, forging a lasting community at Brown for the years ahead.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In the upcoming year, I hope to be more involved in community-oriented organizations on campus, expanding beyond the transitory stress of academics and engaging with as much of the student body as possible. Given the academic pressure at Brown, I have found it difficult this year to balance work with extracurricular communities—especially those constructed around a love of nature. Additionally, given the extraordinary range of talents and experiences in the Brown student body, BOLT is a perfect opportunity to engage with people I might otherwise never encounter. Similarly, given the increased sense of independence and assimilation inherent in sophomore year, I believe that BOLT will provide a community of leaders that can collectively take on the increased responsibility of being upperclassmen.  
 While this mostly pertains to the Fall Trip, the BOLT events throughout the year will reinforce the bonds created over the summer and ensure a continuation of the values and skills learned on the Fall Trip. Through these experiences, I hope to achieve my goals of expanding my extracurricular sphere and deepening connections with members of BOLT. In these interactions, I seek to both learn from and contribute to the experiences of my peers—creating mutual connections of sharing and dynamism. Thus, BOLT will significantly alter my future Brown experiences, breaking through the academic supremacy of college and imbuing a renewed sense connection with my peers.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Especially as a second year program, BOLT has the unique capability to break students out of their regular social patterns and interact with new, eclectic people. Assimilating into Brown over the past year, I have found myself somewhat crystalizing around certain social circles. Despite this initial comfort, I hope to expand beyond my immediate groups next year, engaging with students from a larger range of backgrounds and experiences.  
 On a similar note, I have noticed in my time at Brown that students tend to associate exclusively with like-minded peers of a similar background. In this vein, I find interacting with people I don’t universally agree with a necessary step to character growth. Especially given the strength of interactions in nature, BOLT provides an important backdrop for students to interact with their peers of different identities and perspectives. Furthermore, in my experience, interacting with people on the trail is especially powerful, as the insulation of the community forces (in a positive way) people to coexist and learn from each other. The mere chance to interact with such an array of students, all interested in the outdoors, is an experience that would grow my abilities to break out of my comfort zone and expand my identity. Therefore, BOLT’s power to unite peers of diverse backgrounds is a powerful tool to constructing a strong community, one that I would embrace wholeheartedly to connect with other students on a more intimate level.  
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Lianna  
Preferred Name: Lianna  
Last Name: Patterson Ware  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to do BOLT because I want to learn in a new environment. Rarely do I spend long periods of time in the outdoors. I tend to think of myself as an “indoor” person. I like to read, listen to music, watch movies and dance. Spending tons of time outside seems like something I moved away from as I have gotten older and academics ate up more of my time. This tendency or want to be inside and protected seeps into my character and personality as well. When I meet someone new, I think I can come off as shy, sheltered, or even a bit aloof. It takes coaxing and persuading over time for me to let new people in. I always worry about how people will view me and how I express and carry myself. I do not like to be vulnerable, but sometimes it can be the best way to learn. BOLT will force me to break out of this habit and shyness in a contained, structured way while also potentially giving me the opportunity to become more assertive.   
Additionally, I have never done a program like BOLT that involves hiking and I want to try something new.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My goals for the upcoming year are to be more involved on campus and more engaged in the activities I do. I struggled this year with finding spaces and groups where I was comfortable to speak my mind. I also need to realize and learn that being bad at something is not necessarily a bad thing. No one is perfect. No one can do everything perfectly on their first try. It is okay to not be great at something right away or even ever. All of us are constantly learning. It is valuable to do and try things that you are not very good at. BOLT will reinforce this lesson primarily because I have no experience camping or hiking or anything like that. BOLT will also continue to highlight this lesson during the upcoming year as I encounter new situations and new challenges. Having a BOLT group to rely on and who will support me as I make mistakes and learn sounds like an amazing network that I wish I had for this past year. Not everything will come easily to me and I am learning how to accept that.  
BOLT will also give me a group of people who I have bonded with that I can share ideas or thoughts with who may be a bit more isolated from my life. BOLT will give a new perspective on my life.  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope to become a more compassionate, cooperative, and accountable person through spending time with my BOLT group. I want to engage with people who think and see the world differently than me and to be able to find a common space for us to connect and challenge each other safely. I also know that there will be people who are super charismatic and outgoing. They are everywhere! But that is not who I am. Yet, having the opportunity to see and be around these different types of people and their different styles of leadership will help me to figure out who I am and where I fit in. I will see what kinds of responsibility I want in the future and to see how to function in group dynamics with people with various backgrounds.  
 I also hope to grow as a friend in my BOLT group. I want to make new friendships and to use the opportunity to create lasting connections with people I might not have otherwise gotten to meet without BOLT. I want to see what healthy friendships and group dynamics look like and I think BOLT can offer me that. I hope to see what a reliable group of people can do when they work together towards a common goal.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Mia  
Preferred Name: Mia  
Last Name: Pattillo  
Gender: female  
Date of Birth: 1998-07-22 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : The main reason I want to do BOLT is because I love the outdoors! I’ve always been really into running, hiking, and camping outside, which are activities I usually do on my own or with family or friends. I’m a very active person and particularly enthusiastic about activities that allow me to move around and get my energy out, which is even more fun when I’m with company and can have interesting conversations. I also love being in nature and the wilderness, and learning to sustain myself in that environment. I was really disappointed to see that there weren’t any outdoor pre-orientation programs for freshman, but super excited to see that a similar program existed for sophomores! I think that spending a few days in the wilderness can really create a unique type of bond – there’s something valuable that can be gained from having to support each other as part of a team in the wilderness. Being away from our regular lives and being able to just spend time with the outdoors can really allow for a lot of important reflection and lessons. I’ve done similar trips throughout my years in middle and high school, and I definitely look back at them often as some of the best experiences. A lot of the trips fostered really meaningful conversations and brought me much closer to people, some of whom I hadn’t known well before. I would really really love to bring together my passions for the outdoors and leadership in this setting that would also allow me to bond with my peers!   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In the upcoming year, I hope to continue many of my current pursuits, which include playing piano in the Applied Music Program and writing as a senior staff writer for the Brown Daily Herald. I also will be a Meiklejohn advisor, and hope to volunteer through SHAPE. I think BOLT will help prepare me for being a good leader in these pursuits, especially through the ones that involve working with others. Through BOLT, I will learn how to interact with a diverse group of people and how to help and learn from others. I think these lessons are going to be really valuable not only for my goals, but also my regular day-to-day activities. Another one of my constant goals is to keep expanding my horizons, and being exposed to the environment and community that BOLT fosters will really allow for that. I think BOLT will really help me learn how to better engage with a community and play an active role in pursuing meaningful relationships, which is really important to me. At Brown, I’ve been around so many incredible people and the relationships I’ve formed are some of the most valuable I’ve had, because there’s so much to learn from the unique individuals here. BOLT will help me continue this pursuit of getting to know people, and having the opportunity to learn from their unique mindsets and interests.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope to learn and grow from being exposed to a group of people that are different from those I normally hang out with every day. Especially with freshman year coming to a close, I’ve found that I’m spending most of my time with my closest friends, which I love, but I also miss the opportunities that we had in the beginning of the year to just interact with an incredibly wide range of people. Through BOLT, I will be able to engage with a more diverse group of people that I probably won’t know very well, and better understand the perspectives that I’m not as exposed to in my daily routine. It’s going to be interesting to be put with people that I might not initially know, and it might even offer that excitement of the beginning of freshman year – meeting others, talking with them, finding common interests, and sometimes even ultimately being close friends, or at least somewhat friends. These friendships that I’ve formed at Brown are incredibly important to me and I think that having a BOLT group will be able to provide me with that similarly valuable range of opinions and interests. I’m very excited to be able to get to know and bond with new people, and be shaped by their experiences and influences.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Naomy   
Preferred Name: Naomy  
Last Name: Pedroza  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1997-10-25 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to join BOLT for a variety of reasons. The first being that I miss the outdoors. Growing up in Las Vegas, I had a tree-less, desert-filled childhood and my family camping trips of hiking in the Utah woods are my fondest memories. When I left Nevada to go to a boarding school in the forest clad, rolling hills of northwestern Connecticut, I knew from the first day that I had to take advantage of the beautiful nature I was surrounded by. I was an active participant in the outing club, becoming the first Junior to ever lead it and continued to lead it my Senior year. It was my favorite part of my high school experience and coming to Brown I was determined to join the Outing Club. After being rejected from many lottery trips and focusing on political activism, photography, work, and school, I miss being surrounded by nature more than anything. I miss the happiness, empowerment, and liberation that I feel when I'm in the mountains. I miss meeting new people share the same feelings towards the outdoors. I miss introducing an entire new world to people who have never gone hiking or camping. BOLT's summer experience would allow me to go back to where I'm happiest. I also want to join BOLT to meet new people who I would never meet otherwise. While I am a social person and try to meet people whenever I can, I can't help but long to meet people on a deeper level and the shared experience of BOLT would make that possible. I love that BOLT would allow the friendships to continue throughout the year and that it is not just a one-time-only sort of   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: I definitely want to get in touch with nature again next year. I have loved my freshman year, but that part of my life has been missing from it and it just hasn't felt right. The BOLT experience will no doubt affect this and help me get back in touch with nature. Another goal is the reason I want to go: to meet new people from all types of backgrounds. I love people and their stories and one of my goals is to befriend more people next year. Another goal I have is to live a healthier lifestyle. This year I found myself stressed out and filled with anxiety and not dealing with it in healthy ways. I developed a bad case of insomnia, stopped working out, and developed terrible eating habits. I think BOLT would help with this because I will be in a different environment. Artistically, my goal for next year is to go back to film photography. I am very involved with portrait photography, activism photography, and journalistic photography but it has taken a backseat at Brown. I think that meeting another community of creative people through BOLT, it will push me to try more and experiment with my art.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: My favorite day of high school was an overnight camping trip that I lead with a randomized group of 15 kids. On paper, we were all different. We came from all over the world with different socio-economic backgrounds, different passions, different values but for that night, we all connected on a deeper level than I connected with friends who I knew for four years. We had a shared experience and that shared experience allowed everyone to open up and truly connect to one another. From a BOLT group, I hope to develop those kinds of friendships. I hope to learn from other people's lives and passions and I hope to mature by the end of the trip. I would also like to grow creatively from the art of others. My close friends at Brown are not artistic, so I've felt quite alone in that field and just want to immerse myself in it with other passionate people. Additionally, I am very passionate about political activism and I want to learn from other people what challenges are facing them that can be fixed by policy changes. On an even more personal level, I hope to learn to be kinder and to love more.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Leah  
Preferred Name: Leah  
Last Name: Peipert  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I would love to participate in BOLT for several reasons. For one, I love the outdoors. I recently returned from a backpacking trip with the Brown Outing Club and it was a great experience. I found it extremely rewarding to spend several days away from campus with a new group of people out in the wilderness. Experiencing a challenging trip like backpacking with a group of peers allows friendships to rapidly develop. I met an entirely new community in just a week and have amazing memories from the trip. I would love the opportunity to experience something like that again.   
  
I additionally have an interest in learning more about taking a leadership role in such a trip. I would like to have more experience using outdoor equipment and further develop my general outdoor skills. I also believe that participating in the backpacking trip prior to sophomore year would be a perfect start to my second year of college, as it would allow me to immediately find a new community. From my BOC experience, I discovered several more organizations on campus that I want to participate in. Another trip would expose me to even more people and more communities that exist on campus.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One of my goals for next year is to try new things. In a way, I began working on this goal this semester by going on the BOC backpacking trip. I had the option of going on the trip or going home for spring break, and initially, I was going to go home because it was the comfortable, familiar option. However, going on the backpacking trip had an extraordinary impact on my semester. I was exposed to new people and now have a desire to take part in more groups on campus. Next semester, I want to continue my transition into college by getting more involved in communities on campus. Instead of doing what is comfortable, I want to push myself to try new things, as I find those can be the most rewarding experiences.   
  
The BOLT experience would set up my semester in a way that would push me to pursue this goal. Backpacking is extremely fun, but also very challenging. Simply living in a backpacking environment for a week is not a comfortable setting, so I would immediately push myself outside of my own comfort zone. I believe this is very important to do every once in a while, and would be a perfect way to kick off the semester.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: One of the reasons I chose to come to Brown was the diversity of the students. I love the idea of being surrounded by people from all different backgrounds. However, I still find that the majority of my close friends come from similar backgrounds. It can be difficult spend time with those who are different from you, but I would hope that through my BOLT experience, I would be exposed to people who come from a very different background than myself. Relationships that develop over a backpacking trip are very strong in my experience, so participating in BOLT would allow me to focus on developing these relationships with those who do come from different backgrounds than myself. I would hope that through BOLT, I learn to get to know these people not just through a backpacking trip, but also through life in general. After going through the BOLT experience, I would hope that I bring these friendships back to Brown and expand my own social circle to include more students from varying backgrounds.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Yurema  
Preferred Name: Yurema  
Last Name: Perez-Hinojosa  
Gender: female  
Date of Birth: 2017-05-05 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : It was a cool crisp night. I had never seen the sky so abundantly speckled in stars. As I spread my fingers through the blades of cold damp grass, I looked at the people around me. I had no idea what to expect from the next week. I began questioning my choice of going to Ecuador for a week with a group of complete strangers with no access to a shower or a cell phone. I had no idea that in that one week I would learn more about independence, genuine relationships and the power of staying present than I had ever expected to.   
Ever since my trip to Ecuador, I have continuously searched for connections like the ones cultivated in those short three weeks. Getting rid of the information overload people face on a day to day basis allows individuals to fully engage in relationships, activities and self reflection. There is something extremely vulnerable in consciously ridding oneself of social, technological, and stress inducing distractions and instead choosing to be completely present in the moment. I want to participate in BOLT because I would like to re-awaken the sense of vulnerability and excitement from engaging with others in nature. I think that BOLT could create an inclusive and supportive atmosphere where community and independence strike a unique balance.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: It’s very easy to find yourself caught in a routine at Brown. One of my goals for next semester is breaking that routine as often as possible. Having a group of people to go out and explore nature with would provide a consistent break from the habituality of day to day life. I have wanted to participate in more outdoor activities within the Brown community and think that BOLT would act as a good introduction. I think that going out into nature can produce extremely healing and meditative experiences. Campus can feel very confining, particularly in the winter, unless a person makes the choice to go out and explore. Next semester, I want to experience life beyond the bubble of college hill. I value meeting new people in non-academic settings, like clubs, because they can provide a relaxed atmosphere that fosters organic relationships. From what I have learned about BOLT, the program provides a community of diverse individuals coming from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences who find common interest in outdoor engagement. I want to make meaningful relationships with individuals who I would not be able to meet without BOLT.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: When I went on my trip to Ecuador, I realized that I was the only woman of color within my group. I feel as though as I have been reluctant to engage in outdoor clubs because of my identity and the possibility that people would not take me seriously. There is a severe lack of women of color participating in outdoor activities. This is due to the fact that these spaces are typically dominated by financially well off White men who have cultivated them specially for their bodies. Hiking and camping are both seen as typically masculine activities. Through participating in BOLT, I hope to reclaim nature as a space for female bodies of color. I think BOLT could create a caring space for me and other women of color to thrive and become leaders in natural settings. I would like to become more proficient in hiking and understanding how to read natural environments. I hope that my BOLT group would be a close knit set of people willing to teach each other about outdoor leadership despite varying levels of experience.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, As having a disability (mental, physical, etc.)

First Name: Brendan  
Preferred Name: Brendan  
Last Name: Pierce  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1996-05-10 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): transfer student - one semester at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : As a recent mid-year transfer student, much of my interest in joining BOLT is driven by the opportunity to become a part of an inclusive and supportive community at Brown. While my transfer experience at Brown has been rewarding in many ways, I have felt very much like an outsider as I’ve struggled to find my own niche on College Hill. For whatever reason, I did not connect with the other transfers in my class, and as a result have had to navigate my first few months at Brown largely on my own. This, to say the least, has been difficult. As BOLT was uniquely created to provide a support system for sophomore students, I know that becoming a part of such a diverse, positive community that is open to everyone would absolutely help me feel more at home at Brown.  
 The other main draw of BOLT for me personally is it’s emphasis on leadership. I feel that leadership is such an important life skill, but it’s something that I really have not had much exposure to throughout my life. I’ve really always figured out things on my own, and often feel unsure of myself when I’m put in a group setting. I think that joining BOLT will not only prepare me to become a leader in life, but also provide me with leaders to learn from (i.e. mentors). Especially as a new student here at Brown, I would benefit immensely from a mentor who would look out for my interests. Additionally, in turn, I would love to become a leadership figure for other students at Brown in the future  
 Lastly (and briefly), I want to do BOLT because of its outdoors aspect. As an avid hiker who feels most at home in nature, I would love to become a part of BOLT’s many outdoors activities- which, of course, includes the 5-day backpacking trip in the White Mountains.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: As previously mentioned, I am a brand new student here at Brown; I transferred from Georgetown University as a mid-year sophomore and arrived this spring semester. Honestly, I’ve felt very out of place here at Brown for most of the semester, as it often feels as though I’m on a different page compared to everyone else (including freshmen, who have a full semester of experience at Brown over me). It’s been hard to make meaningful connections with people, and I can’t help but feel like some random transfer kid whenever I meet regular Brown students.  
As a result, for the upcoming year, my main goal is to become more at home at Brown. As BOLT provides an unconditional and rock-solid community for it’s participants, I think that becoming a part of the program would drastically improve my chances of realizing this goal. In short, I hope that BOLT will enable me to meet the sort of positive and inclusive people that come to define my Brown experience.   
 On the other hand, I very much want to become a more well-rounded individual over the next year at Brown. To explain, I was born and raised in the homogeneous, middle class suburbs of New Jersey. I grew up with people who had similar experiences of life as I did, and basically lived within a bubble during my first 18 years. Coming into college, I wanted to have a more diverse and challenging experience- one in which I formed connections with people that come from all walks of life. Unfortunately, the community at Georgetown was even more homogeneous than my hometown, which was one of the main reasons that I left the school. Thus, with BOLT, I hope to learn from and become close with people that come from all different backgrounds. These people will help me grow as an individual, and (as corny as it may sound) widen my perspective on life.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I believe I touched on this aspect of BOLT in my previous answer, but I am more than happy to expand on my thoughts. Undoubtedly, one of the most attractive aspects of BOLT for me personally is its emphasis on learning and engaging with individuals who hail from all different types of backgrounds and identities.   
 I am fully aware that I have lived in a bubble for most of my life, as I haven’t encountered that many people who aren’t like myself (white, cis, and straight). I fully understand that this has limited my worldview, as I don’t really know what it’s like for individuals who do not enjoy the same privileges as I do. Additionally, as one of my most dearly-held values is empathy for others, I think that I can only grow more understanding and empathetic for others who face obstacles in life that I have the fortune to avoid.   
 Because BOLT makes such an effort to include individuals from all walks of life, I know that becoming a part of BOLT will not only help me learn from these individuals, but also grow my own value system as a reaction to interacting with them. Over the past year, it has become especially clear that America is suffering from a lack of communication amongst different “groups” of people. I believe that BOLT works towards solving that, and I cannot wait to become a part of this solution.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Diego  
Preferred Name: Diego  
Last Name: Porras  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1995-12-21 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? :   
A friend who comes from a similar background as myself did BOLT and encouraged me to consider applying. Since he was someone introverted like myself, I was encouraged by the fact that he seemed to have enjoyed and benefited from participating in the program. As a freshman, I feel as if I have not been as active in extracurricular activities as some of my peers. This is an aspect which I would like to change, and I hope that BOLT can help me make a step towards becoming a more active member of the Brown community. Another aspect of BOLT that has appealed to me is the fact that it is built around being in the outdoors. I have never done anything that could be considered hiking before, and as BOLT is designed to be inclusive of people with no prior backpacking experience, I feel that it could be an incredibly fun and enriching opportunity. I appreciate that BOLT provides access to the outdoors. Although I am not an especially outgoing person, I am always willing to try something new, particularly things that many people enjoy but which I have not had to opportunity to try in the past.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One of my main goals for the upcoming year is to build a stronger and more diverse group of friends. I believe that one of the best things about Brown is the incredible mixture of people that are brought together by the university. Unfortunately, I currently feel that I am not making the most of this diversity the student body offers to its members, largely because I am not the kind of person who is good at “putting myself out there.” I view BOLT as an exciting opportunity to interact with other students that I may not normally engage with. I’ve found that both my happiness and motivation towards productivity, in school and in life in general, are most strongly influenced by the quality of my relationships with others. I hope to find myself in a richer, more welcoming community next year through my BOLT experience.  
  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?:   
I originally came to Brown as the class of 2018 but had to take a medical leave prior to the completion of my first semester. I took three semesters away from Brown but eventually made my way back and am now the class of 2020. After so much time away, I was quite worried about what it would be like to start all over again - particularly after I had such a difficult experience my first semester. My time back has been significantly smoother this time around, but I still feel that a crucial part of my ability to succeed is based on the quality of the relationships that I have with others at Brown. Although seeking and forming strong relationships, particularly over a short period of time, is something I have found myself to be not very good at, I wish to challenge myself to improve in this aspect. I firmly believe that meeting fellow students coming from an array of different backgrounds will improve my understanding of diversity and inclusion, and will encourage me to develop certain sensibilities that will ultimately guide me in my goal to form more meaningful relationships at Brown.   
  
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Lucinda  
Preferred Name: Lucinda  
Last Name: Quigley  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-02-08 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Since I first heard about BOLT, I immediately knew I wanted to apply. As an avid outdoorsman who has spent lots of time in the White Mountains and hiking around New England, the trip sounded like another awesome adventure. I knew right away that I wanted to apply, but it wasn't until I learned more about BOLT when I realized why I really want to participate in it. BOLT has an aspect of bonding and connection that few other programs have. If I wanted to just go on a hiking trip in New England, I could easily do that every weekend of the summer with my good friends, as I live in Boston. While that would be fun and I'm sure we'd have a great time, BOLT offers something more. It offers the chance to go out on a limb and spend a week with people who I may have never met before. It offers the chance to meet people who may not be the typical outdoorsy, nature-loving, environmentalist like myself, but who still appreciate the outdoors and are excited to spend time camping and hiking. It offers the chance to form new friendships that won't need to stop or fade away after the week is over. Finally, BOLT offers the chance to start the new school year off right--with new friends, with memorable experiences, and with a new community to turn to.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: This year, I spent a large chunk of my time at Brown playing on the women's ice hockey team. Hockey has always been an activity that I've loved, and I've developed lasting friendships with many of my teammates. However, it is also a huge time commitment, and this year particularly, I often found myself wishing that I could branch out and experience different activities with new people. I was often torn between spending time with my teammates and participating in first-year bonding events. One of my main goals for next year is to make the effort to reach out and form friendships with more diverse students. BOLT seems like the perfect place to start. I think that some of the strongest friendships form through sharing experiences together. BOLT does this by bringing together students from all different backgrounds to participate in a bonding experience together. I see BOLT as a formative way to begin a new year at Brown by meeting a group of new students and then continuing to develop friendships with them over the course of the fall semester. I do not want to leave Brown at the end of four years having missed out on the opportunity to meet a diverse group of people. My main goal for next year, for the next three years at Brown, and for all the years to come, is to constantly be meeting new people and forming new relationships.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I think that the best way to learn is through experiences. While I'm extremely grateful for my academic education, what I've gained the most out of Brown and from school in general has been learning from the people whom I've met. I came to Brown as a recruited athlete, so my path and experience has been different from many of my peers. One of my best friends is a transfer student from community college in Florida, and she has no support from her parents, who can't understand why she would need to leave Florida for school. Before Brown, I would have viewed our lives as entirely separate with little in common. However, after becoming close, I now realize how much we have in common and how easy it is for people from different backgrounds to connect. Through BOLT, I hope to similarly find these meaningful connections with my peers. While I may be a typical outdoorsy person who finds this kind of trip fun, there will be many students who do not fall into this category. This excites me, as I think that through others, I learn the most about myself. BOLT acts as a perfect facilitator to helping students meet different students, while not forcing these relationships of friendships and allowing them to form naturally.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Radhika  
Preferred Name: Radhika  
Last Name: Rangarajan  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-05-09 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : In high school I discovered my love for the outdoors. After a two-week backpacking trip covering the last 100 miles of the Appalachian Trail, I was hooked. Since then, I’ve summited the tallest peak in each New England State and have even experimented with ice climbing in Iceland. However, somewhere along the way, I forgot what made me love hiking in the first place. On that first backpacking trip, I was by far the most inexperienced of the group I was in. Merely being a part of the trip was insanely exciting to me. In the past few year, however, hiking has started to feel like less of a meditative and self-explorative experience and more like another challenge or obstacle to overcome. Instead of seeing a mountain or trail as a chance to disconnect from the outside world and tune into time with my companions, I started seeing them as things to “beat.” I hope joining a group of hikers at all different levels, I’ll be able to slow down and reconnect with the environment around us and also form bonds with a new group of students before sophomore year. As the manic socialization of freshman year winds down, I don’t want to descend too far into my comfort zone. Challenging myself with an isolated group of people for a week is an amazing way to make new friendships and be forced to confront our own biases and assumptions, and the continuing BOLT programming throughout the year will allow us to check in periodically with ourselves and not get too caught up in the “Brown Bubble.”   
  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: As a sophomore, I hope I do not lose the shiny optimism and excitement that comes with freshman year at Brown. When we are constantly surrounded by amazing people and opportunities, it is easy to forget the incredibly fortunate and rare position we are all in. I do not want to get complacent with making the most of my limited time on campus. The key to this will be forcing myself out of routine and my comfort zone. It is easy to continue clubs I participated in this year and retreat into my groups of friends, but my favorite part of Brown was always how open and welcoming it was. I want to strive to be a welcoming and open force on campus, helping others and learning more about myself in the process. Even after he fall trip, the leadership training BOLT sponsors year-round and the opportunity to check in with my fellow BOLT-ers throughout will solidify new friendships with people I may never have met before, allowing me to branch out and create meaningful relationships with a diverse group of people. The mentorship aspect is especially intriguing to me. I will be a Meikeljohn next year, and as I move into a more advisory role at Brown, I think it will be valuable to also be on the other side of that position through BOLT. BOLT will serve as a constant system of support-- a little reminder that challenges are made to be tackled, but also that they’re meant to be faced with a little bit of help from friends.   
  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Backpacking is a true equalizer. No one has to turn down dinners out to use meal credits, there are no cliques and habits to fall into, and I have yet to see someone look glamorous after a few days in the woods. BOLT puts a group of virtual strangers on an even playing field. When we are stripped of all the veils we put between ourselves and new faces-- old friends, fancy clothes, cold demeanors-- and struggle through a physical challenge together, we meet our true selves. We discover new things about others, and are quickly forced to confront the people that lie beneath the veils. Human nature revolves around snap judgements, but in a time where people are physically harmed because of stereotypes, it is more necessary than ever to question the origins of our biases. BOLT will allow me to push past pretenses and discover the way I interact with and learn from others. I will enter the experience with an open mind and a hope of truly listening to those around me. Listening to their experiences, struggles, triumphs and quirks will pull me out of my own self-conception. I will have to reevaluate my own choices, but also be exposed to new lenses of experience that I can hardly comprehend. Especially as a POC female who has spent many years feeling like an outsider in the outdoor community (a group dominated by white males with expensive gear) I am excited to reclaim the natural world we all share and to create a place within it for myself and a group of amazing other individuals.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Emily   
Preferred Name: Emily  
Last Name: Reed  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-05-18 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Before a few weeks ago, I didn't know of the program. When I heard one my friends enthusiastically chatting about it, I decided to look it up online. The more I read, the more interested I became. For me, one of the main points of BOLT that I appreciate is its structure and extension past the backpacking trip. It fosters a community that grows and evolves to support each other throughout and past the fall semester. Also, I think that being outdoors unplugged from technology can truly promote relationships otherwise difficult to find with the distractions and busy lives we all host during the academic year. Since the members will not know one another in most groups, it provides a clean slate where there are no pressuring expectations to conform. In this supportive setting, I feel that I could make some lasting friendships while also more effectively assessing my strengths and weaknesses. I would love to be part of an evolving tradition and a new community that helps one another realize their full potential. Hopefully, through BOLT I could better get to know both other students and myself. This could be an unforgettable and valuable experience that would more than anything be an adventure.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In the upcoming year, I hope to gain more perspectives and courage. At least for me, freshman year was a transitioning year when a large amount of my time and energy was spent learning how everything worked and attempting to find a place. By now, I feel like I have accomplished this and now want to expand my reach into more opportunities in the community, solidifying my concentration, expanding my friend group, and pushing myself outside of my own comfort zone. First of all, backpacking in an unfamiliar environment with other students will force me to use problem solving skills that would develop my leadership qualities and help me understand my weaknesses. This strengthened leadership could apply to the fulfillment of working toward my academic career, interacting with future employers, and challenging myself to reach outside of my norm. In a new learning setting, I would be open to the diverse backgrounds and views of the other team members and could hopefully make lasting friendships. The shared experience and promotion of new connections would lead to a web of encouragement during the transition into sophomore year’s increased independence. With the varying levels of support, I would feel more comfortable reaching toward my goals and knowing that I had a community adding structure and schedule to an otherwise hectic first semester.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: One of the reasons I chose Brown was for its diversity and open mindedness. I wanted to find an atmosphere full of new people where I could learn from their broad spectrum of backgrounds and personalities. I believe that the program captures this idea of inclusion in a unique environment. I hope that through everyone’s diversity of experience and also their respect for these differences that I can contribute to a supportive atmosphere where everyone feels included. By living and working together, I would hope to grow a genuine community where we could both build our strengths and better our weaknesses. I also think that through the program my conflict resolution and listening skills could improve. Online I read that BOLT believes everyone “must be a leader” at one point or another, no matter the situation at hand, and I agree. When that situation arises, I could apply both the technical and conceptual proficiencies gasped during the trip. Additionally, since everyone will naturally have differing styles of direction and management, the group experience will contribute to our comprehensive growth. Overall, I hope to master skills not only helpful in the outdoors but also applicable to situations outside of school.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Jessica  
Preferred Name: Jesse  
Last Name: Remeis  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-04-23 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I went backpacking for the first time the summer before I started college, and it was one of the most challenging, relaxing, and rejuvenating experiences. I was hiking with a close family friend, Emily, whom I like to call a sister-shaped person- there’s no blood relation, but we grew up sharing Thanksgivings, game nights, and more. Hiking through the mountains together, I learned so much about her, about myself, and about the place where I’d lived for 18 years.   
 That first experience with backpacking really helped inspire a greater love for the mountains of Idaho, where I’m from, and the people whom I’m lucky enough to call friends. I think BOLT sounds like an amazing opportunity to explore the East Coast and my new home in an exciting way. In addition, I’ve met amazing, passionate, and exciting people at Brown so far and I’m always looking for more ways to meet other members of the large community.  
 Life at college, while by no means boring, is ruled by routine. BOLT is an opportunity to challenge that routine, both environmentally and socially. It is an entirely new way to engage with my peers. BOLT is a unique opportunity to meet and make new friends who share a love of the outdoors and the desire to explore them.  
 Plus, its an excellent opportunity to personally reflect on my first year of college and focus on setting goals and intentions for the next three. The removal of technology and other distractions, paired with the beauty of the natural world and the community of peers, makes BOLT an excellent place for personal growth.  
 I’ve been excited about the potential to go on BOLT since I heard about it the second week of first semester, and the more I hear the more excited I become. I’ve been encouraged by multiple past participants and current leaders, and I can’t wait!  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In my sophomore year, I want to work on expanding my personal network of friends and mentors. I feel like as I take more and more engineering courses, it will become harder to meet people outside of the engineering program at Brown. While I look forward to fostering those friendships, I think one of the advantages of Brown is that so many students have such a variety and depth of talents and interests. I don’t want a choice in major to dictate my social circle, and BOLT seems like an excellent way to engage with members of my community who share different interests.  
 In addition, I want to make more of an effort to engage with the outdoors next year. While I was able to ski a few times, I spent a lot of time on College Hill. Being active and outside is a huge mental health boost for me personally, and I’d love to start the semester strong and use BOLT as a launching point for spending more time outside during the year. Hopefully, I’ll gain both experience and a group of friends excited about spending time outside.  
 Having only backpacked once, it isn’t something I’d feel comfortable doing without an experienced mentor, but something I’m definitely interested in pursuing. With the help of BOLT, it will hopefully become something I can continue to do throughout my life, no matter where I’m living and what I’m doing.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: In my somewhat limited experience, backpacking is one of the best bonding and community-building experiences out there. There’s nothing like living in the woods for a couple days to bring people together. Through BOLT, I hope to meet and befriend a group of people in a unique, non-college setting, with whom I can share a love of the outdoors and more. I hope to build and contribute to a small community that is generous and caring.  
 As far as my personal contributions to the group, I’m a willing cook and I know how to set up a tent. I’m a fast and willing learner, and I’m not afraid to ask for help when I need it. While not necessarily a morning person, I’m generally chipper and cheerful no matter how rainy it is.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Lena  
Preferred Name: Lena  
Last Name: Renshaw  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-11-12 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I didn't know about BOLT until my best upperclassman friend here at Brown told me that not doing BOLT was what he regretted most about his Brown experience. At the time, I didn't know what BOLT was, but as he told me about it, I realized how much I would love the experience. I really enjoy being outside - I go on all of the BOC trips that I can, and one of the things I've enjoyed most from those is the people that I've met. I would love to go backpacking before school starts. Coming from NYC, I rarely got to go outside and experience nature before I came to Brown, and I've found that nature is one of the things that I love most in my life. I would be excited to go on this trip with students here that I likely won't know because I really enjoy meeting people, but on top of that, I think the support system that BOLT offers beyond the leadership trip is tremendous. Brown is a big school and it can often be challenging to find your niche, but having a smaller community of people I think will be very rewarding. BOLT is something that I can so easily imagine myself doing and loving, so it would be crazy of me not to apply. I don't want to have the same regret that my upperclassman friend did when I'm his age.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Next year, I want to really dive deeper into the things that I care about, especially academically. I think that I've been too narrow so far at Brown and have only picked classes in things that I already knew I would enjoy, so I really want to try new things. I'm likely going to concentrate in CS or CS-econ, but I want to take an education class and maybe a public policy class, just to get a broader range of experiences. I think that the leadership workshops will be really helpful in a wide range of activities that I do - I'm applying to TA a class, so if I get that I'd love the guidance of how to be an effective TA. I also will likely end up leading the development team for Hack@Brown, which is a committee I was a part of this year that did a lot of work for the Hack@Brown, but I did not lead. As I grow as a student and into my new roles on campus, I think that having a group of people that are my peers and mentors will really shape how I manage these activities and my ability to participate in them.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I really want to meet people that I probably wouldn't have met in any other way at Brown. I think that just by virtue of the things that I choose to do, be it computer science, working at the radio station, or rugby, I already limit myself to a specific group of people, even though I know there are a lot of cool people at Brown who don't share those interests, and thus I haven't met. I think what's great about BOLT is that there is no underlying common interest between people - we're just all around the same point in our time at Brown. I think that alone provides such a diverse community of students, which is one of the things I've enjoyed the most already about Brown as a campus. I hope that I can learn things from other people on the trip and use them in my day to day life on campus. Meeting people with different experiences is how we learn to have different perspectives about the world around us. I'm really into listening to everyone, regardless of fundamental differences we may have in our viewpoints, and learning from their perspectives. I hope that if I have the opportunity of going on the trip, I get to take away some new ideas from the students I meet.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Sydney  
Preferred Name: Sydney  
Last Name: Roach  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1997-08-25 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Before I came to Brown as a freshman, I hoped to attend some sort of outdoor pre-orientation program. I quickly discovered that Brown chooses to provide this program for sophomores rather than for freshmen, and I’ve been hoping to participate in BOLT ever since.   
As I approach the end of my freshman year, I realize why BOLT makes so much sense as a pre-sophomore year program. While I have loved my freshman year, it is easy to stick with one group of friends rather than branching out into the wider campus community. While I treasure the friendships I have made so far, I feel that BOLT would allow me to grow close with people I might otherwise not even meet. Brown is a beautifully diverse place, and it’s important to me that I engage with and befriend people with whom I might not immediately have much in common.  
I also want to do BOLT because I love nature. I have been on many day hikes, but I have never backpacked. I think that backpacking would be a much more intense, eye-opening, and empowering experience. I am eager to experience a closer connection to the outdoors and to the people around me by disconnecting from technology and the constant stream of deadlines, status updates, and upsetting headlines that that technology brings.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?:   
One goal I have for the upcoming year is to generally increase my involvement around campus. I have spent my freshman year taking everything in, and participating as a member in a couple of clubs. As a sophomore, I want to take a more active role in student groups on campus. I think that BOLT will teach me valuable leadership skills that enable me to step out of my comfort zone and help spearhead change on campus.  
Another goal I have for next year is to exercise more and spend more time outside. I often struggle to find the motivation, time, and energy to regularly work out, but when I do, I am happier and healthier. I also know that spending more time outside allows me to decompress and relax. I feel that BOLT would be a powerful reminder of how much I actually love physical activity and the outdoors.  
On a more abstract level, I want to deepen my sense of self and allow myself to become more comfortable and confident with my thoughts, feelings, and aspirations. I have struggled with depression since high school, and sometimes Brown is not the most conducive space to work on my mental health. I want to become more emotionally resilient and less afraid of failure and loss. This is of course a lifetime journey, but I believe BOLT would give me the space to grow as a person and reflect on what matters to me. I also believe that by accomplishing something I’ve never done (backpacking!), I will gain self-confidence and feel a deeper sense of appreciation for all the amazing things my body and my mind can do.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope that BOLT will enable me to have the kind of conversations that are often difficult to have at Brown. Issues of race, class, religion, disability, and sexuality often go unspoken for fear of making other people uncomfortable. By avoiding these heavier conversations, we don’t always learn as much from one another as we could. By spending hours on end together in the mountains, I think we will grow close together and learn about our respective experiences. By getting to know each other on a deeper level, I hope we will also get to know more about ourselves and why we hold our own individual beliefs.   
I wish to gain a broader understanding of other people through BOLT–what we share, how we differ, what we can learn from each other. I hope that the friendships I make through BOLT expose me to a side of my fellow Brown students that I have yet to truly see. I hope the relationships formed during BOLT allow me to become a more sensitive, empathic person, as I am always seeking to improve these qualities in myself.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Juan  
Preferred Name: Marcos  
Last Name: Rodriguez  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1998-02-19 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Throughout my life, I have usually had difficulty socializing with people in new environments. College was no different for me. As my freshmen year began I did my best to connect with others, and maintain that connection as the year progressed. But as time went on and class work slowly accumulated, it became difficult to maintain those connections made at the beginning of the year. Those bonds I did maintain were those closest to my field of study, those with ideas, and thought processes very similar to my own. I am so thankful for having those people today, however with almost one year of experience underneath my belt, I want to reach out more. College is a time specifically to expose yourself to new ideas and meet people that will make you question the way you think. I am applying to BOLT specifically for that reason, rather than attempt to join another group already aligned with my interest, I am striving to push myself outside of the box further and make lasting connections that aren’t simply name introductions. Social events, or simple meet and greets, only provide you with the name of someone. But by participating in something more, an adventure, it is possible to make connections that are more than just on the surface. It is possible to expand one’s horizon’s and learn to think about the world a little differently.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: In this upcoming year, my main goal is to expand my horizons. Throughout my fist year, I tended to socialize with other first years closely tied to my areas of interest and concentration. Through BOLT, I am working to accomplish an expanded view by meeting new people that see things differently than I. And although for some people, making new friends comes very naturally, it usually takes some sort of constant interaction or common ground in order to connect with them. The events that are run by BOLT seem to accomplish those same goals. First off, a backpacking trip will foster interaction and grow a sense of community as we go through the same activities and events (after all how can someone not bond over the great outdoors and sleeping in tents). Additionally, as other events occur throughout the year, some of these bonds will last, despite not sharing curricula or other factors. Through BOLT, it is possible to make these connections because, despite our differences, we all are seeking to meet new people and expose ourselves despite our insecurities or shyness. And with this common ground and shared adventures, I can see BOLT providing the foundation not only to make friends outside of Biology but meet people with a different perspective on the world.  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: One of the main things I want to accomplish with the help of BOLT is to meet people of unique pasts, ideas, identities and perspectives. In the world of today it seems as though many of the problems stem from one main thing. Ignorance. Too often people are quick to judge, and do not look at the story from the other person’s point of view. I firmly believe, that someone can understand something once they see all aspects. The only way we are able to get a glimpse of experiences outside our own is through others on their own distinct path. Without meeting new people, or exposing yourself to new ideas, you can never truly grow. Your ideas, beliefs, and convictions cannot be evaluated. Like an untested invention, these will never improve because only once you see the other side can you improve these values. Only then will the prototype of your values improve. I hope to grow as a person, books and texts can only teach so much, but directly interacting with others of another “Human experience” will I truly be able to grow beyond the comfort zone I was raised in. And despite the difficulty of change, I believe I am ready to make this step and hope that BOLT will help me achieve this goal   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Jack  
Preferred Name: Jack  
Last Name: Roswell  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I was raised in the Rockies taking advantage of Colorado’s natural offerings – from skiing to camping, backpacking, and fishing. While I have some wilderness and leadership experience, I have much to learn and a passion to participate. BOLT not only provides an outdoor experience, but also a tight-knit community with meaningful, lasting connections. For me, BOLT presents an ideal and much-needed chance to collaborate and bond with peers and leaders. I am excited by the prospect of working as a team while sharing stories and ideas under the multitude of stars I imagine towering over our tents. Even more than the time on the trail, it is the long term connections and sense of “BOLT belonging” that most makes me want to do BOLT.  
   
I became intrigued reading about the program before applying to Brown. Since then, participation has become increasingly important to me. While I have tried to embrace all that is Brown, I believe the BOLT family is the missing link that will make my college experience more fulfilling. As a rising sophomore who knew virtually no one when I came to Brown, BOLT is a long anticipated, welcoming group of diverse leaders to which I can truly belong. I will do my best to earn the privilege of being a BOLTer by serving as an active member, an emerging leader, and by giving back to this unique community.  
   
I also want to be a BOLTer to lead and mentor others, learn from my peers, and share my passion for the outdoors and for Brown. I hope to bond with the BOLT group on the trail and thereafter; whether picking apples, eating at Louie’s, climbing in the gym, participating in workshops, or engaging in enlightening conversations. You could not find a more enthusiastic and sincere, aspiring BOLTer.  
   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Freshman year is one of discovery, during which I not only explored campus and Providence, but also re-examined my own goals and aspirations. I have already learned more about my new city and about myself than I ever imagined was possible in such a short time. It has been a fleeting year of academic and personal discovery. I am excited to find out what next year will have in store. With my feet firmly planted, I am eager to reach out to find the next hold in the proverbial rock wall, despite that I can’t yet see exactly where it will lead.  
  
My goals for next year include making the most of my Brown adventure, never taking a moment for granted. I will continue to earn academic success, and hope to find additional ways to serve. Participating in BOLT is the ideal path toward accomplishing my highest potential at Brown. I deeply want my first experience this autumn to be the Fall Trip because it will give me the foundation and friendships I have aspired to find for the past year. During freshman year, it can be difficult to find the right niche; a home base. I am excited to explore nature, to take a break from the chaos of city life, and experience the beauty and wonder of the earth with a group of others who appreciate the great outdoors – and one another.  
   
It is also my goal to grow as a leader. BOLT’s events and continued mentorship present a unique opportunity to both develop my skills, share my time and talents, and to serve our community. I would cherish the opportunity to join the tradition of BOLT; first around a campfire, and then in leadership workshops and other group activities and collaboration.  
   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I recently attended a memorable leadership conference at which the CEO of a Fortune 500 company spoke of the difference between a leader and a manager. She said the greatest difference between the two is that leaders can inspire. Through BOLT, I am excited to inspire, and to be inspired by those others who bring a variety of identities and experiences. I hope to learn from individuals with whom I am like-minded, but I am even more eager to bond with those in my BOLT group who see the world through a different lens and who come from diverse backgrounds that vary significantly from my own.  
   
When I stepped onto Brown’s campus, I was pleasantly surprised to find the true meaning of diversity. Brown is a microcosm of the world - with representation from a myriad of cultures and values. Whenever someone asks, I tell them that what I admire and enjoy most about Brown is the people: their passions, integrity, differences, and unique stories. BOLT will allow me to get to know some of these wonderful and unique individuals on a more personal basis and to grow with them.  
   
Wilderness travel has a unique way of transforming a number of strangers into a collaborative and cohesive group of friends. Nature fosters conversations that, in the bustle of city life, are rare. The Fall Trip, coupled with the community events thereafter, will generate those bonds that I long to include in my Brown experience, and that I will cherish. Whether struggling through a difficult social situation, or fighting up a mountain incline, I will support my fellow BOLTers and we will rise up, together. Engaging with diverse members of my BOLT group will help me grow into a more thoughtful and compassionate leader. Thank you.  
   
   
   
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Jeremy  
Preferred Name: Jeremy  
Last Name: Roth-Rose  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1997-12-04 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I am interested in doing BOLT for a couple of reasons! First and foremost, I have loved hiking ever since I was but a wee lad. I have been incredibly fortunate in that my family also enjoys hiking and have taken me and my brother on family trips to various regions and national parks of the U.S. This past summer, a couple of friends and I set out to the White Mountains to hike Mount Washington, but, alas, inclement weather quickly put an end to those plans and we returned home very dissatisfied. Now, with the BOLT opportunity to hike again in the White Mountains, I see the potential to redeem the unfortunate events of last summer.   
In addition, I revere any opportunity to meet new people and forge meaningful connections - both integral aspects of the BOLT trip. I think the randomized group selection is a wonderful thing that the organization does, especially for rising sophomores, because many people (including myself) probably are in some configuration of a friend group, but still haven’t found their “people” yet. BOLT will be an excellent way to diverge from past social structures and start anew.   
 The first year of college has been an utter and total blur. New experiences left and right, decisions I’ve never even thought I’d have to make, and revelations about personal growth have all been so prevalent as a first-year and I think will continue to be (maybe to a lesser extent) my sophomore year. Five days removed from the rest of society (and especially cell-phones!) will give me much needed time for reflection and introspection. It would be oh so refreshing to start sophomore year with a clear head.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: This upcoming year, I want to begin figuring out what sort of life I want to live and the things in my life that are important. Obviously, that’s a very broad and ambitious goal, but my first-year of college has made me question so many of my preexisting aspirations and frames of mind. As I mentioned in the past response, I plan to use the extended period of time away from technology and society provided by the BOLT trip to examine my life’s experiences and contemplate the experiences and steps of growth I have yet to have.   
On a more interpersonal level, I want to become a better listener - a goal I deem attainable with consistent practice. I think I’m getting better, but I still need work. On the trail, with the BOLT trip, I sense that conversation with new people will be a large aspect of the experience. It is on the trail and at the campsite that I plan to practice my attentiveness to conversation details and ask good questions in order to really understand someone, or at the very least, a facet of their life.   
 Three years ago, my father and I hiked and rafted through the Grand Canyon for six days, away from all distraction except the raw landscape and our rafting group. It was on this trip that, stimulated by de-stimulation, I began to have ideas for screenplays, art projects, and various other creative endeavor. Now, moving into sophomore year of college, I want to be a more productive creator and artist, and I truly think the BOLT trip will provide the removal from distractions required to think up and brainstorm good ideas.  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I find other people’s life narratives to be the most edifying aspect of the life experience. By meeting people, hearing their stories, the hardships they’ve faced, the philosophies they hold as a result, we are constantly learning about the world. It seems that trips like BOLT actively encourage storytelling, and I believe storytelling is one of the most powerful facilitators of empathy in our society. Thus, the people in my BOLT group will teach me many things that I can’t wait to learn.   
 I feel as though my understanding of nature and of hiking, in general, is not particularly thorough. Being with a group of people, some of whom I am sure are very knowledgeable about these things, will allow me to expand my wisdom of the environment, the skills of camping, and backpacking safety.   
Finally, I think that the BOLT leaders will provide much enlightenment for each member of the group. I plan to use my time on this trip to gain a deeper understanding of survival, food preparation, campsite setup, etc. They will help increase my confidence so that perhaps, in the future sometime, I will embark on a backpacking voyage of my own, with the skills learned during the Brown Outdoor Leadership Training trip.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Violet  
Preferred Name: Violet  
Last Name: Sackett  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-01-12 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I’m a runner. I run because I like the way it makes me feel, but also because I love being outdoors. I love experiencing the changing seasons as I run throughout the year; the crunch of leaves under my feet in the fall, the hazardous snow and ice in the winter, that first view of greenery on the trees and smell of flowers blooming in the spring, and the rewarding feeling of sweat pouring down my face on the hot summer days. Running has given me a strong appreciation for nature. As much as I love nature, I’ve never had the opportunity to fully immerse myself in a camping or backpacking experience. The closest I’ve come is setting up a tent in a campsite for that was more like a trailer park (with fully functioning toilets and showers) for a couple nights with my family when I was a young child. It wasn’t the true camping experience. We didn’t get to revel in all that nature has to offer; we just slept on cots and ate beef jerky. That being said, I have always wanted to participate in a camping trip where I get to venture into the outdoors and form a sense of community and friendships with my fellow campers. I also respect BOLT’s motive of “low impact camping” because I care a lot about the environment and acknowledge that camping isn’t always noninvasive. Additionally, the community aspect that is present in BOLT’s mission sounds greatly appealing. My high school was very small compared to Brown and I participated in cross country and track and the teams always gave me a solid sense of community. At Brown, I definitely miss having an extended family and I think BOLT would help solve that issue.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: As I said above, I miss having the strong sense of community that I felt in high school. This year, I have involved myself in a couple clubs and groups but wasn’t able to fully immerse myself because I wanted to focus on adjusting and establishing new friendships. So, next year, I hope to get more involved in the groups I have already participated in as well as some new ones, like BOLT. Not only would BOLT provide me with a new community to be apart of, establishing that community will help me in my quest to being more apart of other communities at Brown that I am interested in and learn how to better act on that. I made some great friends this year and I am excited to spend the rest of college with them. Yet, I always love making new friends! I think BOLT could help introduce me to people that I may have never even met before or establish more meaningful relationships with people that I have already met briefly.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I have always had a large friend group made up of different types of people that come from different backgrounds and identities. I have always enjoyed hearing about their experiences and opening up my mind to different ways of thinking. I think that engaging with a variety of people is the best way to learn about different cultures and identities. You don’t really know what someone experiences in their day to day life until they express it themselves, and even then you might still not be able to fully understand. I really enjoy talking to a variety of people in team building settings like BOLT. I think being in an environment like that would help me open up in ways I normally wouldn’t and appreciate that others are doing that as well.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Shailen   
Preferred Name: Shailen   
Last Name: Sampath   
Gender: Male   
Date of Birth: 1998-02-28 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Throughout my freshman year I feel like there has been something missing from my social experience at Brown. It is not that I haven't made friends and gotten to meet new people. In fact I felt like I am still meeting new people almost everyday. Upon contemplation I realize what I have really been missing is a true connection to the people I surround myself with.  
  
At Brown we are all surrounded by people who come from all walks of life and have an array different backgrounds. While this environment has allowed me to vastly spans my perspective on the world it has also made me feel partially isolated in the very crowd of people that I am meant to feel connected to.   
  
At BOLT I believe I will be able to gain an experience which will not only allow me to meet new faces but also provide me with the one aspect of my social relationships that I have been lacking. A genuinely shared experience with my peers. I believe the leadership skills, the practical educational tips and most importantly the connections I make at BOLT will prepare me to have a the most successful and wholesome sophomore year I can have.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: This upcoming here I am hoping to really expand on the academic and extracurricular layout I built this year. I am going to be filling my schedule with engineering, math and philosophy courses and continue my internship work from over the summer. I am also hoping to get more involved in the Intercollegiate Finance Journal, SASA culture club and the Coalition for Syria. In addition I am planning on being a much more active member of squash club and the engineering projects that are happening on campus.   
  
Since I believe my sophomore year is going to be much more filled with, activities, events and most likely stress than my freshman year I think that an experience such as BOLT will be very beneficial for me before diving into the year. BOLT will prepare me to manage my time and be a leader of my own activities through teaching me general leadership skills. BOLT will also provide me an additional network of people that I will be able to reach out to when I need to destress and give me a fun outlet through the various meetings BOLT will have throughout the academic year.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Growing up I was never surrounded by much diversity. I went to a school which was predominantly white. I was one of the only three colored people in my grade. As a result I was very constantly bombarded with a view of life from a very specific lense.   
  
One of the things I believe that has been the most enriching for me in my Brown experience has been the vast range of perspectives and backgrounds that I have been able to gain exposure to. At BOLT I am looking forward to continue to meet with people from different walks of life and potentially even expand my horizons further. I often hear the rumors that once you leave your freshman dorm meeting new people is not as natural as it is now. I hope that through BOLT I will be able to break through these rumored constraints and continue the great interactions I have had with people from all identities.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Madison  
Preferred Name: Madison  
Last Name: Sampleton  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Although I have made great friendships during my freshman year, I feel as though I need to expand my social network. I am confident that my current relationships are meaningful, genuine, and built to last, but often find myself wishing I had more friends (or at least acquaintances). The ability to not constantly rely on my few friends to assist me with social outings and habitual endeavors is extremely appealing, and I know they would say the same. I am sure that there must be numerous people at Brown that I would be compatible with, though my limited number of connections has hindered any chance of meeting them. I am an introvert by nature, and therefore not great with first impressions. This fatal flaw was often not a problem in high school, since frequent interactions with smaller groups of people gave me time to feel comfortable, and therefore confident in my ability to contribute and be myself. I believe that BOLT would be an excellent opportunity to meet several people in a fun, stress-free environment. Even if I do not return to school with a ‘new best friend’, I believe the simple act of increasing my social connections will make the trip more than worthwhile.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: As mentioned above, one of my main goals for next year is, in plain words, to make more friends. This will increase both my collegiate and social support system, which I believe will make me happier and may lead to higher academic success assuming these connections have a range of scholarly intentions/interests. Additionally, I would love to join more clubs and activities next year. I was hesitant to join new things this year, as I often feel uncomfortable going alone. However, meeting new people may allow me to start new things alongside them, or I may learn about activities that seem interesting from them. I like that the BOLT community comes together multiple times throughout the year, because the relationships developed during the fall trip may rekindle during these events if somewhat lost upon returning to school. These events seem extra appealing due to the mentoring and leadership programs, as I believe making strong connections and working on leadership skills will be rewarding in both the present and the future. More than anything next semester, I want to have fun. I have spent most of my freshman year focusing almost solely on performing well in school, sometimes neglecting other opportunities. I believe that BOLT would be an excellent social reprieve for the upcoming school year.  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Brown prides itself on being a racially, culturally, and economically diverse institution, with forty-seven percent of the members of the class of 2020 identifying as students of color. Although the school is, without a doubt, rather diverse, the student body is not as united as I expected. Instead of branching out and making connections with the multitude of cultures here, many students commit themselves to groups of people similar to them in terms of religion, class, race, culture, or something else. This is understandable, as people often feel comfortable around those they have something in common with. This is likely why so many racial and cultural clubs exist at Brown, as it provides a safe space in which students automatically have comparable life experiences. But perhaps these very groups which celebrate diversity within the student body at Brown are a contributing factor to this social segregation. Especially in college, away from home, it is important to have solid relationships with those one can relate to. At the same time, however, there is something beneficial that comes with exposure and interactions between people of dissimilar stories. I imagine that BOLT is an excellent opportunity to break down these dividing factors, and allows people to relate to one another, learn from each other, and build relationships that may not develop otherwise. I believe I can serve both the learner and teacher role, and would be honored to play those parts.  
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Jorge  
Preferred Name: Jorge   
Last Name: Sánchez García  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1998-08-21 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Back in 9th grade, in search of a new activity to undertake, I decided to take up canoe sprint, an uncommon sport where one must make the most out of a kayak and a paddle. After spending four years paddling for my life, I explored and developed parts of myself that I would love to expand and manifest through BOLT. Being alone in my kayak for roughly three hours daily pushed me to spend this time actively self-reflecting. I attempted to understand my weaknesses and identify my strengths. I developed mental tenacity and emotional fortitude. I learned to be at peace with myself and to enjoy the silence of solitude. Through this, I was able to create a space that allowed for me to analyze my actions and the reasons behind them, but due to my ambition, I’m not satisfied. For me, life is a never-ending project of “self” where we are frequently learning and developing to transform into the image of ourselves that we want to become. Currently, after years of looking inward, my goal is to start looking outwards to develop my communication and socialization skills. I would like to explore my relationships with people, and by encouraging a deep sense of community, BOLT would be an enriching opportunity for me. Moreover, this companionship could help me start to answer big questions I’ve always dealt with such as “What is my place in the world?”, or alternatively, “How can I make any place, my place?”. Profound philosophical reasons move me to aspire to be in BOLT, and even though they might seem too abstract or inconsequential, I know that through these journeys I would be able to equip myself for a life dedicated to public service and well-being.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Looking back upon my freshman year and what I have achieved, I am determined to make sophomore year a time to break out of my shell. Considering all the opportunities that Brown and Providence offer, I played it too safe and was hesitant when seeing possibilities of growth. I want to leave my fears behind and make the most out of my college years, ultimately to become the best and most experienced version of me possible. This includes meeting new people, taking on more responsibilities, applying for leadership positions, trying out new activities, and simply using my voice and agency more often. Above all, I would like to work on my interpersonal skills to then be capacitated to listen and understand people from marginalized communities, as well as those with vastly opposing ideologies. After graduation, I wish to return to my home country, Puerto Rico, to aid in restructuring and rebuilding the economy as a whole, in an attempt to seek some light during the current suffocating crisis. By participating in the complete BOLT experience, I am confident that I will be able to gather courage and security to become a leader and agent of change, and by creating meaningful bonds with my fellow BOLTers, I will envision and embrace different ways to approach individuals to create relations built on trust and solidarity. It will inevitably catalyze the disintegration of this shell that confines me but that is bound to break soon.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: As part of my goals for personal growth, I am very eager to interact with more people of diverse backgrounds to become a more approachable and outgoing person. I aspire to learn how to connect with others through empathy and the understanding of the context of their beliefs. This is crucial for me, owing to my desire for returning to my country of origin and organizing communities to activate the economic motor of Puerto Rico once again. In the context of my BOLT group, this would be pursued through efforts that I previously had not undertaken. I would seek more-than-superficial relationships with all the group members, I would be more open while presenting myself and talking about myself to others, and I would endeavor maintaining contact with the group after the trip and the semester of BOLT activities ends. These are targets I will hold myself to in order to shed my fears of communicating with others and to become a more active citizen and leader. Following this experience, I would like to recognize that I have matured and acquired analytical skills allowing me to view issues from alternative perspectives, and that this will enable me to explore solutions to pressing concerns with a holistic mindset.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Gabrielle  
Preferred Name: Gabby  
Last Name: Santas  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-01-24 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : BOLT is an incredible opportunity to both get in touch with myself and also deeply connect to those around me; I felt these practices were lacking in my freshman year. On an individual level, I feel the most myself outdoors. I grew up going to summer camp in Yosemite, California, where I learned to love hiking and backpacking. I think specifically because of this experience, much of my identity and positive sense of self has grown out of my introspection and experiences with others in the “wilderness.” I also feel connected to people on the “realest” level in the outdoors. Further, not only do want deeper connections to people, but I crave another form community on campus.  
  
I feel really connected to the earth, and I appreciate BOLT’s practice of low impact camping, and focus on environmental ethics. The Jewish value of “Tikkun Olam” -- literally translating to “repair the Earth” -- means a lot to me. I take this value to heart, and am reminded every day to take care of the Earth for myself and others. Backpacking is an important experience in practicing this.   
  
In general, I find BOLT’s mission of self reflection and self improvement throughout the semester extremely appealing -- I continuously attempt to reflect to increase awareness of myself and how I can better the way I exist in the world. This is especially important after my first year experience; I strive to assess my strengths and weaknesses and create new goals for my education and experience at Brown. I look forward to a chance to do this.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Freshman year was very overwhelming in that I just met a lot of different people. I feel like this caused me to reassess the way I have defined myself as a person for the last 19 years. I find myself constantly worrying that I am not being “true to myself” or that I have somehow forgotten or lost what that even means. My goal for the upcoming year is to break down walls between myself and others, and in doing so, begin to regain a positive familiarity with who I am. I believe the community that BOLT creates through the fall trip and events and workshops throughout the semester will help me accomplish this through self reflection/improvement and creating relationships with people.  
  
I value deep connections my friends; freshman year I wave high to a lot of people I pass on the main green, but I crave emotional relationships with those I surround myself with. BOLT creates a community of people with similar values. I believe backpacking is such a bonding experience that allows participants to break past these “walls” and get to know one another on a truly fundamental level.   
  
On both an academic and personal level, I would like to be more confident in my pursuits and sure of myself in peer groups. The reassessment of my own character that I previously mentioned has definitely translated to academics as I have trouble speaking up in class, and I question my thoughts as either “right” or “wrong.” I believe developing my leadership skills through BOLT will be incredibly valuable in overcoming these anxieties.  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: When looking through the BOLT website, I noticed that part of the program and discussion is dedicated to reflecting on different questions about the wilderness and how it relates to and affects different groups of people. As I previously mentioned, I grew up going to a summer camp attended my primarily white, Jewish individuals. Because of this, I haven’t considered other relationships to the wilderness for people that don’t fall into the categories that I easily slipped into as a child. Through my BOLT group, I would like to discuss topics such as who has access to the wilderness, and how individuals of different identities and experiences define their relationship to the wilderness. I hope that this discussion continues as I interact with people on campus, and that because of this I will be able to increase my sensitivity of the subject.   
  
I also hope to grow by opening myself up to other people and finding ways to connect with individuals who are completely different from me, which is something I have a hard time with in college. I look forward to the opportunity to find commonality, and grow through sharing personal values that connect me with other people.  
  
Broadly, I enjoy learning from others, and I think initially meeting individuals in this “wilderness” setting allows for an environment with little distraction other than getting to know the people you’re with. At Brown in general, I enjoy the diversity of the people I meet, and I am always really interested to know how different people think about things. Backpacking is such an incredible way to further this experience; I hope to talk to people and learn different perspectives from my BOLT group.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Kayla  
Preferred Name: Kayla  
Last Name: Scharfstein  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-05-28 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Over spring break this year, I went on a two-day backpacking trip in Zion National Park. Besides the occasional hike, I had never done anything like it before. I have always loved the outdoors, but the pressures of school and other responsibilities make it difficult for me to routinely experience the rejuvenating feeling that comes with being deep in the backcountry. Those two days backpacking were without a doubt two of the most rewarding days of my life. As an introvert and a self-described introspective and reserved person, I often have a hard time opening up to people. Within two days of backpacking, I was able to form close relationships with two complete strangers, a feat that does not come easily to me. Something about backpacking, perhaps the fact that everyone is exerting so much effort that they don't have the energy to be anything but themselves, facilitates the formation of a very intimate community, a community that I want to be a part of here at Brown. Though I am extremely excited about the backpacking aspect of BOLT, I am equally if not more excited about the prospect of forming lasting relationships with people who love the outdoors as much as I do.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My goals for the upcoming year fall into three categories: academic, social, and personal. My academic goals revolve around taking classes that I am deeply interested in and passionate about and maybe getting involved in some type of leadership position relating to my areas of interest. I think the BOLT experience could really help me to hone my leadership skills, especially as a relatively reserved person. I have held leadership positions in the past, but I have always felt like I am not the stereotypical polished, outspoken natural-born leader. I think that the BOLT community could help me feel more confident in myself as a leader, not only through leadership workshops, but also through just being there to back me up. My social goals speak for themselves; I want to be a part of a diverse tight knit community and I want to form lasting friendships. Coming from a relatively tiny school, I miss belonging to a small, supportive, defined community. As for personal goals, I would really like to spend more time in the outdoors in the coming year. I am hopeful that being apart of the BOLT community would encourage me to go on BOC trips that I have not taken advantage of this year.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: One of the main reasons that I chose to attend Brown was that I felt that here, more than at other colleges, the students love learning for the sake of learning. I have met so many incredible and inspiring people here already and I think that the BOLT experience facilitates learning from and engaging with people on a whole other level. I also believe wholeheartedly that backpacking is one of the most effective ways to bond a group of people from a range of identities and experiences. This bond is not a superficial one because backpacking requires us to be completely exposed in our exhaustive struggles to carry our heavy packs a few more steps. I crave to be a part of such a tight knit community. Another aspect of the BOLT experience that excites me is that it does not just end with the backpacking trip, but rather continues to facilitate meaningful friendships through activities throughout the fall. As of now, my close friends here at Brown are very similar to me–a majority of them are introverted and interested in applied math and computer science. I love my friends, but I would really like to get to know and form lasting relationships with people of very different backgrounds. I know that BOLT would help me to meet new, amazing, and inspiring people.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Dana  
Preferred Name: Dana  
Last Name: Schneider  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1997-10-27 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to become involved with BOLT because I find that I have already started to settle into the confines of the web I have created for myself here at Brown. I am incredibly grateful for the friendships I have made so far; however, I’m looking to push out of my sphere of familiarity and expand upon the genuine connections I have made so far.   
The outdoor aspect attracts me because I grew up spending a lot of time at my dad’s A-frame log cabin on the Ohio river—going for hikes, boat rides, and long walks around his property are some of my earliest and most formative memories. These experiences brought me closer to my family and closer to understanding myself. This may sound a bit odd, but I’ve always thought there’s something about socializing while being in bodily transit—whether it be walking, running, etc.—that allows the conversation to feel less inhibited and more authentic than it would getting to know the person/people while sitting in a coffee house or another fixed space.   
When experiencing the outdoors with others while pushing the physical capabilities of my body through exercise, I’m less likely to make superfluous comments or say things I don’t mean. I think this is because I associate nature with a sort of aesthetic sanctity that makes me more careful with my speech—it’s similar to being in an art museum or a church for me. I’m surrounded by beauty in nature and I don’t want to soil that beauty with ugly or superficial language. Plus, and probably more pragmatically, if I’m doing something physically strenuous, like hiking, I am only exerting the energy to say the things that are most worth saying.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My biggest goal for the upcoming year is to be more introspective. I’ve always considered myself to be a reflective person—I not only deliberate thoroughly before making decisions, but I also reflect heavily on the choices I’ve made. My first-year of college has challenged this natural tendency of mine because the pace of my life has accelerated so rapidly. College has been a time of rapid change and experimentation without much time for contemplation so far, which is not necessarily good nor bad, it just is. That being said, now that I’ve tried several different extracurriculars and begun to carve out a space for myself here at Brown, I want to begin to return to my introspective self and be conscious of the person I am so that I can ensure that it is the person I want to be.   
 The primary ways in which I believe BOLT can help me achieve my goal is two-fold: the hiking trip itself will yank me out of my bubble so that I can gain perspective and the weekly to bi-weekly meetings would hold me accountable. Getting off campus and into an environment unfamiliar to me will strip me of my accoutrements and the daily rituals that bring me comfort and distraction. For example, I won’t have time on the trip to peruse my Instagram feed for hours, lose myself in the mass humanity of the Thayer Street Starbucks, or indulge in a gossip session with my pals into the wee hours of the night. While I value these aspects of my daily routine and think they are healthy in moderation, I know it is important for me to have time away from them because they can ultimately serve as distractions from the internal parts of self that I don’t always like to deal with. In this way, I think the trip itself would serve as a valuable space of time for reflection before beginning the new semester. Additionally, the frequent meetings would hold me accountable for being the type of person I want to be by surrounding myself with people who most likely have similar goals to mine.  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope to learn and grow in my BOLT group by continuing to upend my conceptions of “normal” as based on my own experiences. I’ve come to understand that by asserting my own experience and narrative as the most common or “normal,” it creates the implication that my experience is the most valid and dominant narrative.   
 In my experience, the best way to upend these problematic conceptions of normalcy is to listen to the perspectives of others and become aware of lives other than my own. As I’ve previously mentioned, I think BOLT would be an incredibly conducive space in which to genuinely and openly hear and share perspectives.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Ella  
Preferred Name: Ella  
Last Name: Scholz  
Gender: female  
Date of Birth: 1999-09-22 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : When I was growing up my family and I never spent a lot of time in nature, and, when we did, I never really valued that time. That is to say that in my childhood I never felt a particularly strong connection to nature. Recently, however, that has changed. The past three years of my life I’ve experienced a lot of personal and intellectual growth, and because many of the intellectual problems I think about relate to philosophy, religion, spirituality, and humanity in general, I have an intense and newfound curiosity about my relationship to nature. I think that going on the Fall Trip will allow me to further contemplate on the spiritual value that humans have often assigned nature and to work better to understand my place in the world. I also think that the trip will be personally rewarding in that it will be physically challenging and seems like a great way to center myself before I start my sophomore year at Brown. Especially after coming back from the summer I think it will be helpful to submerge myself into a small and intense group environment which will surely prove to be a great community building experience. Ultimately, I see BOLT as a catalyst towards having an incredibly fulfilling sophomore year both intellectually and personally.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Next year I really hope to continue discovering my intellectual and spiritual passions and to deepen my relationships with people here at Brown. These goals seem attainable so long as I enter the year with a centered and balanced perspective on my life, my identity, and my place on campus. It seems that I missed out on a lot of opportunities this year in terms of building friendships or pursuing intellectual questions due to a lack of confidence in myself. I feel that the BOLT experience will provide me with the confidence I need to truly excel next year by giving me with an amazing opportunity to learn a lot about myself, my leadership style, my strengths, and by providing me with a community that will help support me throughout the year. Additionally, I’m positive that the Fall Trip will prove to be an introspective experience during which I will better understand my place in relation to nature and the world; that endeavor is important to me and directly relates to many of the intellectual problems I hope to pursue throughout my time at Brown. Ultimately, I hope that BOLT will provide me with the confidence in myself that I need in order to make the most of my sophomore year at Brown and to really find my place in my intellectual and social experiences in the next three years.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Appreciation for the aesthetics and healing powers of nature seems universal across the human experience, and yet people approach their relationship to nature from a myriad of perspectives and hearing about those perspectives will be one very rewarding part of BOLT. Additionally, I feel that being put in such a curative and out-of-the-ordinary environment with a small and diverse group of people will allow us to form bonds and learn to adapt to others’ leadership styles and personalities in a super unique way. Through BOLT I hope to be able to better understand how and why other people appreciate nature in different ways and how different people fit into and react in a small group setting. I think that this will help me place myself in the world outside of BOLT by providing me with an opportunity to analyze and experience how I fit into groups, how I contribute in situations that require leadership, and how I can help others achieve their goals through community effort. Additionally, overcoming obstacles and working in groups is always a great way to adapt my own leadership style and to evaluate what kind of attitudes and actions are helpful in getting a group to achieve its goals as a community and what kinds of attitudes and actions deter groupwork and communication.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Katya   
Preferred Name: Katya  
Last Name: Scocimara  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1997-12-10 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to participate in Bolt first and foremost to meet more people at Brown. This past year I’ve been on the crew team at Brown which has allowed me to make really deep connections with my teammates, but I often feel like I haven’t had the opportunity or the time to make friends with other amazing students at Brown. I think BOLT will give me that opportunity because they bring people from all different interests and backgrounds together who might not have otherwise met. I also want to participate in BOLT because I love the outdoors and camping. I have extremely fond memories of going camping with my parents and friends when I was young and I think there is no better way to bond with other people than getting away from modern society and out in the wilderness. Camping and hiking is also very reliant on working as a team in order to get things done such as cooking, setting up camp, and deciding where to go next. I would love this challenge of working together with a group to survive out in the wilderness and think it’d be a super fun experience.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My main goal for this upcoming year is to figure out my limitations and how I can do all the things that I love but not at the sacrifice of my mental or emotional health. I’ve struggled a lot freshman year trying to figure out that balance. There is so much that I want to do at Brown-- stay on the women’s crew team, be a mechanical engineer, study art, participate in clubs -- and I’ve found out the hard way that I can’t make everything work the way that I’d originally wanted it to. While I’m not sure BOLT will be able to magically solve this struggle to find a balance in all the things I love doing, I think that it will given me some time to reflect on what really matters to me and help me pick what I want to prioritize in my life. And it never hurts to talk and learn from other people and see if they have advice for me. Everyone at Brown is passionate about so many things and I’m sure that there are thousands of students going through the same dilemma of having too many interests as me. But I think seeing how other passionate people have been able to handle it and talking through it with them would help me a lot.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: As I mentioned above, this is the part of BOLT I like the most-- that we get to engage and work with Brown students from completely different backgrounds. This is so important to me because I can learn so much about other people’s lives at Brown and learn from how they’ve dealt with some of the challenges that college brings. I can also learn a lot about all the amazing opportunities and interests that Brown students can participate in that are completely different from what I’ve seen that Brown has to offer. Not only can I learn from others, but I think that I have a very unique experience to bring to a BOLT group. I’ve participated in team sports almost all my life and as such have had a lot of opportunities to take on leadership roles such as being team captain. The experience has taught me a lot about my own leadership and what strategies work best. I personally take an approach of leadership by example and often try to be someone who motivates and guides a group in a direction but doesn’t try to overpower or manipulate a group into doing what I want. However, I know that there are so many ways in which people can lead, even if they don’t have an official title and I think there is still a lot I can learn about how to be an effective leader.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Mark  
Preferred Name: Mark  
Last Name: Sejourne  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1998-04-24 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I would love to do BOLT because it seems like such a unique experience at Brown—and one that is truly beneficial to all its participants. I love being outdoors, and I recognize the special opportunity provided by such a trip (being active, outdoors, ‘unplugged,’ with a group of new people). I’m excited by the idea of meeting new people in my class—many of whom I might not cross paths otherwise. Aside from the leadership skills which BOLT fosters, I have heard great things about the stimulating conversations among groups of people with varied interests and backgrounds that have historically been brought together by BOLT. Further, the extended nature of the program and its community aspect seem like great assets for rising sophomores. More generally, I love that BOLT is constantly striving to better itself—a group that actively seeks out its own flaws and works to fix them is them is a very cool thing.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Some of my specific goals for next year include taking classes that I truly enjoy, continuing to find a good, healthy balance of work and fun, ~figuring out my concentration,~ etc (the classics). More generally, while my first year at Brown has been incredible and I have felt myself grow as an individual over these months, I believe that there is always room to expand, to keep growing. I think the opportunity to kick off my next year at Brown with BOLT would help me to realize all of these goals. Time away from everyday life, routines, and technology/social media helps to clear the mind and creates a fresh headspace. To be in such a new place, with new people, and challenging myself every day will allow me to get new outlooks and—hopefully—have an even smoother transition into my sophomore year.   
  
Beyond all of these goals which are somewhat specific to the upcoming year, I am always excited to meet new people, because I find that it is through my interactions with others that I learn the most about myself.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: In my everyday life, I tend to engage (and, naturally, learn from) people from all sorts of identities, backgrounds, experiences, and walks of life. I wouldn’t be the person I am today without the beautiful and varied people I have met over the course of my life. I am constantly seeking to confront privilege, learn about, and fight structural injustices—both those which act against me /and/ those which benefit me. It is in part thanks to these interactions and conversations that I have been able to truly embrace my own identity as a queer person. Though I don’t know that I can fully flesh out this point on paper, I mention this here as a testament to the importance of mixed perspectives. Since coming to Brown and meeting the openness and guidance of so many, I have found it within myself to grow and accept myself. Basically, I have already experienced great change as a result of the presence of a range of identities and experiences, and I see in BOLT an opportunity to /continue/ doing so while also being a contributor to that range.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Peter  
Preferred Name: Peter  
Last Name: Shanahan  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1997-10-19 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I see BOLT as a continuation of my interests, like the outdoors, physical activity, and bonding with others. I love the beautiful mountains of Appalachia but I have more often than not only enjoyed them from afar. I want to build friendships that extend beyond just what classes I have in common and instead are forged through an experience radically different from what college life usually offers. I want to gain a new perspective on things, whether it’s from a literal mountaintop or an enlightening conversation with a peer. I want to do BOLT because I want to see, feel, and live the experience that has made my brother, friends of my brother, and random strangers tell me that I have to try BOLT. I want that, whatever it is. There is so much that I have gathered from the people who gladly tell me about the program: the beauty of the hikes, the camaraderie, and the occasional embarrassing story that everyone still jokes about. And every time I hear of someone’s experience with a completely different set of people, I expect that it can’t possibly have gone as well as the last one, but always there is that happiness, nostalgia, and magic. I want that. That’s why I want to do BOLT.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My goals for the upcoming year are varied and often disconnected: I hope to expand my group of friends and meet even more people with similar interests; I hope to approach things with less previously held assumptions and learn more by doing so; I hope to draw more and create more; and I hope to live up to the expectations of my friends and family in ways that extend beyond just grades and academic performance. I see BOLT as catalyst for my aspirations, a place where my interactions with the leaders and fellow BOLT’ers can help me exceed my goal of friendship, crack open any shell of preconception that still surrounds my mind, and inspire me to be a more prolific and decisive creator in my path towards my concentration. But most of all, I hope that my peers will see something in me that perhaps I myself have not noticed, and that I can grow as an individual and help others perhaps find themselves in turn. Perhaps I have lofty expectations but judging by the stories I have heard from BOLT trips, inspiration is the least I could ask for. Regardless of what BOLT does help me with, I can only see it as just that: helping. If freshman year has taught me anything it’s that I don’t know exactly how much I don’t know. Sometimes its overwhelming and a bit scary, but friends and camaraderie are some of the best tools for dealing with adversity and I think BOLT might supply me well.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: My first year at Brown has already introduced me to more people from more backgrounds, identities, and experiences than I thought a single school could contain. I have listened to people talk of their families, communities, states, and nations and shared my own experiences as well. The knowledge that comes with different backgrounds is worth more than any class credit and my friends and I value each other for our different perspectives and individual takes on life. I expect BOLT would be no different, and if anything, even more open and sharing in its approach to personal differences, struggles and attitudes that every person possesses. I hope that other’s knowledge will become my teacher, and that perhaps my own history might serve to help another person in a similar manner. I don’t know what lessons will be learned, nor from whom we will learn them, but that is what makes the trip so important. There are things I might come to understand on BOLT that I could never begin to imagine if I didn’t engage with someone whose identity had given them a certain understanding. I have no doubt that everyone on the trip will have something of value to share, and that whatever it is it will lend a deeper bond to the group as a whole. I can’t wait to find out what it might be.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Sara  
Preferred Name: Sara  
Last Name: Shapiro  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-08-31 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I have always loved hiking and enjoyed spending time in nature, bonding with friends and challenging myself physically. Some of the best memories I have of my childhood include camping out in the middle of the Adirondack mountains, exhausted but perfectly content. Going backpacking has always been a dream of mine that I have never been able to realize, so participating in BOLT would offer me a great opportunity to fulfill that lifelong dream. I believe that participating in BOLT would also enable me to meet people in the sophomore class who I did not have the chance to meet this past year, bond with my classmates through the shared experience of backpacking and experiencing nature together, and make meaningful connections with the BOLT Leaders., all of which are incredibly exciting possibilities I also love the idea of being part of the BOLT community beyond the backpacking trip through the continued family group events offered throughout the fall semester and the community I would get to be a part of through participating in BOLT. Overall, I am looking to challenge myself, experience nature in a new and low-impact way, and make more meaningful connections with other Brown students, all of which BOLT would give me the opportunity to experience.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: For one, this upcoming year I would like to become more of a leader in various circumstances as well as improve my leadership capabilities in other circumstances, and I believe that BOLT would be the perfect opportunity to achieve and work towards such a goal through BOLT”s mission of working on such strategies as conflict resolution, effective listening, and reflection while stressing collaboration through group decision-making. I find BOLT’s belief that “everyone is a leader, can be a leader, and at times, must be a leader” to be especially important and inspiring, as I know that it is easy to feel inferior and overwhelmed at Brown, surrounded by so many accomplished people. I also want to challenge myself physically and experience nature to a greater extent, as I know that I am a happier, healthier person when I achieve these goals. Participating in BOLT would be a great way to clear my mind from the busy summer and set myself on a path of healthfulness that would be reinforced by the continued community events. I am also excited at the possibility of learning outdoor skills, as I have never received the opportunity to get such training and am very interested in the area. Additionally, I hope to continue to grow as a person, learn more about myself, and connect with a broader range of people at Brown. BOLT’s mentorship structure, and focus on forming peer connections, reflections on oneself, and year-round family events would all help me achieve such goals.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: As I mentioned in a prior response, one of the main reasons I want to participate in BOLT is to meet and connect with a greater number of Brown students. This past year I have met so many amazing, diverse, and interesting people, who I am now fortunate enough to call my friends. However, after transitioning into sophomore year I feel as if it will be more difficult to continue making these types of special connections with new people, as others will feel more secure and cemented in their respective friend groups and feel less of a need to broaden their horizons and branch out as they did in freshman year. Additionally, while at Brown during the academic year it is inevitable that everyone is swept up and consumed by academics and extracurricular engagements to the point that it can become hard to have truly engaging and meaningful conversations during everyone’s busy lives. But, given the opportunity to backpack and experience nature, I think that it would be far more conducive to connecting with others on a meaningful level. Overall, I believe that BOLT would be a great way in which to meet more people from backgrounds both similar and different to my own, who identify in diverse ways and have diverse experiences from which to draw upon. It can become very easy, at Brown, to simply stop engaging with people outside of established groups you have constructed, but, if I were accepted, I would eagerly look forward to learning about other participants’ backgrounds and identities and engaging with them about the unique experiences that have made each person who they are today.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Tara  
Preferred Name: Tara  
Last Name: Sharma  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-03-02 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I’m drawn to BOLT because I see value in moving through a landscape by foot. The pace of backpacking allows for sensory pause—for noticing detail, like the patterns of a tree’s bark or the color of light through leaves. The pace of backpacking also allows for pause in conversation, the space for deep listening, and the free structure for conversations to flow for hours. So often I find that I go about my day caught up in a reflective thought process that makes me feel the need to put words to experiences. I like the way that the pace of backpacking lets me leave that mindset behind, and brings me to a feeling of total presence, where I can get to know the people and landscapes around me without the need to intellectualize.   
I often feel the most connected to the people and landscapes around me when I end my days feeling exhausted after hours of a satisfying, meaningful experience. I feel confident that the relationships I’ve formed in the context of nature—whether backpacking, hiking, or growing and harvesting vegetables—are the ones that are the most meaningful and connective, and have given me space to grow. I trust that a shared experience like this one allows for a kind of mutual trust and experience flow that makes space to be vulnerable, to truly get to know others and to let yourself be known. I also think that the processes of forming connections to landscapes and connections to other people are deeply interlinked; if accepted to BOLT, I’d bring the same amount of care to relationships with my group members as I’d bring to the landscapes that we would be exploring together.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: I am still looking for my sense of place here at Brown. Over the course of my first year I’ve found myself oscillating between feeling oriented and lost, energetic and exhausted, lonely and supported, and feeling like brown is enormous and tiny. But though I’ve often found myself seeking stability, I’ve learned to lean into that feeling of disorientation, to trust that valuable learning happens in the process of working through what may initially feel uncomfortable. I also feel confident that I’d benefit from a intimate group of people who similarly want to both find a feeling of grounded-ness as well as push their comfort zone, who are excited to get to know each other and genuinely engage in meaningful experience, even after the initial energy of freshman year has winded down. BOLT seems to offer the ideal balance of comfort and risk, depth and unfamiliarity, the intimate and the expansive. I’m excited to push myself in the relationships I’d form through BOLT.   
Next year, I want to be more deliberate about finding that sense of place, which I believe I can best achieve by leaning into experiences that may seem initially unfamiliar or disorienting. I want to learn how to exercise my voice in the bigger rooms at Brown, where I often feel I lack a sense of place. I can envision how the strength of a connected, close-knit BOLT community could provide me a support system to pursue goals both big and small—from making art regularly, to deliberately forming friendships both with people that inspire me and fill me with positive energy, as well as those I wouldn’t expect to connect with, to taking academic risks, to reclaiming space by using my voice.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I see myself growing and learning within the inherent unpredictability of every new group of people, particularly in the context of nature, where challenges and risks often go unscripted. I’m drawn to the process of understanding an evolving group dynamic, as I know that groups strengthen in moments of working through unfamiliar territory and moments of doubt. I love the way that backpacking exposes you to a person’s complete range of energy and emotions; I’m excited about the possibility of experiencing others in full.   
 Lately, I’ve been struggling to bridge my identity as a woman of color with my passion for nature and the outdoors. I see enormous value in bringing voices of color into the environmental movement and outdoors scene that in this country has historically been dominated by white bodies, particularly white male bodies. Diversity of identities in the outdoors is key to bridging the unproductive divide between the environmental movement and other social justice movements. I’m especially excited about the policy that BOLT holds to create groups of people who don’t know each other prior to the trip—partially because I’m eager to actively reach through the social divisions that the first year of college constructs, and partially because I know that shared experience can help to de-stigmatize the expression of identity. I’m excited to be part of a safe, supportive space that makes room for voices of marginalized folks, and that champions the formation of relationships across differences.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Leo  
Preferred Name: Leo  
Last Name: Shiner  
Gender: male  
Date of Birth: 1996-11-23 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I was a first-year student at Brown in 2015-2016, but I took a leave for the past year and will be returning to Brown in the fall. Even though I loved Brown, my first year at Brown was a challenge for me. I was coming from a tiny rural school where I had been a student with basically the same 40 students since kindergarten and where I was known. I found Brown to be a bit overwhelming—everyone was so brilliant and talented! I also found the transition to be challenging because I have Tourette syndrome, and that made the heavy workload more difficult. I decided to take the year off to focus on my health and to become more confident as a student and person. I have been at home and taking courses part-time at Colgate University and have learned a lot over the course of the year. I have discovered a passion for learning Russian and other languages, figured out strategies for managing stress, and have started to get a sense for what I want to pursue in my life. So, I want to do BOLT because it would offer me an experience that would make my transition back to Brown more satisfying and successful. In fact, I learned about BOLT in spring 2016 from my team leader in the BEAM volunteer program, around the time that I decided to take a leave; I made a commitment at that time that I would apply to BOLT upon my return to Brown! BOLT is perfectly designed for someone in my situation because it offers sophomores and new students a way of becoming a part of a special community and because it provides a balance of challenge and support.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: I am excited to pursue several goals when I return to Brown in the fall. First, I intend to prioritize my physical and mental health. Over this past year on leave, I have made some healthy changes. I have started going running every day for the first time in my life (with my dog Sally at my side), and I have found that this regular exercise has helped me feel more in control of my life and more fit, both physically and emotionally. I love the idea of challenging myself by learning to backpack, build a shelter, and hike some steep mountains. I have done more casual hiking but have never had this kind of more intensive outdoor experience; I think that this will further strengthen my confidence in using my body. Second, I want to focus on building friendships and to become part of several communities on campus. I am going to be living in Tech House, and I will continue to be part of the Catholic community, but I hope to expand my social circle. I am attracted to BOLT because it offers the participants a chance to build a vital, warm community, especially because the program continues throughout the year. Third, I hope to grow as a leader at Brown. I was a strong leader in my high school and was voted “most likely to change the world” in our senior superlatives. But I want to grow beyond the leadership skills I had in high school and find a way to make an impact at Brown and the wider world. I am attracted to BOLT’s training in listening, reflecting, and working with team members, and I believe that this training and practice will help me find the best ways for me to be a positive leader.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I would relish a chance to hike with, play with, and learn from an inspiring group of fellow Brown students. As I mentioned, I grew up in a small town and attended a tiny rural school in central NY. Although the school was economically diverse and there was some diversity in ability and sexual orientation, in many respects my community was remarkably homogenous. I enjoyed the diverse range of people I met in my first year at Brown; I found it so wonderful after my more limited experiences growing up! BOLT would provide me with a chance to get to know a new group of people in a context where we need to rely on each other and work as a team. My own experience of having Tourette syndrome gives me a kind of empathy for other people, especially people who might feel marginalized or different in some way. I am eager to listen to other people and learn from their experiences and to share my own. I know that it can be challenging to fully understand the experiences of people whose lives are different from my own, and I think that the structure of the BOLT program will help all of us make progress in this. I want to learn how to be supportive as I can to my fellow BOLTers and to create a community that will help all of us flourish on the trip and during our time at Brown.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: As having a disability (mental, physical, etc.)

First Name: Eli  
Preferred Name: Eli  
Last Name: Silvert  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Sometimes we experience moments of takeoff. One thought germinates out of a restless mind and sets off a cascade of new thoughts. An internal, or sometimes external, dialogue ensues. I feel most alive in these moments, when ideas are fresh and before they dissipate into the familiar.  
  
For me, these cathartic moments of creativity, problem-solving, or feelings of connectedness come when I’m doing something physical--with nature as the backdrop. I realized this during childhood bike trips with my dad. For about a week during most summers, my dad would take me on a bike trip. He liked biking, but what he really wanted to share with me was the empowering and comforting feeling of being self-reliant in the middle of the woods or lightly-traveled old New England roads. Since then, we have biked from CT to Toronto, Montreal, and Cape Cod. I have gone on a few smaller trips on my own or with friends.  
  
I try to do a trip like this at least once a summer because I enjoy stepping out of the normal routine to be out in the woods or on quiet, unfamiliar roads. The change in environment and pace make me feel on vacation--separate from the worries of normal life--as I enjoy a different perspective and mindset.   
  
I hope to explore nature on a several-day trip specifically through BOLT because this type of experience has aspects that I could not find on a self-made trip. Most important to me, backpacking with BOLT will let me experience this “vacation” with my peers--people I can converse and connect with. I will have the chance to share in those exciting and stimulating “moments of takeoff”. Away from external forces and other priorities, a BOLT trip is an ideal context to make good friends and to have wonderful conversation. This aspect of the trip appeals to me even more because it is easy to keep these friendships alive during the academic year, as BOLT retains its feeling of community and connectivity once we get back into civilization and on campus through frequent gatherings and fun activities (trips to the Lincoln Woods, rock climbing gym, and apple picking have already peaked my interest).  
  
Although this response is getting long, I must mention my excitement for learning how to make a shelter for my answer to feel complete. I like the fact that this experience is going to be difficult. This feeling of uncertainty (of where exactly we’ll be sleeping, what the weather will be like, are we going to survive?!, etc.) will make us closer as a group and make it feel like we are all sharing in a common experience.  
  
BOLT is unique and appealing to me because it is a shared learning experience with potential friends.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: So far I have a few goals for this upcoming year. I am currently in the process of creating a “freshmen family gathering” program with my friend Asher Lehrer-Small, which we plan to offer to about 120 freshmen next year. My hope is that this program is a success, and I believe that an experience on BOLT backpacking trip would help make this hope come to fruition. We’re making the program because after some reflection on our early first-semester selves, we realize that there were times we felt somewhat isolated, or simply not as connected as we had felt in our established friend groups from childhood and within our family units. Simply put, we felt like we were in a transition put--which obviously was the case. We feel we can ease this transition by making a space for freshmen to feel comfortable sharing openly about the joys, difficulties, insecurities, and feelings of everyday life. Asher and I are organizing this program and will be two of the facilitators of group gatherings. One large aspect of BOLT is leadership--learning to be an effective leader and experiencing what good leadership feels like. Because the we will all be experiencing something roughly similar (physically), empathy will come naturally. This shared experience will help us lead each other and feel embedded in our community. I expect that many of the leadership skills that I would learn on this trip will be applicable to my facilitator role in the freshmen family gathering program, and thus help me make everyone there feel included, comfortable, and connected.  
  
Beyond this very tangible way that BOLT would help me achieve my goal of being an effective facilitator, I think BOLT will help me feel more in control of myself and my life going into the academic year, or at the very least more at peace and in touch with who I am. It is always my goal to feel in control of myself and my direction. Going on a backpacking trip prior to the start of school I believe would set me off in this mindset, which will help me greatly as I declare a concentration, continue exploring, and make the many decisions that come with sophomore year.  
  
Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, I hope to become more environmentally-conscious throughout my time at Brown. I feel I’ve always had some degree of awareness of my footprint on the environment, but I hope to become more aware and active in minimizing this footprint. Backpacking certainly has less of a negative effect on the environment than living in a dorm or in a house, and thus will help me achieve this goal. But I predict BOLT will help me achieve this goal in a more lasting way. Some like-minded individuals will be on BOLT trips/community. Naturally through conversation and being around each other, they will help me move towards my goal of becoming more conscious of the environment and our effects on it.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: A large part of why I was so attracted to Brown initially was the diversity. I wrote in my supplement essays that being surrounded by people with different backgrounds, experiences, and identities would lead to stimulating conversation and ideas that could never be thought by a homogenous group. I full heartedly believe this, but since a lot of my time at school I spend working alongside academically-focused STEM concentrators, sometimes I feel like we share a lot more similarities than I expected and engage with our differences on a somewhat infrequent basis. While I do not feel we should focus on how different we all are, I do feel these differences should be engaged with, as this undoubtedly aids individual and group learning and growing.   
  
I believe that being away from problem sets, projects, and courses will provide a context to dig deeper-- past the drive that we all share--and connect on a deeper level. To get to this level, I think we’ll have a different conversation than I might have over coursework. Although it is hard to say, I think we will learn from each other and about each other, and connect on this basis rather on the basis of courses. I have certainly made a few of these deep, personal connections at Brown, but I am hoping to make more of them through this trip. This type of friendship--the type that isn’t dictated by surface-level similarity or convenience but instead by a deeper connection that comes from conversation and group-exploration--is one thing that I hope grows out of my BOLT group. In this way, I hope to connect with people beyond my courses and my background, and make friends that share a different experience from me.   
  
I have found that my best friends challenge me and make me think. I am attracted to this type of connection. This is one reason why I like to interact with people that aren’t all the same as myself, in terms of their identity, values, or passions. While I don’t want to set expectations for what I will learn from these types of interactions, I do expect that I will learn something which will broaden my perspective and improve my ability to understand and empathize. This skill of empathy is very important to me, and it is one thing that I hope this backpacking trip continues to develop within me.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Dhruv  
Preferred Name: Dhruv  
Last Name: Singh  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1998-03-08 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : In the days after my hike in the Himalayas, I knew I had made friends for life. Going into the trip, I only cursorily knew my fellow group members but after eight days of monsoon rain, one drowned mule, and a lot of off key singing, I had created everlasting bonds. Unfortunately, many of those friends are away at university as well. Through BOLT, I’m hoping for a similar experience of bonding, where I will be able to meet my peers in an uncomfortable setting, and, through shared struggles and success, come to create strong relationships. What’s more, being able to have this experience as a college student, as opposed to a sophomore in high school unsure of who I was, I think I will be better poised to tackle the challenges we may face. Since BOLT’s community continues throughout the year, I will be able to have a support system around me that is unique to me and to which I can share a special connection.  
  
Through BOLT I hope to be able to reinvigorate the lessons that I learned in the Himalayas, namely that through teamwork and self-belief, a lot can be accomplished. Finally, I hope to learn a little more about myself, a process that will allow me to grow.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Throughout high school I was a part of an organization called YouthLEAD that inspired and mobilized youth leaders to reflect upon their values and beliefs, connect with others across differences and act together to address local and global change. As a facilitator and leader for this group, I had countless opportunities to push beyond my own personal experiences to see those of others and to see how these experiences shaped their world view uniquely. I engaged across differences in both difficult and enlightening conversations and formed deep friendships because of it. During my first-year at Brown, I have felt myself missing a community that seeks to encourage its members to step outside their comfort zones regarding relationships, to form bonds with people who may be superficially very different. My goal for my upcoming year is to once again be a person who does that. I think BOLT creates a special environment through facilitated dialogue and shared experience that allows for that type of bridge building to take place. Since the community persists formally throughout sophomore year, these bonds will have the chance to grow and strengthen in a safe space, allowing for, once the program ends, friendships that will be unique and wonderful.  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Adversity brings out people’s true nature. This is an exciting phenomenon because it allows for all members of a group to be their most authentic self. I hope to, in my BOLT group, learn about not only the authentic backgrounds of my group members and how these stories shape the lenses with which they see a situation, whether it is one faced on the trail or in the classroom, but also how my lenses shape the way I interact with people of all walks of life. I hope to grow into a person who can genuinely acknowledge the unique baggage that everyone carries into any interaction and, even if I cannot understand a person’s worldview, be able to respect their position and their truth. Furthermore, I hope to become a better listener in my BOLT group. Since our groups will purposefully be diverse and filled with people whom I will not know very well, I will have ample opportunity to absorb everyone’s stories, a rare chance that I hope will allow me to further develop as an active listener without an agenda, who is present, in that moment, only to appreciate what those around me have to say.  
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Joon  
Preferred Name: Joon  
Last Name: Sung  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : The acronym that BOLT stood for caught my attention when I first heard about the program. The last two words in the title of the program made me think differently about leadership. Before, I had always thought that leadership was something that a person was born with or simply did not have. I would like to participate in BOLT because it is an inclusive and open community, allowing me to feel more confident. With self confidence, I would be more likely to participate in group activities and push myself out of my own comfort zone. BOLT will teach me the many definitions of what it means to be a leader, and hopefully with the knowledge, I can take action to inspire myself and others to become leaders in their communities.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: For my sophomore year, my biggest goal is to inspire and lead Brown's swim and dive team to take the next step in order to move up in the Ivy League and to change the team culture and atmosphere. This past year was my first season on the team, and I came in with the expectation that the team would have been more established with traditions and such. However, the coaching staff is relatively new, meaning that each current member of the swim and dive team plays an important role in changing the team's attitude towards the sport. Another one of my goals is to become more involved in the Brown and Providence communities. In high school, I spent a lot of time swimming and studying, and I came to Brown with the motive of taking advantage of all that Brown has to offer its students. The BOLT experience would play a crucial role in changing how I approach my position on the swim team's leadership council. It is my hope that I can take all that BOLT teaches its groups and apply what I have learned in order to better both myself and the swim and dive team through collaborative leadership. With BOLT's help, I hope that I learn more about myself and find it within me to try out new things that I never would have thought of attempting once I hit Brown's campus for my second year.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I have spent 18 years of my short 19 year life in sunny Los Angeles, California. I was lucky enough to have parents who invested most of their income into a private education, and with the help of my high school's funding, I was able to attend a private institution. I attended a single-sex, Jesuit high school, and the community was very diverse. It helped that I lived in Los Angeles, a major melting pot city. Even with LA's diversity, I realize that there is much more to see and to learn, and this is also one of the biggest reasons why I looked at Brown University. The fact that each BOLT group and the BOLT community as a whole includes people from various identities and experiences excites me because that then means that I have so much to learn from these new people that I would have otherwise never met. I can see myself learning a lot simply from listening to stories or past experiences that people in my group have had. This will give me a chance to work with people who might think through certain problems differently from myself, and in order to come up with the best possible solution, it will be up to the group's ability to make full use of everyone's talents. I hope to make mistakes with my BOLT group only to learn and grow from them, and with the group members helping each other out, I hope to foster new friendships that will help me get through the rest of my time here at Brown.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Kyra  
Preferred Name: Kiki  
Last Name: Svoboda  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I grew up in a community that valued the environment and was right on the edge of the Rocky Mountains, and I spent many weekends skiing, snow shoeing, hiking, backpacking, and mountain biking. Moving to a city has made it difficult to continue with those activities, and I would love to have the opportunity to return to them while forming new relationships.   
 I spent a month two summers ago on an extended canoeing and backpacking trip with 10 other students, that focused on teambuilding, leadership, and service. Over half of the students had come to the trip through a program that exposed kids from low income communities to the environment. I found that I learned an incredible amount from these students who had lead very different lives from my own, and I also gained insight into my own skills as a leader. I was recommended for an intensive leadership trip through this same program the next year, but I was unable to attend due to financial constraints. I found that living outdoors increased my ability to form meaningful and lasting connections with students that I had only known for a short time, and it was an extremely rewarding experience. I would really enjoy the chance to further my leadership skills, particularly in this environment of a backpacking trip.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My major goals for next year are finding a way to get more involved with the environmental/outdoor groups on campus, because I’ve missed that this past year, and BOLT is a program that would help me stay connected with that part of my life through my time at Brown. I am passionate about protecting the environment and working to stop climate change, but I’ve found that the academics at Brown aren’t particularly oriented towards studying ways to address climate change. I think BOLT would help me connect with other students who share similar values regarding the natural environment.  
I am also hoping to learn to be more assertive, in my classes and my relationships, which I think has to do with me wanting to please as many people as possible. I know, intellectually at least, that being a strong leader naturally means that not everyone ends up happy, and even if this issue isn’t addressed on my BOLT trip, I think further leadership training would help me understand better that pleasing everyone is not a feasible goal and help me grow from this.  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I volunteer as a teaching assistant in a local high school, where 70% of the students come from household below the poverty line. Usually, the most important thing I can do for these kids is be someone who supports them, who believes that they have as much of chance to succeed and shape their future as I did. I spend most of my time encouraging them, cajoling them into doing their work, encouraging them to ask questions and care about the opportunity their education gives them.   
A few weeks ago, I told one student that he needed to learn math so he could get better grades now, to then get a better job and make more money, the most straightforward answer I could think of to “Why do I need math?”. He promptly told me that coming from a low-income, minority neighborhood, he had very few opportunities, and it was easier to just become a drug dealer rather than work and struggle on the path to success through school. It sounded ludicrous to me at first, but he was being completely honest. My gut reaction was to yell at him, explain that drugs perpetuate the cycle of poverty and inequality in his community. But I didn’t know how to communicate that to a sixteen-year-old boy, who had only one person in his family graduate high school and saw no future for himself. I couldn’t understand what it was like to come from those circumstances, and it felt inappropriate to place on him the same expectations I was raised with.  
 I blustered through an answer about that being illegal, dangerous, and a bad choice. However, I was reminded that there are communities that I cannot hope to affect change in if I don’t understand their values and the challenges they face, whether it’s removing drugs, improving education, or addressing climate change productively.  
I hope to learn how to better understand communities that I’m not personally familiar with through my BOLT group, to better appreciate the circumstances of many of students that I work with and to help move them towards a brighter future. Additionally, I believe this will help me devise ways address climate change by including different communities.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Lona  
Preferred Name: Lona  
Last Name: Tehrani  
Gender: Female   
Date of Birth: 1998-03-05 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): brand new transfer - starting this fall  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : BOLT reminds me of one of my favorite childhood cartoon characters: Dora the Explorer. I have always admired her zest for life and interest in exploring new places. She is spontaneous, ready to take on the world, driven by her own inner compass, and extremely inquisitive about her surroundings. Similar to Dora, I have always tried to be autonomous and embrace my own unique thirst for the world around me. I love going on day hikes to take in new views, have a passion for traveling the world, and enjoy being around others who crave adventure and new experiences.  
  
So why do I want to do BOLT?   
  
Honestly, I want to be like Dora. I want to disconnect from technology, take my backpack (with my monkey), and hit the mountain without a care in the world. Although I have never been camping, I know that with much effort and support from others, I can adapt to a new and challenging environment. I have always dreamed of immersing myself into the wilderness; in fact, what amazes me about nature is how grounding it can be, despite all the chaos that may be happening in the nation and furthermore, our personal lives. Nothing is too trivial or too big to interrupt its tranquility.   
  
Like Dora, let’s all discover the beautiful world and connect on our mutual dedication to improving ourselves and the society in which we reside.  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Having spent my first year of college at Barnard in the hustle and bustle of New York City, this upcoming year I hope to take life a little slower, develop my leadership skills, question my beliefs, and truly get to know myself. BOLT is the perfect way for me to start off my Brown experience: out in nature.   
  
As someone who has been actively engaged and dedicated to my community, I would like to build a family of people who are also interested in personal growth, eager to formulate authentic bonds with each other, and ready to take on leadership roles. The idea that I can belong to a leadership group on campus reassures me that starting my sophomore year of college at Brown will go beyond academic aspirations and goals. BOLT will allow me to meet students who are similarly willing to challenge themselves physically, emotionally, and mentally. Thus, through this program, I see myself tapping into lifelong friendships and opportunities that will be cultivated while attending Brown. Since BOLT continues throughout the year, I envision making it a consistent part of my Brown experience and even hope to one day be a BOLT leader. I would be honored to consider myself a part of the BOLT community.   
  
Ultimately, then, I envision BOLT as a journey through which I can foster aspects of my own identity that are still evolving, as well as encouraging and empowering others to embrace who they are and sincerely get to know them.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Three years ago, on the second night of the Student Diversity Leadership Conference, after listening to the stories of my peers’ deepest struggles, I mustered my courage and stood up in front of the 1600 attendees of the conference. As tears flowed down my cheeks, I shared the loneliness, sadness, and guilt I felt when my older brother developed a severe eating disorder and such depression that he ended up being admitted to the psychiatric unit at UCLA several times.   
  
As I headed back to my seat, I saw everyone’s hands go up in the universal “I love you” symbol. I was enveloped in warm hugs. I then realized that my vulnerability had connected me with this loving community in a meaningful way. Never before had I laid myself open to others with such painful authenticity. By being willing to push past my fear and share my intimate feelings, I joined a community of genuine people.   
  
I also hope to be vulnerable and emotionally attuned at BOLT. As someone who strives for compassion and tolerance, I intend on building a community of trust and understanding. I have a desire to learn from, develop bonds with, and grow with BOLTers from different backgrounds. Being an American Persian Jewish student has increased my sensitivity to and curiosity about students across a wide range of cultures. As such, I welcome a chance to learn about where others come from and how their outer worlds impact their innermost dreams. Through BOLT, I will join a dynamic environment, where I can exchange ideas with people who share my same passion for exploring.   
  
I am excited to get out of my comfort zone both physically and mentally by exploring nature, cultivating new friendships, and experiencing the present moment with nothing but the people who surround me.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Parisa  
Preferred Name: Parisa  
Last Name: Thepmankorn  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : In 3rd grade, I went camping with my girl scout troupe for my first (and only) time. My parents are both averse to anything that requires unnecessary discomfort, and so camping had never crossed their mind – until, of course, the entire troupe planned the outing. From that one experience I fondly recall a multitude of positive memories. However, I haven’t the chance to go camping or do many other outdoor activities like hiking since then, mostly due to my parent’s dislike for the outdoors. So, when I learned about BOLT, I was extremely excited. I thought to myself, what could be better than bonding with my new college friends through outdoor activities? Although I had heard about other college’s outdoor leadership programs, I wasn’t aware (until recently) that Brown had one as well. Besides simply bonding with other first-years, I have always believed the outdoors to be a great way for people to gain valuable skills in teamwork, responsibility, resolving conflicts, and growing in character. I understand that participating in BOLT will not be particularly easy, but it is a challenge I am eager to tackle with my newfound friends (and acquaintances) from Brown. Furthermore, I think BOLT would be the perfect way for me to start of my sophomore year- to reflect on the ups and down of my freshman year, to prepare myself mentally for the start of a new (and likely, more difficult than ever) semester, and to learn more about myself and my peers. BOLT sounds like an incredibly unique opportunity I would love to take part in.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: The BOLT experience begins with the Fall Trip, and continues with community events, mentorship, leadership workshops, and other activities through the fall semester.  
One of my main goals for my sophomore year is to get more involved in the general community, or at least my class, at Brown. The current activities and organizations I’m involved in are great, but they lack the sense of a larger community and group bonding I’ve been hoping to find on campus. I think BOLT is the perfect answer to what I’ve been looking for, as it seems like it will allow me to find my place within a larger group dynamic. In addition, I want to gain more confidence and become a better leader. In college, at least so far, I’ve found that teamwork and group work is not that prevalent. The greater focus on individual work and growth has been great, but I’ve always wanted to grow as a leader as well as an engaged group member who is not afraid to contribute and speak her mind. I think that BOLT will allow me to accomplish both of these goals through being the “leader of the day” as well as simply being a part of a hiking group. And finally, one of my goals for the upcoming year is to try more things outside my comfort zone. Going on an outdoors hiking/camping trip as I would with BOLT is something I wouldn’t normally do. After BOLT, I already know I’ll feel as though other daunting tasks won’t be too hard to tackle. Although I definitely have a degree of apprehension about the trip, I am for the most part excited to do something that will allow me to push my normal limits, grow as a person and a leader, and get more involved in the Brown community.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: One of the things I’ve enjoyed most about being at Brown are the people I’ve met – the very cool and very diverse people from all over the world who have something new and interesting to say or share. Participating in TWTP this fall was definitely an eye-opener for me; though I had seen the stats, I hadn’t been able to fully appreciate the diversity and the varied backgrounds of all the people who would become my classmates. I was pleasantly surprised – and of course, extremely interested – to learn about the differences between how others spent their lives prior to Brown, as well as the multitude of identities of other people. However, as time passed and classes started, I found myself meeting less and less people (and simply greeting people I didn’t know rather than actually getting to know them) and sticking to the same group of friends. I think BOLT would be an amazing way for me to again experience the engaging with people of all different backgrounds and identities that I experienced earlier this year. Personally, I hope to keep expanding my horizons through things like BOLT so that I can become more cultured, aware, and knowledgeable. Through exposure and hearing about other people’s lives, I believe I could truly grow as a more open and accepting person, a more aware student at Brown, and a more understanding and responsible citizen of the world.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Miranda  
Preferred Name: Miranda  
Last Name: Van-Boswell  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1997-05-12 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I’ve always found the outdoors to be a conducive environment for making close friendships. I’ve struggled with this in my freshman year and am trying to put myself in places where I’ll meet new people. Having a BOLT group is particularly appealing because all my friendships here are very disparate, and I find myself longing for a solid group of friends. I see potential in the similar interests that would bring a BOLT group together.   
  
I am particularly interested in the Creative Group because I suspect it will connect me with people who are different from the kind I usually encounter in the outdoors. Coming from Hong Kong, I’ve been troubled by the homogeneity I see on the trails here, and I wonder if it’s because outdoor experiences are rarely paired with non-physical objectives, like artistic expression. Conquering nature or whatever can definitely sound intimidating, and would filter participants down quickly. I am curious to see what diversity artists like me can bring to the program and am also eager to meet others who are attracted to the idea as I have been. I also think BOLT would give me a really positive start to the year, and I love that the experience extends beyond the trip week.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Aside from what I mentioned above about fostering strong friendships, I’m hoping to find general stability in my sophomore year. My first year so far has been fulfilling and exciting, but upon reflection, for a lot of it I was absent and frenzied. Good starts are very important to me because of the mood they establish, and I think a week of art and friend making in the outdoors would be incredibly grounding and memorable. Furthermore, those two things (art making and friend making) are actually some of my biggest priorities in life though I’ve never attempted this through the lens of the outdoors before.   
  
Next semester will also be when I test the waters of being a VISA concentrator, and I sense a creative BOLT experience will start my year inspired. Whether I do choose that department or not, I anticipate making that decision could cause a lot of stress, and I want to minimize that as much as possible- having a positive support network like BOLT would be one way of doing so. I imagine that BOLT as an introduction to my sophomore year would establish a rhythm for me, the frequent reunions serving as emotional check ins. To serve and be served in a group like that is extremely attractive to me.  
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Being in the outdoors has always helped me to concentrate, and socially this makes a big difference. I know BOLT will give both me and others in my group a chance to introduce ourselves in the best way possible. I really hope to get the opportunity to be with other Brown students but away from some of the constraints you so often find on campus (what social groups you are already attached to, schedules that don’t jive, far apart dorms, etc).   
  
If I’m lucky to be a part of the regular BOLT group, I hope to learn skills like navigating the outdoors - I envision compass and map reading, or natural history knowledge. If I’m in the Creative Group, I hope to learn about a new way to engage with nature, to see it as valuable beyond offering me a physical and spiritual experience, but also as a guide in artistic expression. I am someone who is very affected by the people who surround me, and I know I’ll be observing the way other participants deal with this, who I’m sure will be very different from me and my approaches. Above all I think in the comfort of enjoying the outdoors in summer, it will be easier for me to both be myself and be moved by my group, artistically and otherwise.  
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Andrea  
Preferred Name: Andrea  
Last Name: Vega  
Gender: female  
Date of Birth: 1998-01-16 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : "I am large, I contain multitudes.”  
-Walt Whitman, Song of Myself  
  
Throughout most of my childhood in the Dominican Republic, family was the focal point of my life; because of this, I was taught that everyone around me was a part of me, just as much as I was a part of them. In my collectivist culture, I was always part of a whole; it made me realize the value of interdependence from an early age. Since coming to Brown, to the United States, since recent political events (at home and here), I’ve been feeling an increased sense of dislocation and thus, a significant disruption in my sense of community. My desire to take part in the BOLT experience stems from this feeling. There's an often-unexplored power in human vulnerability, in sharing your story; it has helped me heal, recover, and connect. Moreover, this sense of human vulnerability seems to be heightened by being in nature, in contact with the earth. For these reasons, I feel that the BOLT would provide a very human experience from which I would start the upcoming year with a strong sense of community and build on it throughout the year. BOLT would give be an opportunity to be a part of the whole again. To resist dislocation. To be grounded.   
  
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: I see individuality, as complementary and not dichotomous to community. I see BOLT as not just a medium for community building, but also a medium for building upon my individuality and leadership. For connecting with others, but also connecting with myself. I’ve never thought of myself as much of a leader, because I grew up in a place where women of color, especially quiet and introverted ones like me, where just not the image of traditional leadership. This upcoming year, one of my main goals is to being to think of myself as a leader, while also finding whatever that means to me, embracing my own untraditional way.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I’m especially interested in being a part of the people of color group. There is unparalleled value in interdependence and integration, but this is often conceptualized within a framework of harmonious coexistence. But this view of collectivism often erases systemic injustices and the value of differences inherent in diverse identities. I see collectivism, instead, as a support network where we learn from others’ stories and learn what our own story is in sharing it. I hope to learn and grow within that framework of support. I hope to learn and grow in ways to heal, in ways to help others heal; in ways to celebrate and empower myself and others.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Chiara  
Preferred Name: Chiara  
Last Name: Wadsworth Arellano  
Gender: woman  
Date of Birth: 1998-02-27 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I came into Brown not knowing much about where I saw myself heading in the next four years. I didn’t know what I wanted to study, what activities I wanted to do, what jobs I would apply for. The one thing I have known from the beginning, however, is that I wanted to do BOLT. BOLT came up in almost every conversation I had when asking older friends and mentors at Brown about their advice and favorite elements of the school. I have always felt happiest in myself when I am outside. My month long experience backpacking in the North Cascades was probably the best period of my life so far. Being outside makes me feel strong, grounded, at peace and powerful. Coming to Brown I’ve honestly had a difficult time being so disconnected from outdoor access during the rocky start of my college experience. I would love a chance to center myself in the outdoors before embarking on the next chapter of my college career. Beyond the desire to simply get outside, I am also hoping to make impactful connections with my peers. I have been seeking out meaningful relationships for the past year, and while I have met some amazing people, the scope of who I trust and feel most comfortable with is still quite concentrated. This doesn’t upset me, I know that I have to be patient and let these relationships flow naturally into my life. However, I do know the power of bringing people together with the common goal of surviving and thriving in the outdoors. It seems to serve as a catalyst for forming these types of relationships I’ve been searching for.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One of my main goals moving forward in my time at Brown is to continue to build a support network for myself. To me that means not only deans and professors, but peers and mentors and friends in all forms. This past year I have been attempting to balance my academics and general transition into college with some very emotional experiences. The month before coming to school my mom was diagnosed with terminal cancer. This has made the entire process of adjustment and opening up to new relationships a bit more difficult for me as I’ve been also trying to cope with this. I am a very independent person, and because of this I fared most of my first year here on my own. While I am happy taking time for myself and I do really think it is important to enjoy your own company, I also realize that I need to put effort into building relationships for the moments where I do need someone else to be there. I don’t intend to just spill my story and use BOLT as a therapy group. I’m really just looking for individuals I trust, people who make me feel like my truest self can come out, people who I can let my guard down for. And beyond just my own personal support, there is so much to be learned from every individual. Each person has such a dynamic and unique story, and each has something they can teach me. I hope that BOLT might be the first step in expanding my community here on campus and creating those deep relationships I mentioned in my previous answer.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I am super excited that BOLT has expanded its options to offer a specifically POC space! Coming into Brown from a predominantly white high school I was very excited to meet others who shared some of the underlying experiences of being a Person of Color in our society. One of the most amazing realizations I had upon entering these communities at Brown was how many similarities we were able to connect on, while still each bringing our own unique experiences of intersections with other identities. I was able to bond with other Mexican students and learn about what that identity had meant to them living in Texas versus my experience in California. I connected with other women of color, realizing that we shared many of the same oppressions and struggles in our relationships, in our journeys towards self love and combatting white beauty standards, and yet saw the unique nuances of what it means to be a black woman or an Asian woman or a gender queer Arabian woman. I see BOLT as an amazing opportunity to continue to experience this expansion of my circles, realizing overlapping commonalities in conjunction with all I can learn from others’ lived experiences. I hope that these interactions will help guide me in my own self reflection.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, First Generation / Low Income

First Name: Erica  
Preferred Name: Erica  
Last Name: Wei  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : BOLT never ends. The backpacking trip and the group activities in the fall eventually end, but the skills learned, memories made, and relationships cultivated during BOLT never end. BOLT claims to offer an opportunity for rising sophomores to reflect on their personal development, but I see BOLT as a stepping stone in my personal development. The idea that everyone has the potential to shape the experiences of an entire group is a powerful one to me. Such a sentiment is true for groups of all types and sizes, but it really makes a difference when you spend five entire days with a small group of people. BOLT truly emphasizes the collaborative nature of leadership – there is no leader without the support of the group. Leadership isn’t just about empowering yourself, it’s about empowering others, too. The best aspect of BOLT is the community of support. Everyone wants to be involved in something, and BOLT fosters that idea by creating an environment where everyone plays an equally important role in shaping the group experience. BOLT allows each person to recognize their own individual value to the group, and I think that brings out the best in a person. I think college, and even life, is about finding the best version of yourself, but it’s hard to get there alone. BOLT allows students to come together and help each other discover their best selves.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: I went easy on myself this year. I saw leaving for college as inherently stepping outside of my comfort zone, so I didn’t push myself too hard. I loved the new experiences I did try, and I wish I had more of them. Of all the decisions I’ve made, the ones I regret the most are the ones I made out of fear of the unknown. For my sophomore year, I am determined to put myself out there. I hope to meet more people, try new foods, join more clubs, and ask for help. I have already taken my first step towards my goal by applying for BOLT. The only thing I know about backpacking is that I want to try it. My approach to BOLT will be my approach to my sophomore year. I will be eager to meet new people, excited to learn new things, and enthusiastic in trying new experiences. Being a BOLTer will help guide me towards these goals because I’ll have already practiced these ideas during the backpacking trip. BOLT’s fall programming will also help me keep myself on track towards my goals. However, all of BOLT’s events are just programming. The BOLT community is what makes BOLT a true experience. Reaching your goals is a difficult process, but I know that with BOLT, I will have a strong, supportive community to cheer me on.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Through meeting people in my dorm, in my classes, and in my activities, I’ve met a wide variety of people with a multitude of experiences. However, I realize that the people I spend most of my time with are people with similar identities, experiences, and values. The times I have ventured out of my bubble, the people I met were incredible. They had experienced things that I never even knew were possible. Within my BOLT group, I hope to learn about all of the opportunities Brown, Providence, and the world have to offer. Meeting my fellow supercool BOLTers is only the first part. Because BOLT continues into the semester, I have time to learn more than just their short biographies. I can learn their challenges, stories, and aspirations. I can learn their authentic selves, and they in turn can learn mine. By learning from each other, we can all grow together. Growing is interdependent – an integral part of growth is understanding others’ experiences. BOLT groups facilitate growth by bringing together people from a range of identities and experiences. This growth is more comprehensive because of the many different people BOLT attracts. Depending on our interests, our discussions could span from Egyptology to health to sculptures. The beauty of BOLT is that you learn a million different things to grow in a million little ways. Little by little, I hope to learn and grow with the help of my BOLT group.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Jamison  
Preferred Name: Jamie  
Last Name: Wells  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1998-08-30 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I grew up in a household that put a strong emphasis and nature and its importance. Instead of most families vacations to resorts and hotels, we road tripped across the country visiting national parks and mountain ranges all across the country. We stopped at each and every one that we were able to find and made sure that we got the most that we could out of it before it was time to move on to the next one. Every year was spaced out with small hikes and outings here and there, ultimately just waiting for the big family road trip to come around once again. As me and my siblings grew up, this tradition became harder and harder continue. We got jobs, research, summer camps and school: all large commitments that prevented us from leaving for a month at a time. Finally, the road trips stopped all together and my family had to settle with little week long getaways to our favorite national park: Acadia. However, eventually, we ran out of time for even these as everyone seemed to be too busy. This leads me to the main reason that I would like to participate in BOLT: to rejoin a group with the primary goal of simply enjoying nature and its beauty. While my forays with my family into the wilderness may have stopped, my desire to be in nature has only grown and I hope that BOLT helps me to begin to satisfy this.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Ever since I have come to college I have struggled finding friends that share the same passions as I do. While I love the friends that I do have, I am deeply interested in finding a new community within Brown that places a much larger emphasis on the outdoors and is willing to take weekends off from homework to go hike or ski with me. I have already tried to find a group like this through Brown’s outing club but struggled in finding anyone that had this goal who I was also able to relate to. One of my brothers friends participated in BOLT and recommended it very highly to me as a route that I may be able to take in order to fulfill this desire of more “outdoorsy” friends. While I am still trying other methods and not placing my faith entirely in BOLT, I have a strong hope that through BOLT I will be able to find this exact community that I have been looking for.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: To add onto my answer to the above question, while I love my friends here, they, very frankly, happen to be some of the least diverse people that I have ever met. I have been attempting on my own to branch out of my comfort zone here in order to find a more diverse group to surround myself with. So far, I have been extremely unsuccessful as while I have made more friends, they all seem to be just as white and wealthy as the last. The reason I am so interested in making more diverse friends is because I understand that surrounding myself with people from different backgrounds will only broaden my knowledge and make me a more empathetic person. This is another reason that I am extremely hopeful that I will be able to join BOLT so that I will be able to expand my current group of friends to contain both people who show my love of the outdoors and are at the same time more diverse.   
I would like to apologize for my extremely terrible writing skills and hope that they do not prevent me from becoming a BOLTer. I am a math major and have not written anything of significance in over a year but would still very much like to join this community and hope that my lack of this specific skill does not prove to be a barrier of entry.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Sidi  
Preferred Name: Sidi  
Last Name: Wen  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : The first and foremost thing about BOLT that spiked my interest is the backpacking trip in the White Mountains. I love being outdoors, but due to the lack of resources, I have not had many opportunities to do so. Being around people of the same age as me who are also interested in the same things as me just sounds like such an amazing experience. Many of my friends are applying to BOLT as well and they are all such fantastic people, which leads me to think that the overall applicant pool will be filled with great people like them, and I would really love to spend five days backpacking with them and the rest of our years here at Brown with them.   
  
Although a trip in the White Mountains is alone an exciting enough reason for me to apply, the BOLT community is another reason why I really, really want to do BOLT. I have been urged by so many different people, my peers and current BOLT members alike, to apply to BOLT. The BOLTers all said that doing BOLT was one of, if not the best decisions they have made here at Brown. Everyone seemed so enthused about being a part of this community and I want to be surrounded by a group of passionate BOLTers.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One of my biggest goals for next year is to make more friends. Freshman year, the majority of my friends are limited to my residence hall and I would like to change that. I think joining the BOLT community would be a great way for me to find friends who share my interests. BOLT is more than just a trip to the White Mountains, I think it would also be good for me to immerse myself in a close-knit community throughout the rest of my years here at Brown. At this time next year, I want to feel in myself the passion and excitement that current BOLTers share for BOLT and go and spread that excitement.   
  
Another one of my goals is to be able to organize a backpacking trip for next Spring Break. This past break, I was unable to gather enough of my friends to form a group to go backpacking. If I do BOLT, I have no doubt that I will be able to go backpacking during my next Spring Break.  
  
I also would like to learn more about being outdoors. Throughout my years, I have not had many opportunities to go hiking or do outdoor activities in general. I think being a part of BOLT would be a really good way for me to be more comfortable with being outdoors and hopefully being a momentum of engaging in outdoor activities. I am trying to begin my outdoor adventures this summer by farming in a few farms in Spain. Doing BOLT would be a fantastic way of ending a summer of being outdoors and enjoying nature.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I am tremendously excited about the People of Color BOLT group. Growing up, I have always thought of backpacking as something very inaccessible because nobody in my community have ever done it, mostly due to the lack of resources and due to cultural differences. I think it would be a memorable experience to do something I love with other people of color who have perhaps shared the same experiences and me. I am interested in learning about other people’s experiences with outdoor activities without necessarily having the proper resources. I am also curious in learning how other people of color have begun outdoor activities if it is not something their community often engages in.   
  
I am very interested in the two workshops on Leadership and Communication, and Conservation on Privilege and Oppression in the Outdoors. I think these are very important conversations to engage in. To be surrounded by people of different identities and experiences from me in these conversations would be an especially valuable experience to have. Throughout the next three years, I hope to continue to grow and engage more thoughtfully with the world with the help of other BOLTers.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning), First Generation / Low Income

First Name: David  
Preferred Name: David  
Last Name: Wingate  
Gender: male  
Date of Birth: 1997-05-20 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to do BOLT because it's a combination of two things that are important to me: wilderness and human connection. I firmly believe that the best connections, friendships, and instances of teamwork that I have experienced have all come from outdoor adventures. Thus, BOLT seems like a natural extension of that philosophy. In addition, I think that it's easy to become complacent and staid in our social bubbles, especially at Brown. BOLT would provide an excellent means of getting to know new people.  
  
In addition, I would relish the opportunity to hone and refine my leadership skills. I thoroughly enjoy the challenges that accompany leadership, and I've found that the more experience I accumulate in that field, the more adept and effective a leader I can be. In addition, there's always room to improve in terms of being an effective follower, which is oftentimes even more important than being a leader. BOLT would give me the opportunity to do both.  
  
Finally, I just love being outside. There's really nothing better than a good sleep at the end of a long hiking day. What's more, outside of sporadic trips, I haven't yet experienced backpacking trips within the context of Brown. I think that taking an outdoor trip with the diverse collection of people that are Brown students would be a great time.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One of my main goals for the coming year is to continue to branch out and make new connections at Brown. As I've grown more comfortable here, I've definitely found myself sticking to what and who I know. Thus, I think it would be healthy and productive for me to make new connections, and BOLT would certainly help to do so.   
  
Another goal for next year is to be more organized. I love how the simplicity of backcountry existence allows for streamlined and effective organizational habits- I never feel so in control of myself and my belongings as when I'm living out of my 50L pack! However, I lose sight of that simple organization when the space between outdoor expeditions grows too long. I think that a backpacking trip prior to my semester would give my organizational habits the kick that they need.   
  
My final goal for the year is the same every year, and that's just to have fun. And for me, fun comes out of experience. Enter BOLT, a fun experience! I enjoy camping and hiking of most varieties, and have very little doubt that I would have a great time on a BOLT trip, both due to the scenery and the new relationships I would form.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Outdoor recreation is one of my biggest hobbies, and I love the community around it. That being said, one of the biggest issues with that community is that it's so homogeneous- most people who go outside tend to be affluent and white. It's an important issue, and one that we've been discussing a lot in Brown Outing Club. With that in mind, I would like nothing more than to experience the outdoors in a more diverse group than I have before. I've found that the strongest groups come together because of their differences, not in spite of them. Thus, I would be honored to be in a group with people of different identities and experiences.   
  
In addition, I would hope to grow in my ability to assist others in a way that isn't patronizing or condescending. I am fortunate enough to have a fair deal of outdoor experience, and I would be very excited to help others learn outdoor skills. That being said, I am cognizant that my role in a BOLT group would be as a participant, not a trip leader. Bearing that in mind, I would like to hone my skills as an 'approachable leader' if I may: someone who could lend assistance when needed, but in a low-key way. I think that this role, which is somewhere in-between a leader and a follower, is a niche one that can be integral to a group's success.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: None

First Name: Nina  
Preferred Name: Nina  
Last Name: Wolff Landau  
Gender: Woman  
Date of Birth: 1997-07-17 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to do BOLT to gain exposure to new people at Brown and build community. I have some experience with hiking, but have never gone backpacking or done a group nature excursion. I am excited about BOLT’s mission and structure that focuses on building the leadership of all individuals, providing space for self-reflection, and creating a supportive community for sophomores, transfers, and RUEs through the trip and continued engagement during the school year. I have met great people at Brown so far, mostly through Ultimate Frisbee and people in my dorm. I want to meet a diverse group of sophomores and start friendships with people I otherwise may not have met. Doing so through an outdoor trip that involves both individual and group challenges is a fun and valuable way to build the BOLT community, and I want to be a part of that. I am excited about the multi-level support and the way that BOLT continues into the school year through formal and informal gatherings, trainings, and activities. I also want to learn more about outdoor survival skills, the natural world, and the politics and power surrounding conservation and access to nature.   
  
I have a few friends who have done BOLT and have nothing but good things to say about the trip itself, the people they met, and the continued involvement with the program and the community. I know that BOLT cannot accept all applicants, but I really hope to be able to become a BOLTer and be part of the trip, continuing activities, and entire BOLT community.   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: For sophomore year, I hope to make new friendships, find new communities, and find a better balance between the different parts of my life at Brown. I also want to explore more academically and decide on a concentration. The BOLT experience would support all my goals. As a program that fosters community, I would build friendships with new people and be part of a community that can support me and all BOLTers through the challenges of Brown. The BOLT experience would help me provide support for other BOLTers and people in other communities at Brown. Developing my leadership skills through BOLT would help me in academic settings and in extracurricular activities. I have a wide range of interests and have struggled this year to find a balance between academics, extracurricular activities, and taking care of myself. As a better leader, I hope to commit fully to the things that are most important to me while being mindful of becoming overcommitted. The problem-solving skills gained from BOLT would help me achieve this goal. Most importantly, I would have my Family Group, BOLT Community, BOLTer Group, and 1:1 Leader relationship to help me navigate all parts of Brown, from academics to clubs to sports to social life to self-care. At a place like Brown where everyone is passionate about different things and constantly adding more to their schedules, I think the people and community structure of BOLT would help me make the best of my time at Brown and do so in a way that prioritizes building personal relationships and my well-being.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: By learning and engaging with a diverse group of people, I hope to grow as an individual—learning to step up and step back as a leader—and learn more about my role in the BOLT community, the Brown community, and the natural world. I hope to work on keeping an open heart and mind through building relationships with people who have different backgrounds and beliefs than my own, and continue to appreciate the value in every person’s individuality. I want to become more knowledgeable about the range of privileges, oppressions, and experiences that everyone possesses, and how these manifest differently depending on the community and the situation. I hope to learn more about the different ways people see and experience Brown, and how I can be part of positive change to make the BOLT and Brown communities radically inclusive.   
  
When I was younger, I often stepped up as a leader. I want to regain this confidence in my leadership abilities, while also remaining cognizant of times when I should step back. I hope to learn more about outdoor skills and ways to ethically engage with the natural world, as well as the different ways people understand and relate to nature. In my BOLT group, I hope to grow as a leader and grow as a friend who can support my fellow BOLTers through our shared experiences and personal struggles.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Christopher  
Preferred Name: Chris  
Last Name: Wong  
Gender: Male  
Date of Birth: 1997-10-28 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I was a Boy Scout in California with the rank of first class before I left because of the toxic community in which I found myself as the other boys matured. Since moving across the country, my love for the outdoors has waned as I became accustomed to a suburban life in flat, Northern Virginia. However whenever I would return to California I would always take the time to hike Wild Cat Canyon with my dog and I rediscovered my love for the beauty of the forests and mountains. Since coming to Brown, I have discovered a community that is accepting and supportive in ways I could not imagine. I want to do BOLT because I want to be part of a community that will contrast strongly with that of my experience in Boy Scouts. Exploring the wilderness alone, while a fulfilling experience, is not as enjoyable as it might be with a group of people who are truly caring and kind. My high school would take a group of students to a campsite for team building at the beginning of the school year. I vividly remember the almost-magical experience of laying in the grass with my friends, watching the milky way go by above our heads. That kind of camaraderie and love of nature is what I hope to find in BOLT.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: I hope to become more connected with the outside world next year and I think BOLT can help with that. I have stays solidly within the Brown bubble thus far this year. As a political science concentrator, I need an understanding of the outside world in order to affect change within it. However I feel that I cannot accomplish this without gaining perspective from outside of population centers. I must see other parts of the country in order to understand them. I think this will help me gain a fuller appreciation for the environment that I so often take for granted. Separation from the 24 hour new cycle will also help me understand those who do not read the front page of the New York Times every morning. I rely heavily on technology in my everyday life and I welcome the opportunity to step away from my constant connectedness. The opportunities to improve my leadership skills will also be essential to my future as I begin to advocate for issues I care about on and off campus, and as I attempt to understand our current political climate. As a first year, I have not had much opportunity to hold leadership positions at Brown and so the skills I developed in highschool have waned. I think BOLT will prepare me to take on more responsibility in the coming year. BOLT’s post-trip activities beyond leadership may also help me find a new community at Brown that lasts beyond the trip itself. I found myself making many friends during first year orientation who I did not speak to afterward. BOLT will help me make new friends and network with a more diverse group of people through my sophomore year.   
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope to learn how to better handle discomfort. Nature, while beautiful and vast, can be quite uncomfortable to live in for multiple days. When I began boy scouts I found it almost impossible to tolerate the lack of privacy and regular hygiene. I considered leaving after I woke up in a puddle of water during our first camp out. As I continued through Boy Scouts, my tolerance in the face of difficult environments grew. I fear however, that this tolerance has been whittled down by the convenience of urban life. I hope to test myself and my tolerance through BOLT. I feel I need to do this because being tolerant of strange and uncomfortable environments is a life skill that I feel I have not mastered. This tolerance extends to other parts of my life as well. In high school, I was one of the few liberals in a school that was very conservative. It was hard for me to form cogent counter arguments when discussing issues with my classmates because I would become very uncomfortable and not be able to process my thoughts clearly. As someone who hopes to go into politics, this is a still I simply must develop. In addition, there have been many times in my personal life where this skill would have been very useful. I will not always have the security of the Brown bubble and the comfort of like minded people. I therefore need to know how to tolerate foreign and uncomfortable situations.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning), As having a disability (mental, physical, etc.)

First Name: Emily  
Preferred Name: Emily  
Last Name: Yang  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-06-03 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : Hailing from Taipei, the bustling, metropolitan capital city of Taiwan, I came to Brown as a somewhat sheltered city kid about to exit her comfort zone for the first time and enter the fringes of “the real world.” A friend of mine often says that “we’re in college to do things, not to not do things." I’m here at Brown, a 15-hour flight away from home, to amass experiences beyond known thresholds and to consequently progress as a human, and I genuinely want BOLT to be one of them as it pretty much entails growth. BOLT would not only allow me to do things I’ve never done before (backpacking, hand myself over to nature completely, camping without adult supervisors, etc.) but also to meet select people with similar, proactive mindsets toward life. As my geographical reach expands through experiences like BOLT, I hope to expand my breadth as a person as well.  
  
As an aspiring writer and artist, I also deem it necessary to have an experience isolated from the social constructions and technological consumption of daily life (or should I say, meaningless quotidian existence? Lmao I’m kidding). As a fledgling in hiking and backpacking-related matters, I think I need some kind of extensive, organized experience outdoors (that is more intimate than my Middle School camping trips) in which I can begin to accumulate knowledge of and a touch for the outdoor life.  
  
Although I’ve developed a comfortable social base during this year, I am still in the progress of building a small community around myself. Almost everyone I’ve become close to at Brown has taught me a lot, whether it be academically, emotionally, or even philosophically. I’d really love to meet new, adventurous people through BOLT and understand more life experiences beyond my own.  
  
Lastly, I've never slept under an open sky before. I would really like to.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the   
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One of my primary goals for the upcoming year is to find/build an extracurricular community in which I feel like I belong. It took me a while during my first year to establish a social base of sorts and develop more confidence while meeting new people from there on out. I think the BOLT experience would help kick start in me a more outgoing mindset going into sophomore year.   
  
Going along with the theme of putting myself out there, I’d also like to get off my butt and explore Providence as much as possible next school year—in other words, I want to have fun outside. Although I’d like to claim that I’m a generally active person, it sometimes takes more than another busy friend’s occasional prodding to get me out there exploring life beyond College Hill. I believe the BOLT experience could help drag me outside throughout various points in the semester and just de-stress; I’ve been putting off ice skating and apple picking for far too long.  
  
Another goal, as I’ve touched upon in the previous answer, is to begin to understand myself as a writer and an artist (and maybe as a person in general). To do so, I think I need to occasionally distance myself from the busy cityscape that has characterized most of my existence. BOLT would provide an incredible opportunity to do so. Being out in the wilderness without any technology would allow more room for introspection, whether individually or joint, and, more importantly, it would provide some room to breathe before the hectic school year kicks off. I see this trip as a likely buffer in my understanding of the world and my own personhood.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: Back in the day, I wrote my Common Application essay about getting culture shocked by my own culture(s) when I began volunteering for a boarding camp in rural Taiwan to teach aboriginal children English. It turned out to be the best ten days of my life, and as it also turns out, I enjoy getting culture shocked. I would like to be schooled by my peers through learning about their experiences as humans and people of certain color and nations and sexualities and whatever it is that has shaped their humanity thus far. I’d like to expand my horizons by getting to know other people’s horizons, so to speak. BOLT presents a rare opportunity in which I get to be exposed to those who draw from drastically different experiences in the midst of experiencing common grounds with these very individuals.   
  
I grew up within a homogenous "bubble" of sorts, from which I’ve only recently escaped. As soon as I get comfortable, however, I feel a new bubble enveloping me. I want to pop this thing as much as possible. Given my lack of outdoorsy experience and the sheer number of students I’ve yet to meet, BOLT will pop this bubble. I’d like to get into the habit of exiting my comfort zone as much as possible; having a positive trek out of it through BOLT, I think, would work wonders in conditioning me to develop this habit. Getting to know people I’ve never met before will also be part of this trek outwards. It would be my second time doing so, since I attended the same school from third to twelfth grade.   
  
Ultimately, I’m open-minded about what I hope to learn. What I don’t know, I won’t know until I learn it. But I hope to be as receptive as possible to potential lessons, whether it be simple things like how to prepare meals out in the wild, or more complex matters, like developing a language through which I can bridge my own experiences and those of my peers.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Cindy  
Preferred Name: Cindy  
Last Name: Zeng  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1998-10-21 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : When I first came to Brown, I was nervous and terrified. But through pre-orientation programs, my transition to campus was characterized by warm and passionate mentorship. This made all the difference in my first-year experience. When I think of BOLT, I think of community, mentorship, and an environment of growth. I have always loved being outdoors, and I can’t think of a better way to start off my sophomore year than with a bunch of my peers in the White Mountains, engaging in intense bonding and leadership development sessions. Sophomore year is often a shaky time for everyone, and I would greatly appreciate being part of this supportive community. I’m also excited about post-trip BOLT life, as it seems that BOLT has a strong sense of community throughout the year, with frequent meetings and events. I want to meet more Brown students and get exposed to new perspectives and ideas and cool people, so I truly believe that the BOLT experience would be incredibly rewarding.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: One of my primary goals for the upcoming year is to step out of my comfort zone and meet new people. BOLT activities would push me out of my comfort zone, not only because we’d be backpacking through the White Mountains, but through the leadership development activities. Being part of the BOLT community would also allow me to meet students I might not have had a chance to talk to, and this social aspect is something I’m very excited about. First, because sophomore year would be much easier with this community, and second, because there is a lot I can learn from engaging with other students.  
Additionally, I’m looking to try new experiences in my sophomore year, and I believe that BOLT would help me step out of the constraints of traditional classroom education and discover a greater meaning and purpose behind my studies. There is so much that we can learn from outdoor experiences, and I’d like to open my mind to them.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I’ve always been very interested in people, their perspectives, and their identities. I hope to become great friends with my BOLT group, but I also want to have great conversations and walk away having broadened my mind.   
I aim to approach all interactions with an open mind, and sensitive/respectful attitude. I think there is something special about the open wilderness that makes people free, less confined, and better able to be their authentic selves. In this environment, important and real conversations can take place, and I’d appreciate the opportunity to be involved in them. Having these conversations within a safe and accepting space is very important to me, so I’d do my best to help facilitate a culture of respect by being sensitive to other peers’ identities.   
Within the BOLT program, a few steps away from the college bubble, I’m hoping to gain an appreciation and understanding of my diverse group of peers, and of my own place in the world.  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning)

First Name: Emily  
Preferred Name: Emily  
Last Name: Zhu  
Gender: None  
Date of Birth: None  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): None  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I want to do BOLT to push myself out of my comfort zone because I’ve never backpacked before but definitely want to experience this trip outdoors. I’m not an “outdoorsy” person by all means even though I do enjoy nature and find peace in scenery. I honestly have only camped once and it was for one night so I really want to learn how to set up a shelter and live outdoors. I feel like these skills are useful to have and I would like to expand my knowledge on things I’ve never learned about before. I always love watching shows like “Survivor” and “The Amazing Race” and hope to one day be adventurous enough to complete these. Through BOLT I would test my limits not only physically, but also socially and emotionally by meeting new people and becoming friends with people I wouldn’t normally meet otherwise. I tend to stick within environments in which I am familiar with so doing BOLT would really put me out of my element in the best way possible.   
  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: Some of my goals for the upcoming year involve becoming more active and involved in the Brown Community and exploring different interests. I think BOLT would really help me achieve these goals by helping me foster leadership skills while also gaining insight from other mentors and leaders in the program. I also really want to engage with more people that I haven’t met before as well as people with different interests from me and I believe through BOLT I would be able to make these connections and ultimately grow as a person. My freshman year I lived with some really amazing people and I’m very grateful for the friendships I have because of the people around me. However, because I always was surrounded by the same 10 people I wasn’t able to branch out as much besides other clubs and activities. Additionally my freshman year I didn’t really have a solid mentorship relationship with anyone and thus I would like to gain more advice and develop deeper relationships with my mentors. I hope through BOLT to grow my community at Brown and learn more about people from different backgrounds and walks of life.   
  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: From my BOLT group I hope to learn about different identities and unique experiences that I personally have never had. I hope to learn some useful outdoor tips and leadership skills from others in my group. If I can learn how to do one thing effectively whether it be making a fire or setting up a tent I will consider the trip successful. Additionally, I want to grow as a group member and hopefully learn ideals and goals from other people in my group that I might apply in my own life. I want to become more knowledgeable about struggles that others go through, and hopefully gain a new perspective as a result. Some of the most rewarding experiences I’ve had involved being on a cohesive team that worked toward a common goal. I’ve danced for most of my life and there’s no better feeling than performing with a group of people after spending countless hours in the studio on weekends. With my BOLT group I hope to grow even more camaraderie and unity that will last long after the trip is over. Ultimately I hope to find a community of people I can trust and have fun with on this adventure that I probably wouldn’t otherwise embark on.   
  
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color

First Name: Angela  
Preferred Name: Angela  
Last Name: Zhuo  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 1996-12-06 00:00:00  
In Fall 2017, I will be: (choose one): sophomore - one year at Brown  
1. Why do you want to do BOLT? : I love the outdoors and have been very active my entire life. Though growing up in a low-income community has limited my access to wilderness-related activities, I’ve always enjoyed hiking. There’s just something special about being out in nature. And BOLT is the perfect platform to not only explore the outdoors but also forge great bonds with people from all walks of life. I especially love BOLT’s unique premise and its dedication to empowering everyone to challenge the traditional definition of leadership through relevant outdoors activities.  
2. What are your goals for the upcoming year and how do you see the BOLT experience affecting them?: My goals for this upcoming year is to build more meaningful relationships and go out of my comfort zone. It’s sometimes difficult to maintain long-lasting friendships in college because of everyone’s hectic schedules but I want to make it a point to check in with people more often and establish stronger friendships. BOLT fits into these goals perfectly because it’s so much more than just a week-long wilderness excursion program. BOLT is about fostering an environment for people to develop meaningful friendships through teamwork and leadership. It’s a family that continues to grow and enrich our college journey throughout the semester as well.  
3. BOLT is about learning and engaging with people from a range of identities and experiences. With this in mind, how do you hope to learn and grow in your BOLT group?: I hope to both share my experiences and cultivate new ideas in my BOLT group. As a queer first-generation college student, my experience at Brown has been quite interesting. I would love to bring my perspective to the table but more importantly, learn from everyone in my group. There are people from all types of different backgrounds at Brown and I would love to learn their stories and see the world from their lens. It’s a mutual learning process where we help each other get out of their comfort zones and learn from one another.   
Do you identify as any of the following?: Person of Color, LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning), First Generation / Low Income, As having a disability (mental, physical, etc.)