

Frequently Asked Questions for first-years & new faculty

1. Where can I find directions to Hidden Valley Four Seasons Resort?

At Hidden Valley's web site: <http://www.hiddenvalleyresort.com/>

2. Can I bring my pets to the retreat?

NO, pets are not allowed at the Hidden Valley.

3. Do I need to eat lunch before I arrive on Friday afternoon?

Hidden Valley will not provide lunch on Friday afternoon. However, they will prepare a beverage service that includes hot beverages and assorted cookies.

4. Are there any free activities we can enjoy during the recreation period on Saturday?

Yes. There is an indoor swimming pool, volleyball, basketball, racquetball and fitness room. You will need to bring your own swim suit/trunks and towel. Sports equipment for the above activities will be provided.

5. Are there any other outdoor activities?

Yes. There are a variety of other outdoor activities that are available for a fee. They include: horse trail rides, mountain biking, mountain boarding, paddleboats, fishing, golf and a spa. For more information, review the Activities Sheet link on the departmental retreat web site.

6. What if the first-years have a question about the retreat?

They should ask their orientation host, or they can ask Ena or Emily.

7. Do I need to stay for the entire retreat?

Yes. The retreat begins promptly on 2 p.m. Friday afternoon and ends at 7 p.m. Saturday evening.

8. Do I need to attend all the planned retreat events?

You are expected to attend all of the scientific talks and the poster session. Graduate students also attend the meeting with Dr. John Woolford, Acting Department Head.

9. What happens if I have a problem that needs attention while I am at the retreat?

Please see Emily or Tina Lee.

10. What does the poster session entail?

The poster session provides students an excellent opportunity to learn about the research being done in the department in an informal way. Various members of the department present their recent work. All students are expected to visit the posters and engage in scientific conversation.

11. What is proper etiquette when sitting through a scientific talk?

It is respectful to sit quietly through the talks and to ask questions after the talk. Talking, sleeping, and reading are considered rude behavior.

12. Will there be alcohol at the retreat?

Yes, beer and wine will be served.

13. What is the role of the second-year students?

The second-year students are responsible for the following: preparing for the entertainment, purchasing the beverages for the after party, s'more ingredients and gifts for the incoming students and faculty.

14. What should be the main goal of the first-year students?

The first-years are encouraged to interact and network with the faculty and upper-level graduates to learn about the department.