



Frequently Asked Questions

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

Hidden Valley's website: <http://www.hiddenvalleyresort.com/directions>

2. Can I bring my pets to the retreat?

NO, pets are not allowed at Hidden Valley.

3. 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.

4. 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.

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

They should ask their orientation host, or they can ask Nate Frezzell or David Hackney.

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

Yes. Besides being an extremely useful opportunity, it is a waste of departmental resources to have a paid slot go unused or only partially used unless unavoidable.

7. 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. Aaron Mitchell, Department Head.

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

Please see David Hackney.

9. 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.

10. Will there be alcohol at the retreat?

Yes, beer and wine will be available during the bonfire as well as non-alcoholic options.

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

All the first-year students are encouraged to interact and network with the faculty and other graduate students to learn about the department.

12. Who is responsible for the pre-bonfire entertainment, purchasing the ingredients for s'mores and purchasing the beverages for the after party?

The second year Ph.D. students