



## Visitor Information



Thanks for your interest in Beaver Ponds Environmental Education Center. This information will help you have a safe, well-managed visit.

### Directions

Cell phone service is limited in our area and many mapping functions often can't "find" Beaver Ponds. Please follow these directions:

- From Fairplay, go north on Highway 9 for about two miles. Turn left on County Road 14 (look for the blue sign). The road makes a sharp turn south and then curves west to cross the river. Continue about a mile to Busch Run Road. Turn left here. The facility is on the corner of Busch Run and County Road 14. There is a large sign on the gate post that says, "Sacramento Creek Ranch" and a smaller sign that says, "Beaver Ponds." This is the place. Turn right and park in the turn-around drive by the big tree.

### Weather

Beaver Ponds is a high altitude, mountain facility. Our elevation is 10,200 feet. We are subject to sudden changes and extremes of cold, heat, wind, rain and snow, even in the summer.

- In summer (June, July, August): Bring a jacket, rain gear, sturdy hiking shoes, a sun hat, sun glasses, sunscreen, and a water bottle. If staying for the day, bring a lunch and snacks. Bring water shoes in case you'd like to wade the creek or ponds.
- In Fall and Spring (September, October and May): In addition to the items listed above, be prepared for any weather. Sudden blizzards with heavy snow fall are common as are beautiful 65-degree days. Keep an eye on the forecast. Dressing in layers is the best option.
- Winter (mid-November until May first): Most of Beaver Ponds is covered in deep snow. Our driveways and barnyard areas are plowed but the remainder of the property is mostly inaccessible except by skis or snowshoes. Beaver Ponds does supply snowshoes and poles. Please bring a water bottle, sunscreen, warm coats, hats, gloves, snow pants and boots.

### Facilities and Access

- Beaver Ponds has two bathrooms, running water and a heated, indoor classroom area as well as an outdoor classroom for summer use. We are a fairly remote facility but have local ambulance and emergency services.
- Access to Beaver Ponds is via a two-mile long paved road and a short, ½ block of dirt road. The road is maintained by the County year-round and, except in the case of severe blizzards and high spring runoff, is usually passable to all types of vehicles. We will contact you if conditions are difficult.

- A complete guided hike of Beaver Ponds facilities takes 1 to 2 hours. Hiking trails are well maintained, dirt trails that require sturdy shoes and the ability to walk at high altitude. Altitude adjustment can be difficult. Drink lots of water. Consult a physician if you have respiratory ailments or a prior negative response to a high-altitude area.
- Persons with disabilities can be accommodated. Please let us know in advance if anyone will require special assistance.

### **Rules and Guidelines**

- As a facility that promotes sustainable energy practices, we encourage everyone to carpool whenever possible.
- Please bring your own water bottle. We will supply free re-fills.
- Please stay on marked trails whenever possible.
- Please fill out and sign the Property Use form on both sides and bring it with you.
- Notify us if you would prefer we don't include photos of your group on our website and/or Facebook page.
- No dogs allowed at Beaver Ponds.
- Camping is not allowed at Beaver Ponds except by special arrangement.
- Hunting and fishing are not allowed.
- For children 14 and younger, please provide one teacher or chaperone per 10 to 12 children. Our educators depend on you and your chaperones for behavior management.
- Beaver Ponds keeps its archaeological artifacts for further study to develop a scientific history of our property. Most artifacts are rusty tin or steel items that may look like trash but are cataloged and should be left in place. Arrow heads, glass fragments and other ancient items should also be left in place.
- There is no charge for a visit to the Beaver Ponds, but as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit facility, donations are welcome and encouraged. We accept checks or cash. Credit cards can be used to donate through our online donation function at [beaverponds.org](http://beaverponds.org).

## **Enjoy your visit!**

