



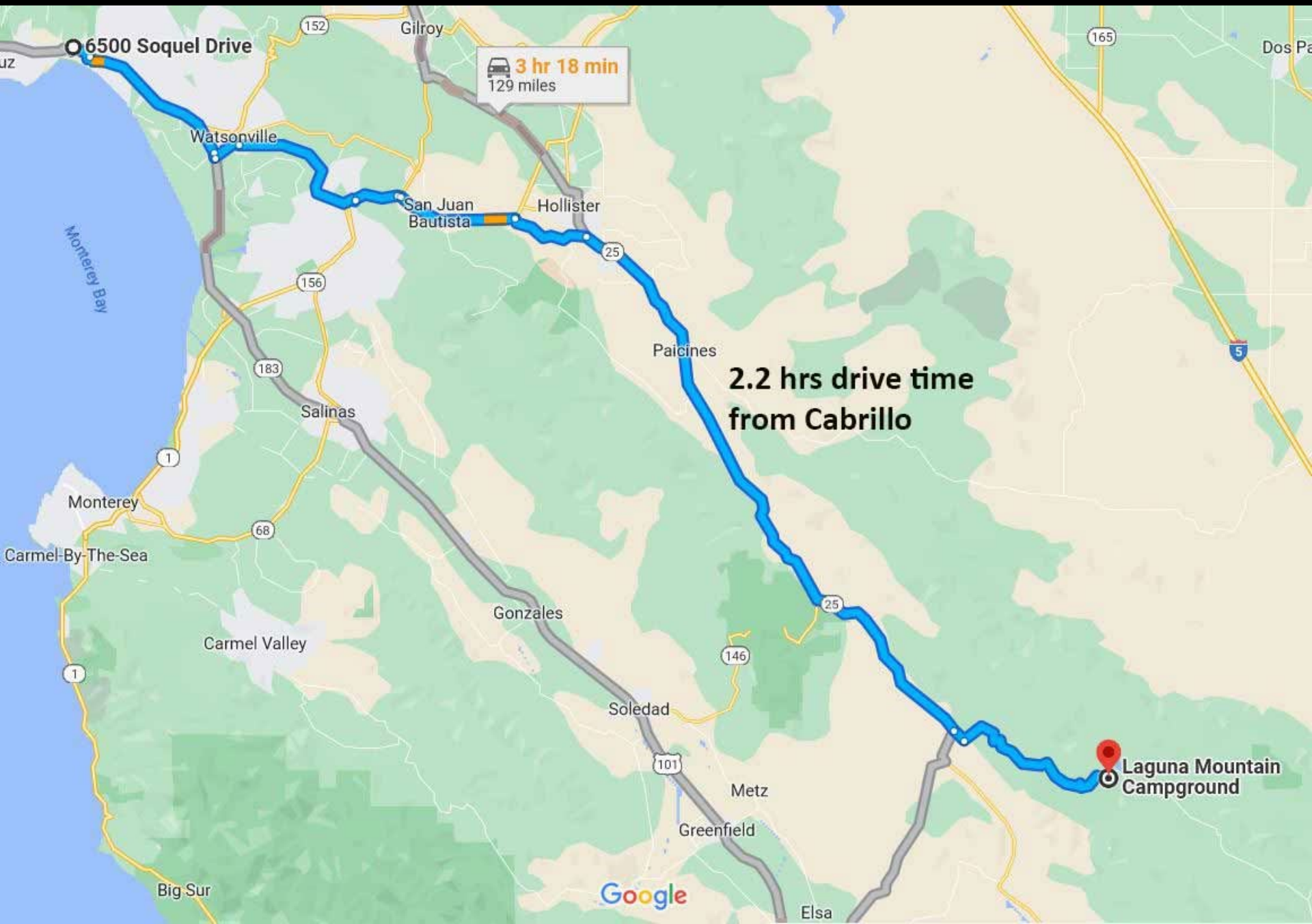
**Astro 27 –  
Field  
Astronomy at  
Pinnacles  
National Park  
(and Laguna  
Mtn  
Recreation  
Area)**

# Pre-Trip Meeting –

- First Order of Business...
- **Sign liability waivers**
- --- all students must sign or they cannot come on the trip
- --- Leave them with me today here at the Pre-trip meeting, or if you must get a parent's signature, then return the form to the envelope outside my office door – Rm 706a

# Second Order of Business: Car Pools

- We don't have enough seats in the van to carry more than ~8 or 9 students. The rest will need to get together into carpools with each other
- I'll leave you time, now, to get to know each other and help decide that. The goal is for everyone to know how they'll be getting to the campsite before they leave here today



6500 Soquel Drive

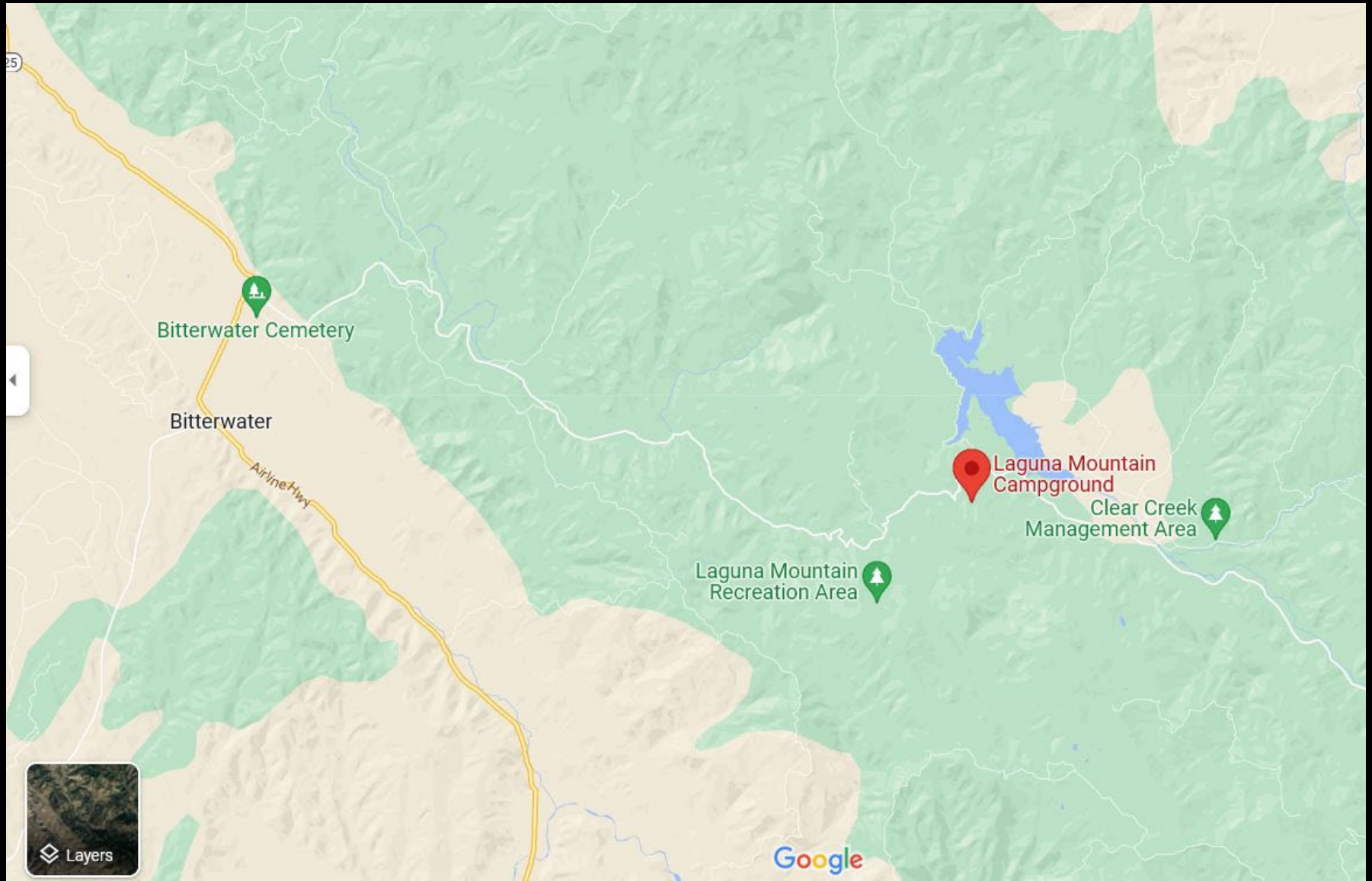
3 hr 18 min  
129 miles

2.2 hrs drive time  
from Cabrillo

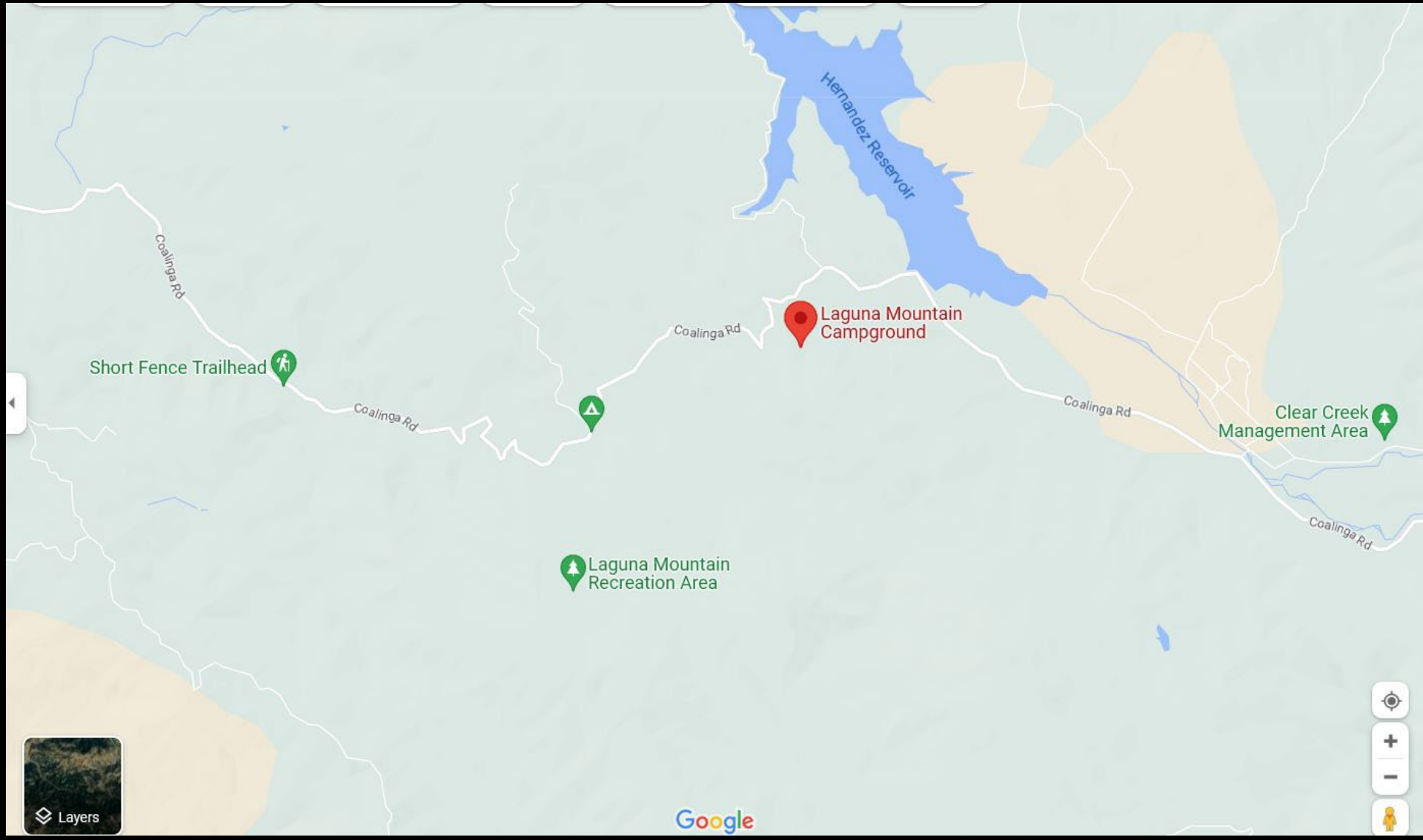
Laguna Mountain  
Campground

Google

**Drive past Pinnacles, south on Hwy 25, till you see the left turn onto Coalinga Rd**



**Drive past Short Fence and Sweetwater, which are also in the Laguna Mtn Recreation Area... till you see the campground sign**





Laguna Mountain Campground,



## Laguna Mountain Campground

4.5 ★★★★★ (34)

Campground

Overview

Reviews

About



Directions



Save



Nearby



Send to  
phone



Share



Paicines, CA 95043



blm.gov



(831) 582-2200

This signed is at  
the entrance road  
to our  
campground

First priority is to get the “Campsite #1” on the hill next to the top parking lot. Next priority is here labelled “Campsite #2, and then if possible Campsite #3. Lay out some gear at each, to make sure others know they’re claimed.





# 3<sup>rd</sup> Order of Business: Meals

- On nearly all my field classes, I do the cooking, as a way to keep our group together and learning together, and to save effort on your part in bringing stoves and stuff.
- I will cook 4 meals for you, for \$20 (a deal!).
- I need to buy the food and prepare it. Hopefully with an assistant (Anne!), and food prices have gone up. So \$20 for 4 meals is a good deal!
- I'll be buying from TJ's in down, and also get fresh veges and fruits in Watsonville on the drive down, is my usual plan

# My Meal Plan

- **Friday** pasta dinner (simple, but filling we hope). I'll cook this just before sunset, about 6:15pm.
- Leaving time for watching sunset and being able to set up the scopes for Mercury and Venus while it's still light.

# Saturday Meals

- **Breakfast:** I cook my famous French Crepes breakfast, with fresh local fruit and yogurt. Please feel free to bring along any flavorings you'd like to add (nuts, etc?)
- **Lunch:** YOU provide your own lunch. Make sure it's portable in your rucksack; we'll eat on our hike to Laguna Falls.
- **Dinner:** Asian Rice a'la Nolthenius – jasmine rice, veges, tomato/pepper soup mix, cocoanut cream, spices...

# Sunday Breakfast

- Home-made granola and almond milk, with whatever fruit we still have
- A simple quick breakfast because we need to pack up quick and drive back north to Pinnacles National Park for our hike through the Bear Gulch Caves I hope.

# Schedule

- Meet at the campground as soon on Friday as you can. But I will understand if you must arrive late.
- Dinner will be at about 6:15pm
- After dinner – telescope observing of the stars and planets and lectures
- If cloudy, we'll have a campfire and I'll lecture around the fire

# Essentials to Bring

- WARM CLOTHES!
- It gets cold at night, regardless of how warm it might be in the day.
- Camp chair
- Water
- TP
- Lunches and snacks
- Tent and sleeping gear
- Daypack, notebook
- Headlamp (Home Depot has good ones, rechargeable.) Must have RED LIGHT!!
- Sunscreen, hats
- Shorts for swimming in? Rugged shoes. We may get wet crossing the creek.

# Highlights of the Trip

- We'll be stopping regularly along the hikes for short ~10-15 minute "Micro-lectures" on various topics in planetary science, stars, galaxies, ET, etc.
- Laguna Falls is a ~40 ft waterfall at the end of a 2.5 mile hike. The last part of the hike is a steep downhill to the edge of the pool at the bottom of the falls. There's a knotted rope there to help you get up and down that last ~50 ft of elevation

# Our hilltop campsite





# On the trail to Laguna Falls





# At Laguna Falls





Temperatures  
are supposed  
to warm up,  
finally, by mid  
April. I hope  
the water's not  
too cold, but  
it'll definitely  
be cool





There'll be  
time to just  
enjoy the  
Falls. Later,  
we'll migrate  
downstream  
a bit and I'll  
give another  
lecture

**Anyone able to bring firewood?  
Kindling? Old newspapers?**



# Sunday, we head north to Pinnacles National Park

- I will have fee waivers to give out to each driver so you don't have to pay to get in.
- Be sure to ask me for them when I see you at the Laguna Campground.
- I'd rather give them out THEN, than now. You might forget to bring it





Be sure to  
bring a  
flashlight  
or  
headlamp.  
The caves  
have some  
very dark  
sections



We'll emerge  
below the  
Reservoir, and  
I'll have  
another lecture  
for you there.

# You're responsible for your own lunches and snacks











Raiders of the Lost Ark Scene?  
Not, this is Pinnacles in the fog





# **To get to the trail head, we'll have to take the Park's shuttle**

- It will probably require 2 or more shuttles to get us all up there.
- I expect the Park will be crowded.
- We'll play that by ear.
- If it's too crowded, we may instead hike up Chalone Creek from the campground, to the shady canyon and tumbling stream below the visitor's center.

# Grading

- Will be based on participation in activities
- Attendance at the lectures...
- The Canvas exams I will prepare for you, which you will take on your own at home after the trip

# I'll Also Bring Along...

- A hand-out on “Planetary Processes” which will be helpful, and give each of you a hardcopy on Saturday.
- Most of your study material will be on the web, linked on our Canvas and our Astro 27 website page, some will be posted a bit later than our pre-trip meeting.