

ABOUT THE FACILITY



Located on 4500 feet on 91 acres of high desert, the Bernasconi Education Center's natural setting includes hiking trails, ponds, streams, Great Basin plant communities, and breathtaking views of the Eastern Sierra. The facility offers various indoor and outdoor gathering spaces including:

- ✎ Heated dormitories, with bunks, that can accommodate up to 125 people



- ✎ Shower and restroom buildings
- ✎ Staff housing with shower facilities for eight
- ✎ Restaurant style kitchen and dining hall to seat 125

- ✎ Grassy areas for outdoor recreation
- ✎ Outdoor amphitheatre with campfire pit
- ✎ Classrooms and meeting rooms
- ✎ Nature trails and close proximity to mountain hiking trails



This facility is a multipurpose space and is used by various groups. Universities have rented the space as they conducted field studies in the area, church groups have had retreats, and public and private schools have used the facility as an outdoor camp. The center is conveniently located for the exploration of the outstanding natural features of the Eastern Sierra. It may be leased for independent group use on a per-night or per-week basis.

BEYOND BERNASCONI

The area surrounding the Bernasconi Education Center offers a wide range of activities including fantastic hiking trails, lakes, and plant and animal life. Take a dip in the hot springs, visit The Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, or make the hike to see Palisade Glacier, the Big Pine area offers all these activities and much more.

✎ **Palisade Glacier**

Palisade Glacier is the largest glacier in the Sierra Nevada and the southernmost glacier in the Western Hemisphere. It sits at an elevation between 13,000 and 14,000 feet and while you may see the glacier from the Valley floor, many avid hikers chose to make the challenging hike to get that spectacular view of the glacier.

✎ **Keough's Hot Springs**

These hot springs are the largest natural hot spring pools in the Eastern Sierra, a perfect place to relax in the friendly surroundings. There is a snack bar serving cold drinks, sandwiches, and an array of appetizing snacks. Campsites and lodging facilities are also available. For more information call: (760) 872-6911.

✎ **The Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest**

Take a drive down State highway 168 and 26 miles east of Big Pine you will find the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. This forest is home to the oldest living things in the world, the Bristlecone Pines. The twisted and gnarled trees grow at elevations around 10,000 feet and above and have somehow



managed to thrive in spite of the rough terrain they inhabit.

Volcanic Fields and Crater Mountain
From Highway 395 turn up Crocker Avenue and go approximately 1.5 miles to the McMurray Meadow turnoff. Explore this extinct volcanic area by truck, motorcycle, bicycle, or by hiking. Lava tubes and an old mine are also part of the experience.

Klondike Lake
Klondike Lake is located 3 miles north of Big Pine on the east side of Highway 395. This is an ideal place for summer water sports like swimming, boating, water skiing, jet skiing, windsurfing, and kayaking. Birding is also plentiful, great blue herons, avocets, sandpipers and ducks just to name a few.

RESOURCES IN BIG PINE

Jeff's Country Kitchen: Serves breakfast, lunch and dinner café style.

Mt. View Video and Gifts: Serves cappuccinos, special coffees and lattes

Uncle Bud's: Serves Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

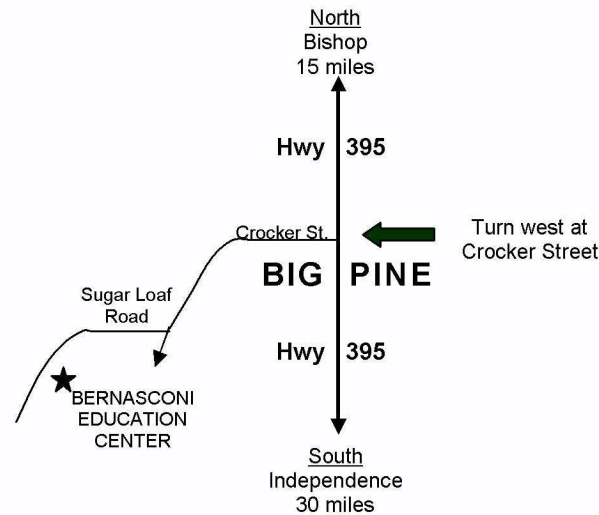
Rossi's Steak and Spaghetti

Big Pine Chevron: Take-out Mexican Food.

Carroll's Market: Take out soup, sandwiches, etc.

Vons: Located in Bishop, a 15-minute drive north of Big Pine

LOCATION & MAPS



To reserve the Bernasconi Education Center contact:
Phone: 760-938-2939x222
Email: jim_meadowcroft@inyo.k12.ca.us
Website: <http://www.highsierraretreats.org>

THE BERNASCONI OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

On the foothills of the towering Sierras, Bernasconi offers a unique combination of mountain, desert, and volcanic terrain to maximize your outdoor experience.

