



Welcome to Midcoast Conservancy's Hidden Valley Nature Center! We're sure you will have a great time exploring and relaxing in the comfort of the Yurt. Below is more detailed information about your stay. Please review this information *before* you head to HVNC.

HVNC offers authentic Maine backcountry experiences with some of the conveniences of coastal Maine. HVNC is not staffed full time and you should not expect assistance or support from Midcoast Conservancy staff or volunteers. We do our best to make sure that everything is in working order but please plan for a backcountry experience.

Parking Instructions (PLEASE READ):

When you arrive at the main gate, please park parallel to Egypt Rd. as shown on signs in the parking area. If you have multiple cars, please park tightly. HVNC has limited parking. Thanks for helping us out.

How do I get there?

If you've never been to HVNC before, there is an information building (the Gatehouse) just beyond the main gate and just out of sight from parking. The Gatehouse has a large color map, important trail information, event updates, and generally anything you'll need to know including how to get to your building! Use the large map in the gatehouse to find your route, and be sure to take one of the brochures with trail maps as well.

Consider bringing a cart or sled to pack in all your gear!

Check-In/Check Out:

Check in is at 1 pm, and check-out is at 12 noon. When you arrive, double check that everything is in working order in the building. When you leave, please make sure that wood boxes are full, you've swept up, and everything is in working order.

IMPORTANT: there is no actual check-in or check-out process. You do not need to speak with a Midcoast Conservancy staff; just arrive and have fun! If you arrive early or leave late, you can leave your belongings outside and explore the trails. Please be respectful of others' reservations.

What We Provide:

Midcoast Conservancy makes available these awesome, unique buildings so that you and your friends can have yet another way to enjoy the Maine woods. The price of the rental includes day-use of HVNC and use of the canoes at Little Dyer Pond by everyone in your party. Here's what to expect at the Sugar Ridge Yurt (south yurt):

Woodstove

Firewood

Picnic table

2 Bunks (only 1 mattress)

Outhouse

Charcoal Grill, no charcoal

What to Bring:

WATER	Toilet paper
Cooking/eating utensils	HVNC map
Bedding (sleeping bag and pad)	Cell phone
Light (headlamp, lantern, etc.)	Matches
Firestarter – i.e. newspaper	Hatchet for making kindling
A sled/cart to haul your gear (esp. in snow)	

All of our buildings are rustic; think traditional Maine hunting or fishing camp. Sure, there are a few pots and pans and a percolator (it may or may not have all the working parts), but if you're

particular about your cookware and utensils you should plan to pack them in. We try to keep everything stocked with a few necessities, but don't count on it.

There is no running water or potable water nearby.

Pack in all your water needs, or plan to boil snow.

Cooking, Food, & Waste:

Use Leave No Trace principles and practices!

Please do as much of your cooking outside as is reasonable to help us avoid attracting mice. Please use propane stoves outside. If you cook on the woodstove be careful not to spill onto the stove itself; if you do, please clean it up immediately.

Dishes should be washed outside the building. Small amounts of gray water can be cast widely into the woods, but only 200+ feet from a water body. DO NOT dispose of food scraps or grey water in the outhouse. Please minimize the amount of soap you use and try to use soaps with natural ingredients

All food waste, even the little scraps, must be packed out. Bring a sieve or a piece of screen to separate the food bits from the grey water. Small amounts of food scraps can be burned in outdoor fires, but absolutely never in the woodstove.



NO SMOKING AT HVNC

Outhouses:

There is short trail at the Yurt which leads to the outhouse. Do not go to the bathroom anywhere except for the outhouse! Yellow snow can get covered up by additional snow, leaving the chance someone else will scoop it up to boil for their coffee . . . no one wants that!

If there is ash/lime/or wood shavings in the outhouse, put a scoop in the pit after use. Please do not leave any unused toilet paper in the outhouse or cabin unless it is in a tin or sealed bag.

Pets:

Pets are allowed in the building. Please clean up after your pets, and do not allow them on the mattresses.

Wood Stove:

Each building has a wood stove and more than enough firewood for your stay. Bring a hatchet or axe to make kindling. Definitely bring some kind of fire starter like newspaper. Please be conscientious when using the woodstoves. Burn only the wood provided, and small things like paper plates and cups. Absolutely never try to burn non-paper garbage like cans, plastic wrappers or food.

Make a fire starting with small pieces of kindling stacked on several crumpled pieces of newspaper. Once lit, leave the door slightly ajar to increase the draw and the amount of oxygen in the stove. Once the fire is going well stack larger pieces of wood and close the door securely. Experiment with the air intake mechanisms to keep the stove burning optimally.

If the stove is cold when you arrive or leave, please scoop out extra ashes and put them in the metal bin. If the fire is still going, tamp down the air intake on the stove and make sure everything is closed up properly.

Outdoor fires:

Outdoor fires are allowed ONLY in the designated fire rings. Fires should be small cooking fires only, and must be completely extinguished before you leave.

Emergency Information:

These buildings are in a remote setting and communication can be difficult. First, come prepared with a complete First Aid kit so that no small injuries turn into anything larger. Second, bring a cell phone. Reception is spotty, but it's worth having if an emergency should arise. Third, use good judgment and be careful.

If an emergency arises and you need assistance on site:

1. **Call 911** – direct them to Hidden Valley Nature Center at 131 Egypt Rd. Jefferson, ME. You can also use these coordinates **N44° 8' 35.6273"**, **W69° 34' 46.4621"**, which will direct them to the Sugar Ridge Yurt (south yurt). Describe your position and make sure they know that this is a remote location, likely with no vehicle access.
2. Call Andy Bezon at the Midcoast Conservancy office, 207-389-5150