Berkeley Mystery Hunt 2013

Scheduling:

9:30am	Check-in opens (room assignments/wifi passwords distributed) [2060 Valley Life Sciences Building]
10:00am	Kickoff [2060 Valley Life Sciences Building]
~10:20am	Puzzling begins
…	
8:00pm	HQ closes (No answer submission after this time)
8:30pm	Wrapup (Announce winner(s), discussion of puzzles) [2060 Valley Life Sciences Building]

Team location and contacts:

Teams will be assigned a room in either Dwinelle or Wheeler Hall. Please note that these rooms do not lock and it is not safe to leave your belongings unattended. We will primarily contact you via email. If for some reason we need to talk to you urgently, we will call the phone number you provided or visit your assigned room.

Structure of puzzle hunt:

The first step for each puzzle is to figure out what to do to solve the puzzle, usually using the flavortext (italicized text at the beginning of the puzzle) if it exists. The title of the puzzle may also be a clue. The answers are words or short phrases. To submit an answer, click the "Submit Answer" link on the puzzle page.

Solving puzzles will unlock more puzzles, but puzzles will also be released on a timed schedule so if you are stuck, you will still have an opportunity to try new puzzles.

Hints will also be released on a timed schedule, beginning at 3:00pm. Each puzzle will have between 1 and 3 hints made available. These will be posted on the Hints page. Feel free to look at the hints or not, as you wish.

Text enclosed in double square brackets [[like so]] contains important information or instructions and will never contain any clues for puzzles.

Rules and sportsmanship:

We will never ask you to do anything illegal or dangerous. You will never have to enter a locked building, climb over a fence, damage campus property, etc. If you think a puzzle is telling you to go somewhere or call a phone number, contact us to confirm. We will never require you to leave the vicinity of the Berkeley campus.

Things that are NOT cheating: Extensive Googling, asking people not participating in the hunt for advice, writing or using an existing computer program to solve a puzzle (e.g. Sudoku solver).

Things that are cheating: Interfering with other teams (e.g. editing a relevant Wikipedia page), collaborating with other teams without talking to the organizers, gaining unauthorized access to the hunt website.

To submit an answer to a puzzle:

Click the link "Submit Answer" on the puzzle page. The answer will be manually checked by the organizers (please be respectful: making 5 guesses is okay, making 500 guesses is not).

To contact the organizers:

Click the link "Contact HQ" to email us. This is our preferred method of contact. If you either do not have access to email or need to contact us urgently, call (281) UC MHUNT.

To pick up items or printed copies of puzzles:

If a puzzle has a printed copy available or requires picking up items, it will be noted on the puzzle page. When you unlock such a puzzle, send a representative from your team to **175 Dwinelle** to pick up your items.

One of the goals of this puzzle hunt is for everyone to have fun. Please let us know if there's anything we can do to help your enjoyment of the hunt.