

Welcome to the Antelope Valley

Hosted by the Edwards Air Force Base Civilian Military Support Group

January 18, 2019

You are receiving this letter because you:

- either participated as an exhibitor in one of our past events, or
- you have been identified as someone who may be able to provide services or resources which we desire.

The Welcome to the Antelope Valley event will take place **Friday, January 18, 2019** at the University of the Antelope Valley's Pioneer Event Center, 45000 Valley Central Way, Lancaster, CA 93536 beginning at 5:30 p.m. In service to those who serve us, this year's event will host a buffet dinner free of charge to active duty military personnel and their dependents. In addition, this is a children-friendly event and children under twelve years old will also be admitted at no cost.

If you are interested in becoming one of our exhibitors, or possibly a sponsor for this great event, please contact me at (661) 429-0726 or winheim.matthew@gmail.com for more information.

Background and Purpose of the Event:

For the past few years, the Edwards Air Force Base Civilian Military Support Group (Civ-Mil) has held a "Welcome to the Antelope Valley" event for our locally stationed military personnel and the families of our military allied nations who have been recently stationed at Edwards AFB. The event has been well received by all those involved with past attendance numbers exceeding 200 people. On January 18, 2019, Civ-Mil, in conjunction with University of the Antelope Valley (UAV) and several community organizations, will be hosting our fourth "Welcome to the Antelope Valley" event in support of our local military service men and women as well as our allied military partners.

While the event serves to introduce newly relocated military personnel to our local resources, it also serves as a well-received community introduction for the families of foreign military personnel stationed in our Antelope Valley. As you may or may not be aware, we have many families from other countries that are currently living and working here in the Antelope Valley in support of various aerospace and defense-related programs. When a member of the U.S. military or an employee of a defense contractor is deployed to a foreign nation in support of various national security interests or programs, they generally will arrive at a U.S.-run installation where they are in-processed and provided with the resources necessary to make their transition to residing in that country as smooth as possible. This is not the case when a member of a foreign military service or contractor arrives here in the USA to work in support of our mutual national interests. This event serves to introduce those members and families assigned to Edwards AFB to the wide variety of community services, resources, and recreational opportunities that are available to them.

As we move forward in organizing this event, we have worked with key people in our active duty community to develop a sort of "wish list" of those areas specifically desired by them. We are thus looking for local businesses to bring experienced people to the event in the following areas:

1. Education: We are looking for exhibitors to provide information on the various educational opportunities in the Antelope Valley such as public STEM programs, charter schools and private schools for the children and adult education for spouses.

Information on basic first aid and CPR classes as well as foreign language courses (specifically ESL and Spanish) would be welcomed.

2. Job placement: Many of the accompanying spouses hold graduate and postgraduate degrees and are in need of professional job placement services. Many need information on transferring professional licenses and certificates to the U.S.A. to allow them to work in their particular field.
3. Business assistance: Several people at past events have indicated their desire to start their own business in the local area but are lacking the knowledge needed to navigate our system of licensing and other requirements.
4. Health, Dental, Orthodontic, Homeopathic and Holistic Care: We would like to see representatives of our health care providers present at the event to answer questions. Of particular note is a need for more information on Ob/Gyn and fertility services that accept Tri-Care and assistance with completing new patient paperwork.
5. Extracurricular and Recreational Activities for Children: Boy and Girl Scouts, AYSO, gymnastics, music, dance, swim, martial arts, archery, arts, and crafts, etc.
6. Public Transportation: Buses, Metrolink, etc.
7. Regional Recreational Opportunities: Local and State parks, national forest recreation areas
8. Wildlife awareness” Most of the new arrivals have never seen a Mojave Green, tarantula, coyote, mountain lion, bobcat, etc. and are not aware of the dangers they can impose.
9. Volunteer opportunities for those who have a desire to help others.
10. Public Safety awareness: Fire, Police, EMS, etc.
11. Secular support services/groups for new mothers.
12. Financial/Legal Services: Banks, Credit Unions, Financial advisers, Taxes, Legal Assistance
13. Spa Services
14. Meeting space rentals for small group meetings

This list does not represent 100% of the need but focuses on historic main concerns. **If you work in a field not represented above but think your specialty might be of interest, please contact me.**

As this event has grown we have found it necessary to implement a nominal exhibitor charge of \$100.00 to help cover our costs. This cost includes exhibitor space and our special holiday dinner for two attendees from your organization. The University of Antelope Valley's Pioneer Event Center location allows us to have everything on one level so the exhibitors should have excellent traffic.

If you would like to participate in this great event, please contact me for more information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Winheim

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Civ-Mil Secretary and Event Exhibitor Coordinator