

Housing/Hotel Piracy Warning

Unfortunately, hotel piracy is prevalent and is already in full-force soliciting Sagan Summer Workshop attendees. Hotel Piracy refers to the practice of unauthorized solicitations from hotels or third-party housing agencies that are **not** affiliated with the California Institute of Technology, IPAC, NExSci, or the Sagan Summer Workshop.



It has come to our attention that “hotel housing pirates” have begun their unethical targeting of the 2020 Sagan Summer Workshop. They are soliciting and encouraging workshop registrants to book hotel rooms through them — yet they hold to unethical standards and exorbitant cancellation fees.

Protect Yourself from Housing Pirates!

1. **BE AWARE.** Be aware of marketing emails, websites, phone calls or direct mail to ensure they are official communications from the Sagan Summer Workshop. The best way to verify an official communication is by making sure nexsci.caltech.edu is the predominant website or web domain referenced on any materials, emails, websites, etc.

2. **BOOK YOUR HOTEL** through the Sagan Summer Workshops official link at the Pasadena Hilton which is on the local information page for the workshop here:

http://nexsci.caltech.edu/workshop/2020/local_info.shtml

3. **DO NOT REPLY** to an unsolicited email, phone call or direct mail requesting that you make a hotel reservation.

LOOKOUT for these Piracy WARNING Signs:

- Receiving an email or a phone call encouraging you to book your hotel reservation. We do not make these kinds of calls. ALWAYS look for sagan_workshop@ipac.caltech.edu in the emails you receive.
- Offering the same or a lower rate than the Sagan Workshop’s negotiated room rate. Cheaper rates typically represent a lower quality hotel room and are typically offered at far less favorable terms than what we have negotiated with the Pasadena Hilton.
- Requests from the pirating housing service to place a credit card for deposit for your hotel room and/or asking your authorization to charge your card many times over to accommodate a hotel balance.
- An extensive, harsh or unforgiving cancellation policy.
- Little to no contact information on their website and a failure to respond when you attempt to contact them.