

Heavenly to play key role in women's cycling event

The inaugural Amgen Tour of California women's UCI stage race will kick off with a 74-mile ride that starts and ends at Heavenly Mountain Resort on May 8.

It will be a counter-clockwise race around the lake. The day will end with the climb up the 15 percent grades of Keller Street back to Heavenly.

The race starts at 10am.

Race and tourism officials are hoping there won't be a repeat of 2011 when the Amgen men's tour was snowed out. It was to start in Stateline and end in Northstar.

Leg two is May 9 with a start time of 10:30am. It will start and finish at Heavenly, but will be 50 miles.

This 25-mile circuit will be tackled twice. After a quick descent from Heavenly, they will ride out to Meyers. The second half of the course features the switchbacks of Apache Avenue, followed quickly by the climb back up to Heavenly on Ski Run Boulevard to the finish line.

Fourteen of the top women's cycling teams from around the world will compete.

The four days of women's competition will be staged in conjunction with the men's eight-day race.

