

March 11, 2021

Dear Volunteer Groups:

Big Yosemite greetings to all of you! I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well in all ways as we look forward to a brighter year this year. We are getting a late start this year due to a LOT of waiting and planning, but are excited to get this catalog out to you now.

With promising vaccine news every day, we are looking to the future, but 2021 will still be planned carefully with your safety as our highest priority. Many factors, including staffing and campground occupancy, are still limited by public health considerations, which means fewer projects can be offered this year. Limits on numbers in each group will still be strict. This may mean that some of you may be unable to join us this year in Yosemite, possibly even for the second year in a row. Please know how much we appreciate you and will miss your smiling faces at the park. Whether or not you apply to volunteer this year at all, know that our hearts are with you. Remember there are many ways to serve – we encourage you to look to your local and state parks, as well as many other entities such as food banks that may need your help. “Think global, act local,” as the saying goes.

You will find the 2021 Group Volunteer Project Guide and Catalog in the pages that follow, including:

- Important information regarding signing up for a project, including requirements for participation
- A description of available projects and calendar
- Wait time for your requests
- This year’s project request form
- New information this year and public health guidelines as of this release date

As for the past many years, we have a random lottery process to ensure fairness in placement; this year, we may also consider factors such as your distance from Yosemite and the number of households in your group. This is in keeping with public health recommendations and is for the safety of all participants in volunteer projects.

The due date for entering the placement lottery is Monday, March 29. Requests made any time before 11:59 pm on March 29th will be placed in a lottery to determine order of assignment. Requests received March 10th or later will be assigned a queue number in the order received. Please read the “Volunteer Program Guidelines for Groups” section carefully for more information.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, a lengthy park closure, and hazardous smoke for many weeks, in 2020 over 5,000 unique volunteers donated more than 72,000 hours of their time to volunteering at Yosemite. At the same time, I must note how hundreds of people saw their experiences cancelled by these unfortunate circumstances. In both of those cases, I see a commitment to public safety and doing the right thing. It is humbling and inspiring to work with such a dedicated group of people who can balance their love for this beautiful place with such selfless considerations.

Sincerely,



Sally Martinez
Volunteer Program Manager
yose_volunteers@nps.gov

209-379-1850 (this voicemail is checked infrequently while we are teleworking; email is best)

2021 PROJECT REQUEST PROCESS:

THE 2021 LOTTERY ENTRY DUE DATE IS FEBRUARY 8th (by 11:59pm)

How to Submit a Request

1. *Look through the catalog to pick projects that appeal to you.* Be sure to note required skills, physical ability, group size and age limits for each project listed.
2. *Choose your top 5 projects.* We have created “Standard” projects that can be placed quickly. Choosing one of these means you agree to all listed details, and your project will be confirmed quickly. “Non-Standard” requests, meaning you are requesting something outside the catalog calendar, will be very limited. If you are placed, you will be assigned to *one* of these projects.
3. *Fill in all sections on the Project Request Form* found at the end of this guide. Out of respect for other groups in a year in which projects are limited, please request only one project for 2021.
4. *Make sure you have completed all requested information in the form.* Once you have completed your form, please submit your request(s) via e-mail. Our email address is yose_volunteers@nps.gov.

What Happens Next?

1. When we receive your request form, we will respond with an email acknowledging the request. If you don't receive this email within a week, **please let us know**.
2. Requests received before **11:59pm March 29th** will be assigned their number in the queue at random by lottery. Requests received after February 9th will be assigned in the order received.
3. We will work our way through the queue and match projects according to lottery numbers.
4. When we successfully match your group with a project, we will send an offer to the group leader listed on the request form. This email will also include a deadline for confirmation.
5. **Please be patient.** We receive about two hundred requests each year and we try our best to schedule in a timely manner. The reality is that there is a higher demand than we are able to accommodate.
6. If your group leader confirms a project you have been offered, we will email a packet to your group leader with required forms and information about your project. We send these in calendar order of the projects, and you will receive your confirmation at least one month before your project.

CAMPING:

The Yosemite Volunteer Program can provide free campsites (when available) during your project. **Please note this year's camping is not in Yellow Pine Campground, where volunteers are usually placed! Valley campsites will be in Upper Pines.** Campsites outside of the Valley may be available for projects in those locations.

Camping Requirements:

***The minimum number of volunteer hours required depends on the following requirements:**

Nights At Campsite	Work requirements – Minimum days of work, AND minimum hours (At least one of the nights must be contiguous with the volunteer day)
Zero	(if the NPS does not provide campsites) Half day /2.5 hours minimum.
One	Half-day project (2.5 to 4 hours)
Two	One day (5 hours+)
Three	One and a half days
Four	Two days
Five	Two and a half days
Six	Three days
Seven	Four days

Campground and Group Rules:

- a) If the park provides free campsites, all members of your group will be required to participate in the work. Exceptions for family members under the age of 5 must be approved in advance.
- b) **Be respectful of other visitors and camp hosts during your stay.** Clean up after your group, respect the directions of the camp hosts, other NPS staff, and follow quiet hours and other guidelines.
- c) Each group is responsible for providing their own camping equipment, food and transportation to the park. Please check with the office if you plan to bring RVs or sleeping trailers; group sites do not allow these. Gear trailers are limited to 25 feet.
- d) **Pets are not permitted** in group campsites (including Yellow Pine), and may not be permitted at the volunteer work site.
- e) If you would like to use your RV, bring pets, or have group members who will not volunteer, you must reserve and pay for your own accommodation elsewhere.

ALL participants must understand the campground rules and regulations before arriving to the park.

Groups who violate campground rules and participation policies will not be permitted to return

(Additional Campground rules will be provided in your Group Packet upon selection)

BASIC VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS:

- Your group is between the sizes 6-25 people and all participants are ages 5 and up.
- If you have individuals in your group with a disability, please let the park know in your application so that we can arrange accommodation including ASL interpreters.
- The group will provide their own transportation to and from the park/to the project location.

What the Park will provide:

A National Park Service work leader and all supplies, safety equipment, and instruction needed. We will send a gate pass for free entry into the park, and arrange camping if needed and available. There is no charge to participate in NPS projects.

Want to bring a School Group?

NEW! School groups follow under our *Special Request* groups and have a slightly different set of rules and requirements for volunteering than our standard Group Volunteer Requests. If you have a curricular component to your project and are requesting weekday assignments, please reach out to us at yose_volunteers@nps.gov to inquire!

VOLUNTEER GROUP PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Yosemite Beautification

DESCRIPTION:

These are what you call “back-pocket” projects. These projects can range from litter pick-up to trail restoration to vegetation to pretty much anything. Occasionally, park staff needs the flexibility to assess and ask what we need. Since Yosemite is such a large park, it can be difficult to predict at times what type of projects can come up. You won’t know what you’ll get, but it’ll be important!

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum Age: 12
- Group Size: Max 10 people
- Okay with work ranging from easy to strenuous difficulty level
- Ability to practice safe use of hand tools, such as litter sticks, and follow safety instructions
- Ability to hike in uneven terrain carrying tools; long pants and sturdy close-toed shoes are required
- Must have transportation and willing to drive to different locations in Yosemite

PROJECT / CAMPSITE LOCATION

- Throughout park

Campground Cleanup

DESCRIPTION:

With over 1,400 campsites in Yosemite in use nearly every night from April through October, a lot of ash gets produced in all those fire rings, trash gets left behind, picnic tables and signs get worn out, bear boxes get dirty, and much more! Work for this project will be determined on a day to day basis, dependent on park needs. Volunteers may be asked to assist in cleaning out campground and picnic area fire pits and grills, as well as perform other general campground cleanup work. They will be shoveling ash and debris, which may be hot, and carrying the ash and other litter by bucket to a collection point for disposal. Depending on park needs, a volunteer group may be asked to drive to different parks of Yosemite which may or may not be near your assigned campsite.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum Age: 5
- Group Size: Max 10
- Difficulty: Easy to moderate
- Ability to practice safe use of hand tools, such as litter sticks, and follow safety instructions.
- Have form of transportation and willing to drive around Yosemite National Park as needed.

PROJECT / CAMPSITE LOCATION

- Throughout park

General Vegetation

DESCRIPTION:

Park managers in the branch of Vegetation and Ecological Restoration at Yosemite are managing for resilient vegetation communities in Yosemite National Park in the face of increased visitation, climate change, and habitat fragmentation. We need help from able and willing volunteer groups to participate in this park-wide effort. Volunteers will assist Restoration Rangers in an array of projects as needed. Each of these projects has different needs and occurs at different times of the year in varying locations. If you select Vegetation and Restoration Projects, you will be given tasks appropriate for your group's needs and abilities based on the information you provide us in your project request form. If you have a preference for any of the following tasks or have a group with specific needs please don't hesitate to ask for accommodations or a specific task. You will likely be doing more than one of these tasks, especially if you have a larger group. Potential Tasks (season dependent) include: seed, duff, and log collection; invasive plant removal; small conifer removal and piling; soil decompaction with shovels and landscape contouring; planting and salvaging plants.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum Age: 12
- Group Size: Max 10 people
- Difficulty: Light to strenuous
- Ability to hike in uneven terrain carrying tools
- Long pants and sturdy close-toed shoes are required
- Work in adverse weather conditions (typically hot, open areas)
- Ability to use hand tools (shovels, rakes, small handsaw, loppers, etc), if needed.

PROJECT / CAMPSITE LOCATION

- Throughout park

Wawona Grounds Work

DESCRIPTION:

- Assist in repairing and building fences and other groundskeeping tasks for the Wawona Pioneer History Center. Basic carpentry skills are desired for this project. This includes: Basic woodworking skills such as cutting wood, drilling holes etc. Experience with hand-held power tools is highly desired. (Please note that the camping may be in Yosemite Valley while the project is in Wawona)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum Age: 18
- Group Size: Max 10 people
- Difficulty: Moderate
- Basic carpentry skills desired with the use of hand-held power tools.
- Basic woodworking skills- cut wood, drill holes etc.

PROJECT / CAMPSITE LOCATION

- Wawona Pioneer History Center; Wawona Campground (if available) or Upper Pines

VOLUNTEER GROUP PROJECT CATALOG

STANDARD PATHWAY GROUP PROJECT REQUESTS

By requesting one of these projects you are agreeing to all listed details.

April

Project Number	Project Name	Campground	Check-In	Check-Out	Project Schedule	Max # of Volunteers	Special Notes
1	Wawona Grounds Work	Upper Pines	Thursday, April 15th	Monday, April 19th	Friday 4/16 & Saturday 4/17, 9:00AM-4:00PM	10	Will need to drive to Wawona but camping in the Valley
2	Campground Cleanup	Upper Pines	Monday, April 19th	Wednesday, April 21st	Tuesday 4/20, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	Will need to drive to Big Oak Flat area but camping in the Valley
3	Wawona Grounds Work	Upper Pines	Thursday, April 22nd	Monday, April 26th	Friday 4/23 & Saturday 4/24, 9:00AM-4:00PM	10	
4	Campground Cleanup	Upper Pines	Monday, April 26th	Wednesday, April 28th	Tuesday 4/27, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	Will need to drive to Big Oak Flat area

May

Project Number	Project Name	Campground	Check-In	Check-Out	Project Schedule	Max # of Volunteers	Special Notes
5	Yosemite Beautification	Yellow Pine	Sunday, May 2nd	Tuesday, May 4th	Monday 5/3, 9:00AM-2:00PM	10	Will need to drive to Big Oak Flat area

6	Campground Cleanup	Yellow Pine	Thursday, May 6th	Saturday, May 8th	Friday 5/7, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	
7	Yosemite Beautification	Yellow Pine	Sunday, May 9th	Tuesday, May 11th	Monday 5/10, 9:00AM-2:00PM	10	
8	General Vegetation	Upper Pines	Tuesday, May 18th	Sunday, May 23rd	Thursday 5/20 to Saturday 5/22, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	No more than 3 total households
9	Wawona Grounds Work	Wawona	Thursday, May 20th	Monday, May 24th	Friday 5/21 & Saturday 5/22, 9:00AM-4:00PM	10	

June

Project Number	Project Name	Campground	Check-In	Check-Out	Project Schedule	Max # of Volunteers	Special Notes
10	Yosemite Beautification	Upper Pines	Friday, June 4th	Sunday, June 6th	Saturday 6/5, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	
11	General Vegetation	Upper Pines	Monday, June 7th	Monday, June 14th	Wednesday 6/9 thru Saturday 6/12, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	No more than 3 total households
12	General Vegetation	Upper Pines	Tuesday, June 15th	Tuesday, June 22nd	Wednesday 6/16 thru Saturday 6/19, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	No more than 3 total households
13	Wawona Grounds Work	Wawona	Friday, June 18th	Sunday, June 20th	Saturday 6/19, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	

July

Project Number	Project Name	Campground	Check-In	Check-Out	Project Schedule	Max # of Volunteers	Special Notes
14	Campground Cleanup	Upper Pines	Wednesday, June 30th	Friday, July 2nd	Thursday 7/1, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	
15	Campground Cleanup	Upper Pines	Thursday, July 15th	Saturday, July 17th	Friday 7/16, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	
16	General Vegetation	Upper Pines	Monday, July 26th	Thursday, July 29th	Tuesday 7/27 & Wednesday 7/28, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	No more than 3 total households

August

Project Number	Project Name	Campground	Check-In	Check-Out	Project Schedule	Max # of Volunteers	Special Notes
17	Campground Cleanup	Upper Pines	Thursday, August 5	Saturday, August 7	Friday 8/6, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	
18	General Vegetation	Bridalveil	Friday, August 27th	Sunday, August 29th	Saturday 8/28, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	

September

Project Number	Project Name	Campground	Check-In	Check-Out	Project Schedule	Max # of Volunteers	Special Notes
19	General Vegetation	Tuolumne Meadows	Friday, September 10th	Sunday, September 12th	Saturday 9/11, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	

20	Campground Cleanup	Upper Pines	Friday, September 17th	Sunday, September 19th	Saturday 9/18, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	
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October

Project Number	Project Name	Campground	Check-In	Check-Out	Project Schedule	Max # of Volunteers	Special Notes
21	Yosemite Beautification	Upper Pines	Tuesday, October 19th	Tuesday, October 26th	Thursday 10/21 thru Sunday 10/24, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	
22	General Vegetation	Upper Pines	Friday, October 22nd	Sunday, October 24th	Saturday 10/23, 9:00AM-2:00PM	10	
23	Yosemite Beautification	Upper Pines	Tuesday, October 26th	Tuesday, November 2nd	Thursday 10/28 thru Sunday 10/31, 9:00AM-3:00PM	10	



Date Requested _____

Yosemite National Park Group Volunteer Project Request Form 2021

GROUP NAME:		CONTACT PERSON:	
Number of Volunteers:		Address:	
Age(s) of Group:			
Tell us about your group (mission, values, and special skills). Please limit to space provided:		Cell (if available):	
		Work/Home (if available):	
Will your group have vehicles available for transporting volunteers to the work site?		Email:	
	<i>(Limit of 8 or less vehicles for parking in Yellow Pine. Dependent on site assignment)</i>		

List Project Numbers* in order of preference:

_____ 1st Choice

_____ 4th Choice

_____ 2nd Choice

_____ 5th Choice

_____ 3rd Choice

Check this box if you have lodging secured (but agree to all other project details)

*For project numbers please see the group catalog available online at <https://www.nps.gov/yose/getinvolved/supportyourpark/groupvolunteer.htm>

If you need to request non-standard, please use box below. Know that your chances of placement go **WAY** down. If you still wish to do so, provide *all* of the following information: Work days, project type, camping location, arrival/departure dates.

You will be notified via email regarding your assignment.

Please submit request(s) to: yose_volunteers@nps.gov

Privacy Act Statement

Collection and use is covered by Privacy Act System of Records OPM/GOVT-1 and USDA/OP-1, and is consistent with the provisions of 5 USC 552a (Privacy Act of 1974), which authorizes acceptance of the information requested on this form. The data will be used to maintain official records of volunteers of the USDA and USDI. Furnishing this data is voluntary, however if this form is incomplete, enrollment in the program may not proceed.

Questions can be directed to: 209-379-1850 or yose_volunteers@nps.gov

OTHER OPTIONS FOR VOLUNTEERING

If you missed the deadline for lottery projects or are not placed in 2021 please consider alternate options!

Volunteer Outside of Yosemite National Park

Other National Parks

Use findyourpark.com to search by zip code or state to discover national park units you have never heard of! Many less-well-known parks would be deeply grateful for your service and have much less competition for projects than Yosemite.

State Parks

Consider searching the state park system in California or your home state for other opportunities to serve.

Partner Volunteer Projects

To sign up for one of these projects planned with partners, please visit the websites listed. Unlike other projects in this catalog which are designed for volunteers who come to the park as an organized group, these projects are for individual volunteers who would like to join together with other individuals for a group volunteer project. Most of the organizations require that volunteers become members to participate.

YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY

Yosemite Conservancy offers all kinds of projects and opportunities, mostly week-long or month-long.

See the Yosemite Conservancy website for application and details: [Yosemite Conservancy](#)

For work weeks, please visit: [Yosemite Conservancy - Work Week Crews](#)

Updated information for 2018 will not be posted online until the second week of January.

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM (CVIP)

(In partnership with REI)

See the Conservation Volunteers International Program website to learn more and to sign up: [Conservation VIP](#)

SIERRA CLUB

See the Sierra Club Outings website for qualifications and application process: [Sierra Club - National](#)

WILDERNESS VOLUNTEERS

See the Wilderness Volunteer website for qualifications and to sign up: [Wilderness Volunteers](#)

VOLUNTEER VACATIONS – WITHIN NATIONAL PARKS!

[Click here to read the article and find out more.](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by emailing yose_volunteers@nps.gov