



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Yosemite National Park
VIP Office, P.O. Box 700
El Portal, CA 95318



January 15, 2017

Dear Volunteer Groups:

We invite you to join Yosemite as the National Park Service begins its second century of service. Volunteers have always been involved in our national parks, from campaigns to protect areas of scientific and historic value to building the first trails and museums. How will you serve in 2017?

Enclosed is the 2017 group volunteer project catalog, including project descriptions, calendar of scheduled projects, information on requesting a project, and the project request form.

Once again, we have a variety of activities to choose from, with an emphasis on implementation of the Merced River Plan, Tuolumne River Plan, and Mariposa Grove Restoration. These three large projects will restore hundreds of acres of habitat and improve visitor services. Whether removing asphalt from trails that are being re-routed, restoring streambanks damaged from overuse, building handicap-accessible campsites, or removing invasive plants, volunteers will play a large role in implementing these projects. Once again, we're working with partner organizations to bring together individuals for group activities; for these projects you'll apply directly through the organizations (most require you to become a member of that organization).

On the following pages you will find:

- Important information regarding signing up for a project, including requirements for participation.
- A description of available projects.
- A calendar of scheduled projects – note that many projects are available on-request and are not scheduled for specific dates.
- The project request form.

While the projects in the catalog are the ones we have already planned, some additional projects are added throughout the year, so check back! We also may be able to create a custom project for your group — just ask.

Due to a significant increase in the number of group requests in 2016, we've made an adjustment to the request process: **"Opening Day" is Monday, January 23**. All requests received by midnight on January 23 will be placed in a lottery to determine order or assignment. Requests received January 24 or later will be assigned in the order received. See next section for more details.

Some policies have changed in the last couple years, including limitations on the number of projects each group may request initially, and limits on non-participating children in campsites. Please read the Information and Requirements section carefully.

Last year more than 12,300 individual volunteers provided over 167,000 hours of service to Yosemite. That's the equivalent of over \$4 million in donated labor! Without you, critical repair and restoration work could not be completed. We greatly appreciate you for supporting the National Park Service mission and the stewardship of this World Heritage Site.

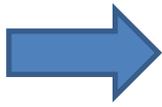
Sincerely,

Heather Boothe
Volunteer Programs Manager
Group Volunteer Coordinator

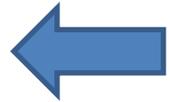
Sally Kintner
Assistant Volunteer Program Coordinator
Individual Volunteer Coordinator

yose_volunteers@nps.gov
209-379-1850

Yosemite Volunteer Group Program Information and Requirements



2017 Project Request “Opening Day” is January 23.
See below for details.



Choosing a Project For Your Group:

When considering bringing your group to Yosemite to volunteer, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

1) Qualifications:

- a. Each project will list a **minimum age requirement**, and minimum and **maximum group size**. These limits help us to make sure the projects are safe and appropriate for the ages of volunteers and the supervision available. The group size may also be limited by the campsites available. If your group is larger than the maximum, it will have to be split into smaller groups, requiring additional leaders and campsites (which may not be available for the same date).
- b. If you have a person under the minimum age, or a group that is slightly over the size limit, please contact the office for a potential exception.
- c. Some projects require transportation from the campsite to the worksite. Please note on your request form if you do not have transportation.
- d. **We welcome people of all abilities!** But we also have to ensure the safety of participants. If you have a participant with special needs, please contact us to learn if accommodations may be possible (for both the project and camping). We have an American Sign Language interpreter available with advance notice.

2) Camping:

The Yosemite volunteer program provides free campsites (if available) during your project in order to facilitate volunteer work. Most campsites are at Yellow Pine, the administrative campground in Yosemite Valley. Campsites outside the Valley are provided for projects in those locations. We will usually plan for campsites the nights before and after a scheduled project, or Friday/Saturday for a Sunday project, but these nights may be flexible. How many nights you can stay depends on the work performed:

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 /3 hours minimum.
One	Half-day project (3 to 5 hours)
Two	One day (6 hours+)
Three	One and a half days
Four	Two days
Five	Two and a half days
Six	Three days
Seven	Four days

- a. **IMPORTANT:** If the park provides free campsites, **all members of your group** will be required to participate in the work project. The only exception to this will be the (optional) person designated to remain in camp for cooking and staying with gear. Any additional family members under the age of 5 who will not be participating **must be approved in advance**. Generally this will be limited to no more than 1 non-participating youth per 10 participating group members.

- b. Please remember **dogs are not permitted in group campsites** (including Yellow Pine), and may not be permitted at the volunteer work site. In general, plan to leave your pets at home unless you have specifically checked with the volunteer office.
 - c. Yellow Pine and other group sites are tent-only – no RVs or sleeping trailers. Gear trailers are limited to 25 feet.
 - d. If you would like to use your RV, bring pets, or have group members who will not volunteer, we recommend that you plan to reserve and pay for your own campsites.
 - e. Groups who violate campground and participation policies will not be permitted to volunteer in the following year.
- 3) The volunteer program will provide tools for projects, safety training, and free entrance to the park.
 - 4) Groups need to provide their own camping equipment, food, and transportation to the park. Groups performing technical work may also bring their own tools if desired.
 - 5) There is no charge to participate in projects (except those managed by partners); donations to support the program are always welcome.
 - 6) The Park Service leads projects in all types of weather, unless there is a concern for the safety of participants. As weather conditions can change rapidly in Yosemite, please ensure your group is prepared and equipped for potential adverse conditions (i.e., snow, rain, extreme heat, biting or stinging insects, traffic, uneven terrain, etc.). Heavy winters may also cause cancellation of early season projects (especially at high elevations) if areas are still closed for the season due to snow.
 - 7) Specific project assignments may change as other projects become available and conditions change; we will always check with groups before changing projects significantly.

When to Request a Project

Projects May 1 through November:

- You must wait until the catalog is released and the reservation period is open (“Opening Day” – January 23) before these projects may be scheduled. If your organization must schedule further in advance, please contact us to request an exception. Generally exceptions are made for groups who will work at least three full days during a project, and schools who come on weekdays during May and June.
- **Limit of two projects during initial scheduling:** Each group will be limited to scheduling only two projects during the first two weeks after “Opening Day”. A “project” will be defined as an assignment for a group of up to 30 people, for any number of contiguous days. A project for a group of 31-60 people will be considered two projects. Two weeks after the opening day, these groups may request additional projects. This allows a greater variety of groups to volunteer over the course of the summer. For 2017 we will begin accepting additional requests on Monday, February 6.

Projects during December through April

- These projects may be scheduled any time, but we generally ask that groups wait until October to request projects for the following winter/spring.

2017 Project Request Process

Project Request Opening Day: January 23

New process for order in which projects are assigned:

- Requests submitted between when the catalog is posted online and **midnight on January 23** will be entered into a lottery to determine the order in which projects are scheduled / assigned.
- Requests submitted on January 24 or later will be assigned to qualified groups in the order in which they are received, in the queue after the January 23 requests.
- Why the new lottery? In 2016 we received more than 25 requests time-stamped in email between 8:00am and 8:10am, and more than 60 by the end of the first day. We felt this placed an undue burden on those who could not submit requests at precisely 8am, and an arbitrary order to requests that essentially came in at the same time. The number of requests has been increasing at

about 20% each of the last three years. We're trying to find an equitable way to make assignments with this increased demand.

How to submit a request

- 1) Look through the catalog to pick dates and projects that appeal to you. Be sure to note required skills and physical ability for each project, as well as maximum group size. If you have a group with limited physical capacity, we may be able to make accommodations depending on the project.
- 2) In the calendar section, projects are either listed as having flexible dates, limited dates, or specific dates. The projects that are scheduled for specific dates are usually either dependent on specific seasons (such as when an invasive plant blooms) or on campground reservations in public campgrounds.
- 3) Fill in all sections on the enclosed Project Request Form. If you would like to volunteer more than once in 2017, **fill out a form for each trip**. Some projects have flexible dates or days of the week – please write your preferred work days on the form as well as arrival and departure dates. If hand-writing the form, please print neatly!
- 4) List at least one alternate project or date on each form, as we often have multiple applicants for a given project or date. We'll look at the order of preference for both date and project type preference.
- 5) If you do not see a project that meets your needs, you may request a custom project; on the form write your preferred work dates, project type, whether you need campsites, and arrival/departure dates for your trip. Then write in the comment box what type of work you are interested in.
- 6) In the comment box, write in any other information that might help us assign a project – especially special skills and experience.
- 7) Once you have completed your form, please submit your request(s) via:

Email: (preferred option)	Fax:	Mail:
yose_volunteers@nps.gov	209-379-1350	VIP Office, Yosemite National Park P.O. Box 700, El Portal, CA 95318

What happens next:

- 1) When we receive your request form, we will respond with an email acknowledging receipt. If you don't receive this email within a week, please let us know so we can make sure your request didn't get lost in transit.
- 2) As we receive applications, each will be assigned a number in the queue; requests received on or before midnight January 23 will be assigned this number by lottery. Requests received after January 23 will be assigned a number in the order in which they are received.
- 3) As we receive applications, we will assign dates/ projects. Generally projects will be assigned to qualified groups in the order in which they are received, though groups with special skills may be given priority for some projects.
- 4) Once a project is assigned, we will send an email confirmation to the group leader listed on the request form, stating the assignment. This usually happens within one month of receipt of the project request form.
- 5) We will email a confirmation 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.
- 6) **Please be patient!** Last year we received dozens of requests in the first few days of the request period. While the first ones go fast, the process slows down as preferred dates get filled. Last year we assigned over 220 projects!

If you have questions about the process, please give us a call or drop us an email!

209-379-1850

yose_volunteers@nps.gov



Yosemite National Park 2017 Group Project Descriptions

Below are descriptions of our planned projects, the dates they are currently scheduled, and eligibility requirements. For information on specific project dates, including campsite locations, see the calendar following the project descriptions. For partner volunteer projects, be sure to apply directly through those organizations.

Ash Removal and Campground Cleanup

Description:

With over 1,400 campsites in Yosemite in use nearly every night from April through September, a lot of ash builds up in all those fire rings, and trash gets left behind in bear boxes. Volunteers will clean out campground and picnic area fire pits and grills as well as perform 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. Volunteers may also perform light construction work, including painting and repairing picnic tables, repairing campsite infrastructure, etc.

Qualifications:

Minimum Age: 5

Group Size: 5 to 30

Easy to Moderately Strenuous: Must be able to carry a 5 gallon bucket of ash or debris safely and practice safe use of hand tools such as shovels and litter sticks. (Younger children may participate but not be assigned to carrying hot ashes)

Project Location: Throughout park

Campsite Location: depends on work location

Project Schedule:

Projects are available nearly every day May through October, and most days the rest of the year.

See catalog/calendar for projects already scheduled on weekends and at locations outside Yosemite Valley.

Other dates will be assigned as requested.

Flexible?

Yes! Additional projects may be scheduled; campsites on a space-available basis.

Climbing Access Trail Rehabilitation

Description:

Yosemite is known for its world-class rock climbing, with thousands of climbers accessing hundreds of routes in the park each year. In Yosemite the NPS historically has not established climber access trails, and climbers have accessed climbing routes using the "path of least resistance." After decades of intensive use, this informal network of trails has become severely eroded--leaving denuded areas, loose footing, and vegetation loss. With the support of a grant from the Yosemite Conservancy, the park will be working with volunteers to delineate some of these access routes and restore ecological health to the areas. Specifically volunteers may be delineating trails and building trail structures (such as water bars), de-compacting soil, planting native plants, eliminating old trails, and similar work.

Qualifications:

Minimum Age: 12

Group Size: 5 to 15

Moderately Strenuous to Very Strenuous: Ability to hike on uneven terrain and carry tools. Some areas are close to trailheads, while others may require some hiking. Some projects require technical rope skills.

Project Location: Yosemite Valley in May to mid-July, and Tuolumne Meadows mid-July to September

Campsite Location: Yellow Pine for Yosemite Valley projects, or Tuolumne Meadows for Tuolumne projects

Project Schedule:

Most weekend projects include work both Saturday and Sunday (2-day project). Full work days of 7+ hours
 Project Dates scheduled upon request

Flexible?

Yes!

General Buildings and Grounds Maintenance**Description:**

Painting buildings, repairing park benches, cleaning gutters, building new structures, deconstructing old buildings, performing trail work, installing new lighting, removing old asphalt – the National Park Service has a maintenance backlog of billions of dollars. Thankfully at Yosemite we’re making a dent in our backlog with volunteer help. With these projects the volunteer/s will be working in all areas of the park doing a variety of projects, which may require skills in carpentry, electrical, concrete work, and plumbing. Volunteers must have a safe understanding of power equipment and hand tools. If working on specialized/technical projects, volunteers must have some applicable knowledge of electrical, plumbing, and/or carpentry skills and the safe use of hand and power tools such as circular saws, planers, drills, air driven nail guns, augers, paint sprayers, and cement mixers. They may be required to lift over 60 pounds and/or drive government vehicles. Volunteers will work at different locations within the park; some work may be at high elevations.

Examples of Specific Projects (most are not yet known, but will be developed throughout spring)

Grounds-keeping: removal of leaf litter around buildings and trails. Minimum age 10; max group size 25

Campgrounds: Installation of sign posts, parking barriers, etc. Minimum age 12, max group size 25

Fire ring and bear box installation; Minimum Age of 12, max group size 25

Painting projects; Minimum age 16, max group size 25

Picnic table and bench construction/repair; Minimum age 12, max group size 25

Trail clearing: removing brush and debris from trails. Minimum age 12, max group size 20.

Qualifications:

Minimum Age: 12-16, depending on project Group Size: 5 to 25 (maximum size depends on campsite and skill level)

Moderate to Strenuous difficulty, depending on project

Project Location: Throughout park

Campsite Location: Depends on project location

Scheduled Projects:

These projects will be scheduled on request.

Flexible?

Yes! We can plan these types of project on-demand depending on project/leader availability and group skills; campsites possible on a space-available basis.

Vegetation and Restoration Projects (all park locations)**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 including: restoration projects ([Plant a Flower to Save a Pollinator Project](#), [Merced River Plan Restoration](#), [Mariposa Grove Restoration](#)), [invasive plant management projects](#), conifer removal, and others as needed. Each of these projects have different needs and occur at different times of the year. You will be placed in an appropriate vegetation project for your group’s needs and abilities. If you have a preference for a project or have a group with special needs please don’t hesitate to ask for accommodations or a specific project.

Specific Projects:

Seed and Duff Collection (Yosemite Valley, Wawona) - Moderate Difficulty

- Hiking off trail on uneven terrain to collect duff and seeds in advance of restoration projects. Volunteer groups should be detail oriented individuals.

Invasive Plant Removal (Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows) - Moderate to Strenuous Difficulty

- Yosemite Valley - Hiking off trail in uneven meadows to remove invasive plant populations (usually bull thistle, Russian thistle, and mullein) using hand tools. Volunteers should be prepared for hot conditions, difficult terrain, and biting insects. Strenuous difficulty but rewarding.
- Tuolumne Meadows – Generally volunteers will be surveying for and removing dandelion populations in off trail environments. Be prepared to hike up to 3 miles round trip. Be prepared for work in higher elevations. Tuolumne is around 8,000 – 9,000ft in elevation. Moderate difficulty.

Small Conifer Removal (Yosemite Valley) - Moderate Difficulty

- Cutting down small diameter conifer trees using hand tools, and dragging them to a pile or dump truck. Individuals should expect to carry heavy loads over uneven terrain. In some situations, volunteer groups will be working near crews using chainsaws.

Social Trail Eradication (Yosemite Valley) - Moderate Difficulty

- Volunteers will be eradicating trails to reduce the amount of fragmented habitat in Yosemite Valley meadows. This process includes soil de-compaction with shovels, seed and duff collection, planting, and watering.

Willow Cutting Collection (Yosemite Valley) - Moderate to Strenuous Difficulty

- Volunteers will be taking cuttings of willow whips, and planting them in a riparian zone to rebuild the streambanks of the Merced River. Be prepared to scramble on unsteady rocky riverbank areas to collect cuttings.

Native Plant Restoration – (Yosemite Valley) - Moderate Difficulty

- Volunteers will be involved in various stages of restoring degraded open spaces to meadow or wetland areas. Activities include: soil de-compaction with shovels, raking, collecting and spreading native seeds, planting native plants, watering, weeding, duff collection and spreading. Much of this project will require you to be either weeding or planting on your hands and knees.

Conditions and Safety:

The terrain will differ from project to project but please be prepared to work in uneven terrain. Other possible conditions include hot temperatures/full sun, cold and rainy conditions, and thorny vegetation. Volunteers must perform all tasks in a safe manner using the appropriate tools for the task and wearing the necessary personal protective gear required for the task. Work tools, gloves and safety vests will be provided by the NPS work leader. Care must be exercised when working on/off-trail and/or near rivers/streams. Work will take place outdoors and working conditions will be variable. Volunteers should dress appropriately for the work & weather: long pants and sturdy shoes/boots are required. Work typically involves hiking over uneven, potentially rocky &/or wet, slippery terrain. Potential hazards include exposure to scratchy or thorny vegetation, irritating vegetation (i.e. poison oak), biting or stinging insects (i.e. ticks), snakes, wildlife, allergens (i.e. pollen, dust, etc.) and other hazards typical of outdoor work environments. Moderate to strenuous physical exertion may be required. Project may require ability to lift up to 40 pounds or 1/3 body weight.

Qualifications:

Minimum age: 12

Group Size: 5 to 20

Strenuous Difficulty (accommodations for those with limited mobility may be possible for some projects)

Project Location: Varies **Campsite Location:** Depends on work location

Project Schedule:

May 15 and October 15, any day of the week, excluding Holiday weekends. One- or two-day projects (9am to 3pm) available in all locations. Half-day (8am to noon) projects in Yosemite Valley only (longer duration projects may also be available).

- Seed and Duff Collection – July 5 through October 29
 - Yosemite Valley
 - Mariposa Grove/ Wawona
- Invasive Plant Removal
 - Yosemite Valley – July 15 through August 27
 - Tuolumne Meadows – June 12 through July 30
- Small Conifer Removal – Anytime, we will likely schedule them in the spring and fall because we have more time sensitive priorities in the summer.
- Social Trail Eradication
 - Yosemite Valley – Sept 15 through Oct 15
- Willow Cutting Collection – Sept 15 through Oct 12
- Native Plant Restoration – May through October

Flexible?

Some flexibility in date ranges.

Litter Removal

Description:

Five million visitors came to Yosemite last year, and they can produce a lot of trash; unfortunately not all of it makes it into trash cans and recycling bins. Volunteers will use litter sticks and buckets to clean up litter along roadsides and trails, in campgrounds and in other public areas. Must be able to carry a 5 gallon bucket of trash or debris safely and practice safe use of hand tools such as shovels and litter sticks. Volunteer must be able to follow safety instructions.

Qualifications:

Minimum Age: 5 Group Size: 5 to 30 (maximum size depends on campsite; groups larger than 30 will be split up)

Easy to Moderate difficulty

Project Location: Throughout park **Campsite Location:** depends on project location

Project Schedule:

Scheduled on request for a minimum of three hours, up to a full day.

Flexible?

Yes! This project is available to schedule on request for full or half day projects.

Wilderness Restoration in the High Country

Description:

Work with a wilderness restoration ranger to remove illegal fire rings from trailheads along the Glacier Point Road and Tioga Road. Volunteers will learn correct wilderness restoration techniques, Leave No Trace practices and wilderness ethics. Opportunities may also exist to maintain ongoing restoration efforts in nearby locations as needed. Volunteers may also be assisting with the identification and removal of invasive plants. Volunteers will stay at front-country campsites and hike up to 5 miles per day into the Yosemite Wilderness. Volunteers may serve for one to five days per project.

Conditions and Safety:

Volunteers must perform all tasks in a safe manner using the appropriate tools for the task and wearing the

necessary personal protective gear required for the task, and follow instructions from NPS Work Leader. Work tools, gloves and safety vests will be provided by the NPS work leader. Care must be exercised when working on/off-trail and/or near rivers/streams. Work will take place outdoors and working conditions will be variable. Volunteers should dress appropriately for the work & weather: long pants, long sleeved shirt, and sturdy shoes/boots, sunhat. Volunteers should also bring lunch, water, raingear, & jacket due to the potential for rapidly changing weather conditions. Work typically involves hiking over uneven, potentially rocky &/or wet, slippery terrain. Potential hazards include exposure to scratchy or thorny vegetation, irritating vegetation (i.e. poison oak), biting or stinging insects, snakes, wildlife, allergens (i.e. pollen, dust, etc.) and other hazards typical of outdoor work environments. Moderate to strenuous physical exertion may be required. Project may require ability to lift up to 40 pounds or 1/3 body weight (whichever is less).

Please note that project may change in scope depending on the needs of the park. Groups will be notified in advance if the project will change.

Qualifications:

Minimum age: 18 unless accompanied by an adult (if accompanied by an adult, minimum age 16)

Group Size: 3-6; we can schedule individuals or groups up to 6.

Moderately Strenuous to Very Strenuous

Must be able to hike several miles; Elevation: 6500 - 9,000 feet.

Project Location: Yosemite Valley **Campsite Location:** Yosemite Valley

Project Schedule:

2017 dates have not yet been confirmed, but are usually scheduled for specific weeks between June and early September.

Projects are usually scheduled Monday-Thursday, and volunteers can work one or several days.

Please enquire about available dates.

Flexible Dates?

No

Spring Break Projects

Description:

Spring Break projects are led primarily by the Buildings and Grounds program, with some vegetation/restoration projects available in late March, and are custom-planned depending on the ages of the group, the duration of their work, and the time of year. Almost all projects will take place in Yosemite Valley, and groups must be flexible, as unpredictable weather impacts our ability to plan far in advance. Work may include painting buildings, repairing park benches, cleaning gutters, building new structures, cleaning up camping areas, shoveling snow, indoor work such as storage area cleaning and organizing, deconstructing old buildings and similar tasks. A limited number of vegetation / ecological restoration projects may be available for groups with later season spring breaks.

Qualifications:

Minimum Age: 12, Group Size: 5 to 20 (maximum size depends on campsite availability)

Project Location: Yosemite Valley or El Portal **Campsite Location:** Yosemite Valley

Project Schedule:

Mid-February- mid-April (specific work schedule is flexible)

Weekend projects also available.

Flexible?

Yes! We can plan this on-request depending on project/leader availability and group skills; campsites possible on a space-available basis.

Partner Volunteer Projects

To sign up for one of these projects planned with non-profit partners, 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

Description:

The Yosemite Conservancy is the only philanthropic organization dedicated exclusively to the protection and preservation of Yosemite National Park and enhancement of the visitor experience. The Conservancy works with the park to accomplish work with volunteers each year. The National Park Service plans and leads the work projects, while the Conservancy arranges for group logistics and provides shared group equipment, food, and a cook.

Yosemite is a dynamic place with unpredictable conditions. While projects are planned to accomplish specific goals, they may be modified by the National Park Service at any time, as needed. The Park Service appreciates the flexibility of our volunteers when project tasks shift as the field season progresses. Our crews work shoulder to shoulder with NPS project leaders who demonstrate tool use, task performance, and safety measures.

A day pack, water bottles to carry two–three liters of water, and a lunch container are required for daily use. Hiking boots with hard soles are recommended. Unless specified, participants should be in strong physical condition and able to lift up to 40 pounds or 1/3 their weight (whichever is less). In general, no special skills are required.

Qualifications (for all Yosemite Conservancy projects):

Minimum Age: 18 Group Size: up to 15 individuals

Volunteers must be (or become) donors to the Yosemite Conservancy. Physical difficulty depends on the project and location.

See the Yosemite Conservancy website for application and more details:

<http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/volunteer>

Scheduled Projects:

Wawona

W1: Mariposa Grove Weed Warriors; June 11-17

We're looking forward to the Mariposa Grove restoration project's completion in 2017, but before that can happen, we need your help! Volunteers will be assisting the contracted Mariposa Grove restoration crew to complete their objectives before the grove opens to the public. Activities may include planting, de-compaction of soils, moving soil and duff, and using shovels, rakes, and wheel barrows. Mariposa Grove can be a steep environment to traverse, so come prepared with hiking boots. Contractors, other park personnel, and heavy equipment will be in the work site as well, so we need volunteers to pay attention to detail in a high traffic environment. For more information visit [Mariposa Grove Restoration](#).

Base camp: Wawona Campground

Elevation: 4,500 – 5,000 feet

Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy at group campsite

Transportation: Carpooling with personal vehicles

Work level: Strenuous

W2: Mariposa Grove Protectors; June 18-24

Help in the battle to remove the Mariposa Grove's invasive plants. The highly diverse plant communities in the grove, including sequoia seedlings, are in direct competition with invasive plants, including the prickly bull thistle. Using shovels and hand pulling, you can help control the spread of invasive plant species. The project site ranges throughout the grove and includes working in hot meadows, previously burned areas, and the shade of the giant sequoias. Moderate to strenuous physical exertion will be required. Mariposa Grove can be a steep environment to traverse, so come prepared with hiking boots. The project may also require lifting up to 40 pounds or 1/3 body weight (whichever is less). For more information visit [Mariposa Grove Restoration](#).

Base camp: Wawona Campground

Elevation: 4,500 – 5,000 feet

Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy at group campsite

Transportation: Carpooling with personal vehicles

Work level: Strenuous

Yosemite Valley

YV1: Yosemite Valley Visitor Protectors; July 9-15

Be part of a program that prevents serious visitor injuries in the park. As a Preventative Search and Rescue (PSAR) volunteer you will prepare hikers to enjoy the park safely within their personal limits. Enjoy the flexibility of having meaningful conversations with hikers at trailheads, along trails and the Merced riverbanks, at key water launch spots, riding the hiker bus, or in the campgrounds. The primary trailheads are Happy Isles, Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls, 4-Mile, and Mirror Lake. With your health and safety as a top priority, you'll be able to hike to your comfort level one day and work from your chair at a trailhead to recuperate the next. Rotating from one location to another during the day is also an option. Participants will learn how to communicate with patience, tact, and diplomacy as well as be given a PSAR ball cap and T-shirt. Visitor messaging information will be provided prior to arrival to help with onsite training.

Base camp: Yellow Pine Volunteer Campground in Yosemite Valley

Elevation: 4,000 feet

Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy at group campsite

Transportation: Carpooling with personal vehicles

Work level: Moderate to strenuous

YV2: Yosemite Valley Weed Warriors; July 16-22

Join the fight against invasive species, one of Yosemite's biggest threats to biodiversity. The Park Service will train this team of weed warriors to survey, identify, and remove invasive plants by hand or with shovels and other tools. Participants will walk short distances between roads and nearby field sites carrying buckets, tools, and supplies. They may be called upon to work on other restoration projects as needed and should be able to lift up to 30 pounds. Hiking boots with hard soles are recommended. No special skills are required. For more information on the Invasive Plant Management Program at Yosemite visit [Invasive Plants in Yosemite National Park](#).

Base camp: Yellow Pine Volunteer Campground in Yosemite Valley

Elevation: 4,000 feet

Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy at group campsite

Transportation: Carpooling with personal vehicles

Work level: Strenuous

YV3: Yosemite Valley Black Oak Restorers: July 23-29

Stand in the presence of a mature black oak tree and you're standing next to hundreds of years of history and scenic beauty. Come help us protect Yosemite's black oak trees by clearing out the small conifer trees in their understory. Volunteers will be working with a crew of NPS sawyers to haul brush after moderate sized trees are cut down. You will be using loppers and handsaws to remove small diameter conifers. Nothing is more satisfying than seeing the results of this work. You will be clearing Yosemite's scenic vistas, protecting black oak trees, prepping the area for a prescribed fire, and potentially opening up meadow habitat. In addition, one–two days will be dedicated to other activities to restore native plants and pollinators in Yosemite Valley meadows including seed collection, seed cleaning, invasive plant removal, and social trail eradication.

Base camp: Yellow Pine Volunteer Campground in Yosemite Valley

Elevation: 4,000 feet

Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy at group campsite

Transportation: Carpooling with personal vehicles

Work level: Moderate to strenuous

High Country

HC1: Tuolumne Meadows Restorers; August 13-19

Help protect and enhance this extraordinary meadow habitat. Tuolumne Meadows represents some of the most extensive subalpine meadow and riparian habitat in the Sierra Nevada. These ecosystems are sites of exceptional ecological importance. This project may include social trail eradication, seed and duff collection, past restoration maintenance, and invasive species removal. You should be able to work at high elevations and walk a short distance from the campsite to project sites.

Base camp: Tuolumne Meadows Campground

Elevation: 8,600 feet

Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy at group campsite

Transportation: Carpooling with personal vehicles or walking to worksites

Work Level: Moderate to strenuous

Conservation Volunteers International Program (CVIP)

(in partnership with REI)

Description:

From the CVIP website: "Conservation Volunteers International Program provides innovative, premiere conservation volunteer opportunities at the world's greatest landscapes and cultural sites. We create wonderful memories for our volunteers, local inhabitants, and agency officials of the host countries, and CVIP staff. While working and playing together, we smile and laugh a lot."

CVIP partners with REI to facilitate this work project.

Scheduled Projects:

May 14-20, 2017 and September 10-16, 2017

(same project for both dates)

Work with National Park Service trail crew to help improve and maintain trails in Yosemite Valley. Restore fragile natural resources damaged by visitor use, while enjoying vistas of the incredible granite walls. Yosemite Valley is 4,000 feet above sea level, which can pose a challenge for some, though past volunteers were a wide range of ages and abilities. No prior trail maintenance or restoration experience is required. We train you in all aspects of the work. As always, your education and safety are priorities. Tasks vary, but you should be able to hike up to two miles a day on mountainous terrain with some steep ascents and uneven trails, move soil or rock with a shovel,

pull unwanted vegetation, and carry stones. You may: use a pick or shovel to contour trail tread to shed water, cut and move vegetative plugs or branches to camouflage abandoned trails and slow running water, remove rocks or abandoned asphalt from the trail tread with rock bars, clip vegetation with a lopper or hand saw to improve trail safety, and/or move crushed rock or stone to create a dry walking surface. Yosemite Valley is a wonderful place to volunteer. Conservation Volunteers International Program, in cooperation with [REI Adventures](#), is pleased to offer this exciting opportunity to protect a national treasure.

Qualifications:

Strenuous: See the Conservation Volunteers International Program website to learn more and to sign up: <https://conservationvip.org/destinations/yosemite-national-park/>

Sierra Club

Description:

The Sierra Club, which has been leading Outings to Yosemite for over a century, is sponsoring two service trips this year, in Yosemite Valley in Tuolumne Meadows. Both groups will be working on ecological restoration.

Scheduled Projects:

July 9-15, 2017, Multi-generational Teen Service in Yosemite's Tuolumne Meadows, [Trip#17246A](#)

At 8,600 feet elevation along Route 120 west of Tioga Pass, Tuolumne Meadows is the accessible starting point for many high-country adventures. We'll set up camp there and work with National Park Service staff on projects to help manage this well-loved area. We will have the opportunity to hike some great trails, learn more about this park's natural and cultural history, and create our own personal experiences.

This trip is for teens and their family members. Working as families provides a special dynamic and energy, and allows an excellent way to learn new skills in a safe environment.

We will work on projects with Yosemite National Park's Resources Management and Science Division in the Tuolumne Meadows area. Projects will be chosen by the Park Service based on need and level of importance. Work might be either in the front-country or a short hike in. The National Park Service will provide tools and instruction.

This trip is moderately strenuous, and will take place at high elevation.

August 20-26, Service in the Spectacular Yosemite Valley, [Trip#17274A](#)

We will have the opportunity to continue in the footsteps of the conservationists who have come before us and learn more about this park's natural and cultural history. Bring your hiking boots and your curiosity; plan to explore and enjoy Yosemite while we work and play.

We will work with the park's Vegetation and Ecological Restoration Program on the projects that are of the greatest importance to the National Park Service. Work may include removing invasive plant species, planting native species, and rehabilitating trails. The National Park Service will provide all tools and instruction. Flexibility is always important -- for instance, a late snowpack or fire activity may change the work project or our base camp location. Participants will be kept up to date on any changes in the project, so we can adjust to whatever surprises come our way.

Qualifications:

See the Sierra Club Outings website for qualifications and application process: <http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/national>

Wilderness Volunteers

Description:

Wilderness Volunteers is a nonprofit organization created in 1997 to organize and promote volunteer service to America's wild lands. At Yosemite, Wilderness Volunteers typically work on wilderness restoration projects in Lyell Canyon.

Scheduled Projects:

August 6-12, 2017

Lyell Canyon, located south of Tuolumne Meadows, runs for eight miles before climbing to Donohue Pass which marks the southern boundary of Yosemite National Park. Known for its scenic meadows, sparkling river, colorful wildflowers and abundant wildlife, Lyell Canyon also contains sections of both the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and the John Muir Trail (JMT).

The service project will be assisting the Yosemite staff with campsite removal and rehabilitation as well as maintenance on an ongoing trail reroute and meadow restoration project in Lyell Canyon. After backpacking in approximately 6.5 miles to a basecamp the group will set up in a quiet campsite on the far side of the Tuolumne River. From the basecamp participants will walk to get to work each day either up or down the relatively flat expanse of Lyell Canyon as the week progresses. The Park will supply pack support to carry the tools, food and commissary gear to camp. On the off day, participants can hike up towards Donahue Pass, head up the Ireland Creek Trail, or just relax by the river.

Come spend a week in beautiful Yosemite National Park and give something back to our nation's wild lands with Wilderness Volunteers!

This is rated as a challenging project.

Qualifications:

Very Strenuous: See the Wilderness Volunteers website for qualifications and to sign up:

<http://www.wildernessvolunteers.org/project/201734/Lyell+Canyon%2C+Yosemite+National+Park.html>

Drop-in and Event Volunteering

For individuals who would like to volunteer while vacationing in Yosemite, we have several “drop-in” opportunities each year, including a weekly habitat restoration or litter cleanup project , special events such as Junior Ranger Day (mid-April), and our huge National Public Lands Day event – the Yosemite Facelift (late September, organized by the Yosemite Climbing Association (<http://www.yosemiteclimbing.org>)). To check out a current listing of drop-in events, go to <http://www.nps.gov/yose/supportyourpark/dropinvolunteer.htm>

2017 Yosemite Group Volunteer Projects Calendar

Calendar Notes:

- Most projects outside of Yosemite Valley are scheduled for specific dates, while Valley projects are more often listed as “flexible”. This is because we must reserve most campsites outside the Valley far in advance, while Yellow Pine and some first-come/first-serve campgrounds are more flexible.
- Projects marked with * are either at high elevation and may be impacted by late season openings due to snow, or are in other ways dependent on when the high country opens; work moves to another site and project when feasible, but it is possible no camping will be available.
- TBD = To Be Determined upon project assignment

Project Start Date or Date Range	Work Schedule	Project Name	Minimum Age Group Size	Campground/s	Campground Check-in	Campground Check-out
Flexible date projects: For these projects, choose your own dates based on the parameters listed.						
Flexible: scheduled on request for dates May 1- Nov 12	Any day of the week 9am to 3pm Or 3 to 6 hours between 8am and 4pm	Ash and Campground Cleanup - Valley	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5 to 30	Yellow Pine	TBD	TBD
Flexible: scheduled on request for dates after July 1	Any day of the week 9am to 3pm Or 3 to 6 hours between 8am and 4pm	Ash and Campground Cleanup – Tioga Rd campgrounds and Bridalveil campground	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5 to 24	Tamarack Flat Yosemite Creek White Wolf Porcupine Tuolumne Bridalveil	TBD	TBD
Flexible: scheduled on request	Any day of the week 3 to 6 hours between 8am and 4pm	Litter Cleanup – park-wide	Minimum age: 5 Group size for Yellow Pine: 5 to 30 Group size for other campgrounds: 5 to 24	Yellow Pine for May – Nov. For July-Sept also: Tamarack Flat Yosemite Creek White Wolf Porcupine Tuolumne Bridalveil	TBD	TBD
Flexible: scheduled on request	Any day of the week Usually 9am to 3pm	General Building and Grounds Maintenance - Valley	Minimum age: 12-16 (depending on project) Group size: 5 to 25 (depending on project)	Yellow Pine	TBD	TBD

Project Start Date or Date Range	Work Schedule	Project Name	Minimum Age Group Size	Campground/s	Campground Check-in	Campground Check-out
Flexible: scheduled on request	Any day of the week 8am to 4pm	Climber Access Trail Rehabilitation	Minimum age: 12 Group size: 5 to 15	Yellow Pine (May-July) or Tuolumne (July-Sept)	TBD	TBD
Flexible: scheduled on request	Any day of week or two days, 9am to 3pm, or half day 8am to noon	Small Conifer Removal	Minimum age: 12 Group size: 5-20	Yellow Pine	TBD	TBD
Limited Date Projects						
July 5-Oct 29	One- or two-day projects (9am to 3pm) available in all locations. Half-day (8am to noon) projects in Yosemite Valley only. (longer duration projects may also be available)	Seed and Duff Collection – Yosemite Valley or Mariposa Grove	Minimum age: 12 Group size: 5-20	Yellow Pine or Bridalveil	TBD	TBD
July 15- Aug 27		Invasive Plant removal – Yosemite Valley	Minimum age: 12 Group size: 5-20	Yellow Pine	TBD	TBD
June 12-July 30		Invasive Plant removal – Tuolumne Meadows	Minimum age: 12 Group size: 5-20	Tuolumne Meadows	TBD	TBD
Sept 15-Oct 15		Willow Cutting / Riverbank Restoration	Minimum age: 12 Group size: 5-20	Yellow Pine	TBD	TBD
Sept 15-Oct 15		Social Trail Eradication - Valley	Minimum age: 12 Group size: 5-20	Yellow Pine	TBD	TBD
May through October		Native Plant Restoration	Minimum age: 12 Group size: 5-20	Yellow Pine	TBD	TBD
Specific Date Projects						
April 1 or 2	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-24	Upper Pines	Friday 3/31	Sunday 4/2
April 8 or 9	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-24	Upper Pines Or Hodgdon Meadows	Friday 4/7	Sunday 4/9
April 15 or 16	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-24	Upper Pines	Friday 4/14	Sunday 4/16
April 22 or 23	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-24	Upper Pines Or Wawona	Friday 4/21	Sunday 4/23
April 29 or 30	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-24	Upper Pines	Friday 4/28	Sunday 4/30

Project Start Date or Date Range	Work Schedule	Project Name	Minimum Age Group Size	Campground/s	Campground Check-in	Campground Check-out
May 13 or 14	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-30	Hodgdon Meadows	Friday 5/12	Sunday 5/14
May 20 or 21	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-30	Wawona	Friday 5/19	Sunday 5/21
June 10 or 11	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-30	Hodgdon Meadows Or Wawona	Friday 6/9	Sunday 6/11
June 17 or 18	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-30	Hodgdon Meadows Or Crane Flat	Friday 6/16	Sunday 6/18
July 8 or 9	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-30	Tuolumne Meadows Or Crane Flat	Friday 7/7	Sunday 7/9
July 15 or 16	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-30	Tuolumne Meadows Wawona	Friday 7/14	Sunday 7/16
July 22 or 23	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup – Tioga Road campgrounds	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-30	White Wolf	Friday 7/21	Sunday 7/23
August 5 or 6	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-30	Tuolumne Meadows	Friday 8/4	Sunday 8/6
August 12 or 13	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-30	Tuolumne Meadows	Friday 8/11	Sunday 8/13
August 19 or 20	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-30	Wawona	Friday 8/18	Sunday 8/19
September 9 or 10	9am to 3pm	Campground / fire ring ash cleanup	Minimum age: 5 Group size: 5-30	Tuolumne Meadows	Friday 9/8	Sunday 9/10



Yosemite National Park Group Volunteer Project Request Form 2017

Group Name: _____ Contact Person: _____
 Date Request Submitted: _____ Check here if this is a new contact person
 or address for this group
 Home or _____
 Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Age(s) of Group: _____ Total Number of Volunteers: _____

Will your group have vehicles available for transporting volunteers to the work site? _____

If you wish to volunteer for more than one project, please fill out a separate sheet for each trip/project.
 We encourage you to list more than one project / date option, as your first choice may not be available.

List preferred projects / dates/ **in order of preference:**

Volunteer Work Date/s (different from arrival/departure dates)	Preferred Project	Preferred Camping Location	Arrival Date	Departure Date	*Campsites needed? (yes or no)
1 st Choice _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2 nd Choice _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3 rd Choice _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

*If you request that the park provide campsites, all group members who stay in those campsites will be required to participate in the volunteer work.

Please use the space below to provide additional information, including: relevant skill sets/experience, preferences about projects, names and contact info for on-site group leaders (if different from contact person), special needs, etc.

You will be notified via email regarding your assignment.

Submit request(s) to:

Email (preferred): yose_volunteers@nps.gov	Mail: Volunteer Office Yosemite National Park P.O. Box 700 El Portal, CA 95318	Questions? 209-379-1850 or yose_volunteers@nps.gov
Fax: 209-379-1350		

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