

LYV PSAR/Wildlife Internship 2009

The Yosemite Valley District may fill one or more part-time, seasonal, PSAR/Wildlife volunteer positions each year. These positions are based in Little Yosemite Valley (LYV), which contains the trail network leading to Half Dome. While there are no roads in this wilderness area it is one of the busiest trail systems in Yosemite and the National Park System. Due to the volume of hikers in this area there is often a need for extra persons to patrol the trails and assist visitors.

The PSAR (Preventative Search and Rescue) portion of the position involves talking to hikers about their skill level and known hazards in an attempt to prevent any mishaps. Additionally, the volunteer is expected to respond to and report emergencies as well as assist with SAR operations. The wildlife management portion of the position involves assisting and educating hikers on how to keep Yosemite's wildlife wild. Specifically, the volunteer is trained to assist with monitoring bear activity and assisting visitors with proper food storage. Volunteers are also expected to assist the LYV Rangers with operations and projects.

This is a great opportunity for anyone thinking of a career with the National Park Service, Emergency Medicine, Search and Rescue, or Wildlife Management. Backcountry "housing" and food are provided at the LYV ranger station. There is a great deal of flexibility in the schedule; however volunteers must commit a minimum of 32 hours per week.

Other volunteer opportunities may be available with less time commitment for special projects and support roles. Specific training for this position will be provided as well as additional training opportunities throughout the season (SAR, Fire, EMS, Wildlife, Stock, and Interpretation). Volunteers may be paid while working on larger incidents provided the 32 hour per week requirement is met. Volunteers are covered by Workers Compensation for injuries received during training, scheduled assignments, and emergency work.