

Yosemite National Park
Commercial Use Authorization Application
(For-profit & Non-profit Guiding Services)

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Thank you for your interest in obtaining a Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) to operate guided activities in Yosemite National Park. This is a limited authorization for commercial groups to provide specific services within the boundaries of the park, and is issued by Yosemite National Park for one calendar year. This application may be used by either For-profit businesses or Non-profit business and organizations.

Commercial Use Authorizations are available for the following activities:

Hiking (Day hikes)	Photography Workshop
Backpacking	Nordic (Snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snow camping)
Fishing	Step-On Guiding
Art Workshops	Motorcycle Tours

****Guided climbing activities and guided bicycle touring are not permitted in Yosemite National Park.**

(Specific regulations and group size limits are listed in the conditions for each specific activity.)

(Considerations when applying for an activity not listed above.)

The following are the general criteria under which this Commercial Use Authorization is issued:

- The activity authorized must be appropriate to the purposes for which the park was created, as set forth in its authorizing legislation, without having a negative impact on park resources.
- The commercial aspects of the activity (such as marketing, advertising, use or construction of any structures, etc.) must take place outside of the park.
- Authorizations are issued as “Out-of-Park” CUAs. All services must originate and terminate outside park boundaries. Monies may not change hands within the park.
- The services provided must not conflict with the rights provided under any concession contract.
- Permit holder(s) must comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws related to their business or activity.
- New activities must be approved through a compliance process per Directors Order 12.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for a Commercial Use Authorization, please submit the following documents:

- 1. A completed Commercial Use Authorization Application (form attached).**
- 2. A copy of your current brochures and advertising materials.**
- 3. A copy of your "Visitor Acknowledgment of Risk/Release of Liability" form, if you provide one to clients. (A copy of the National Park Service guidelines and an approved fillable form are available on the park's website in the permit section.)**
- 4. A copy of your field safety plan.**
- 5. A non-refundable application fee of \$50, made payable to “DOI-NPS” (Department of the Interior-National Park Service) to cover initial application processing costs.**

Mail application materials to:

**Yosemite National Park
Office of Special Park Uses
P.O. Box 700
El Portal, California 95318**

Additional documents to be submitted at a later date:

ONCE YOUR APPLICATION HAS BEEN REVIEWED, and if the activity is approved, a Commercial Use Authorization will be sent to you for your signature. At that time, you will need to provide:

- A current certificate of insurance documenting adequate liability coverage of the types and limits specified as conditions of the permit. Commercial general liability coverage with a minimum \$1,000,000 per occurrence will be required. Commercial passenger transportation must also meet automobile liability levels set by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and/or California Public Utilities Commission. The insurance certificate must specify no right of subrogation against the United States of America and must name the United States of America, National Park Service, Yosemite National Park as additional insured. The certificate must specify that the service(s) authorized by the permittee be covered by the insurance policy.
- A fee for the administrative and monitoring costs associated with your permit will be required. The costs vary from permit to permit and will be determined by the type of activity and the administration and monitoring required for your permit. Be prepared to pay up to \$350 for these costs. Contact the Office of Special Park Uses at the number below to obtain a more accurate estimate of costs specific to your permit.
- A copy of your food handler's safety certificate if food is prepared and or served by you or your group.
- A more detailed itinerary of your proposed trips, due before by the 15th day of the month preceding your trip(s). (Blank itinerary forms will be sent to you with your authorization.)
- An annual survey is required to be completed at the end of each permit year. Information includes the number of clients, number of trips to the park, length of stay, injuries occurring in the park, as well as a notice of your intent to renew your permit for the next calendar year. This form must be completed and returned to this office by the specified deadline noted on the form. (A blank survey form will be sent out by this office prior to the deadline.)

Explanation of Application Questions

1. Self explanatory
2. Self explanatory
3. Tax Exempt must show 501-3c Federal Tax Exemption notification from the IRS, or similar document.
4. Do you now or have you had, within the past 5 years, a license, permit or authorization to do business within any federal or state land management agency such as the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, State Parks, etc. If so what agency, when was the permit/license/authorization issued, what type(s) of services did your permit allow you to conduct, and what names were these permits issued under (i.e., personal name, dba, aka, corporation)?
5. (A) Guided climbing activities and guided bicycle touring are not permitted in Yosemite National Park.
 (B) What months of the year do you plan to operate within the park, e.g., June-August, Feb-April?
 (C) What areas of the park do you plan to use. What trails, trailheads, routes of travel, campgrounds, facilities, etc?
 (D) How many trips into the Park, per year, do you anticipate?
 (E) What will be the length of your trips, shortest to longest, (e.g., 4 hours to 14 days)?
 (F) What group size(s) do you plan to bring into the park? This includes guides. List livestock separately. [Park regulations allow groups of up to 15 on maintained trails and 8 maximum on cross country routes. When using stock the group size is limited to 15 including guides and packers with 25 head of stock maximum.]
 (G) Self explanatory.
 (H) Do your guides have experience guiding groups? Do they have knowledge and experience hiking the terrain upon which they will be leading groups? Do they have experience guiding groups in changing elevations, climate and weather conditions? Are they at least 18 years old? Are they trained in Leave-No-Trace principles? Do you require them to be trained in the safe handling of food in outdoor situations? Do they have CPR certification? Do they have emergency medical certification; can they manage a sick or injured client or sick or injured stock in the backcountry? [All guides must be certified to perform CPR. A minimum certification of Wilderness First Aid is required for any trip leader guiding overnight backcountry trips.]
 (I) Do you plan to use motorized pumps, generators or other similar equipment while in the park, outside of an established front county campground? [These items are not permitted in the wilderness.]
 (J) What type of stock animals do you plan to use, horses, mules or llamas? [Stock use is regulated under a separate permit from hiking and backpacking. When using stock the group size is limited to 15 including guides and packers with 25 head of stock maximum.]
 (K) Will you be providing food or preparing meals for you clients? At least one guide per group must have a food handler's safety certificate when food is prepared on trips where preparation takes place by guides or clients in out-of-door areas.
 (L) Will you use your vehicles to transport clients into or out of the park, or will they use their own vehicles. Transporting clients as part of the business operation requires authorization through the California Public Utilities Commission, for California companies, or the Dept of Transportation for non-California companies

Yosemite National Park Commercial Use Authorization

Commercial Guiding Services, Groups and Organization

APPLICATION

Submit completed applications to: Yosemite National Park
Office of Special Park Uses
P.O. Box 700
El Portal, CA 95318
Phone: (209) 379-1851, FAX (209) 379-1853

U.S. Federal Tax ID #: _____

Applicant Name: _____ Phone : _____

Business Name: _____ Fax : _____

Applicant's Complete Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Web Page: _____

(Please note if address & phone numbers are only for winter or summer use. If different information is used for different times of year please show this information at the top of this page or on an attachment.)

- 1. As an applicant, are you a(n): Individual Corporation Partnership/Association
 State Government/State Agency (Check One)
- 2. If you are an individual or partnership, are you also a citizen(s) of the United States? Yes No (Check One)
- 3. Is your company or group acknowledged as a Tax Exempt entity by the IRS? Yes, No (Check One)
(If "Yes", please send a copy of your IRS tax-exempt notification.)
- 4. Have you ever provided, or are you currently providing, services under a license/permit issued by a state or federal land management agency? Yes, No (Check One)
(If "yes", please indicate the agency (agencies), location(s), dates, type of service offered, and all previous names used in these operations: (Attach additional page if needed))

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY (Complete the following. Attach additional pages if needed).

A. Services to be offered: (Check all that apply.)

- Guided Backpacking Guided Fishing Guided Hiking Art Workshop
- Nordic (Guided Cross Country Skiing/Snow Shoeing, snow camping) Photography Workshop
- Step-On-Guiding Motorcycle Tours

Other: _____

B. Season of Operation (list months)

CUA Application continued

C. Park Location(s)/Route(s):

D. Estimated number of trips/year:

E. Estimated duration of trip/session:

F. Estimated group size (include guides): (15 maximum allowed on trails; 8 maximum for cross country travel)(A minimum of 1 guide to 7 clients is required.)

G. Safety plan (steps taken to insure the safety of client groups during their park outings, such as safety training, certifications, evacuation and emergency procedures, contact points, first-aid equipment, etc. Attach related excerpts from your operations manual or other written safety plan.

H. (Check all that apply) Are your guides certified in:

- CPR Basic First Aid Wilderness First Aid Wilderness First Responder
- Other EMS cert.

Are your guides trained or experience in :

- Wilderness guiding Leave No Trace Practices Backcountry food handler training
- Search and Rescue Basics Other (list) _____

I. Will motorized equipment be used? Yes No If "yes," describe: (Do not include automobiles)

J. Will stock animals be used? Yes No If "yes," describe:

K. Will food be prepared and provided by you? Yes No
If "yes," do you have a current food safety handler certificate Yes No

L. Will you provide your clients with transportation into and/or out-of the park? Yes No

If "yes," describe mode of transportation and list your CA, PUC or DOT authority number(s):

CA#	CA-PUC	DOT
-----	--------	-----

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am of legal age and authorized to do business in the state of California and that I have personally examined the information contained in this application and that this information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature

(Print Name)

Date (m/dd/yyyy)

Title 18, U.S.C. Section 1001, makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction.