



Dear Work Week Program Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in this volunteer program. Work Weeks are a cooperative venture of the National Park Service, DNC Parks & Resorts, and the Yosemite Association. Participating in a work week involves activities such as carrying equipment and containers of water for distances, digging and moving soil, transplanting, and/or performing light carpentry tasks in various parts of the park. Manual labor, especially at high elevations, can be exhausting. Volunteers should enjoy working in a team environment, be in very good health, and have a strong level of endurance. This volunteer program is one of the many benefits of being a member of the Association. If you are not a Yosemite Association member already, please take a moment to [join](#) or call 209 379-2317.

2010 Work Weeks:

May 9-15: Yosemite Valley Restoration 1

Improve ecological conditions in sensitive areas within Yosemite Valley. The work will include decommissioning social trails, transplanting native plants, building split rail and post and rope fencing. Base camp is in Yellow Pine campground. Meals are provided by DNC Parks and Resorts.

June 20-26: Yosemite Valley Restoration 2

Protect and restore meadows and woodlands at various popular locations in the Valley by removing invasive non-native plants and conifer saplings and obliterating social trails. Base camp is in Yellow Pine campground. Meals are provided by Yosemite Association.

July 25-31: High Country Restoration 1

Preserve and protect habitat by removing illegal campsites and campfire rings, obliterating social trails, and restoring sites in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias and other special high country places. Base camp is in White Wolf campground. Meals are provided by Yosemite Association.

August 1-7: Vogelsang High Sierra Camp Restoration

Improve ecological conditions by decommissioning social trails, delineating footpaths, de-compacting soil and installing 2 hitching rails. In addition to being in good physical condition, being able to hike 7 miles from Tuolumne Meadows Lodge to Vogelsang at a constant elevation gain of 1000 feet is required. Work projects take place at an elevation of 10,000 feet. Base camp is at Vogelsang. Meals are provided by DNC Parks and Resorts.

August 8-14: Social Science in Yosemite Valley

Collect data related to transportation and its effects on the crowding of trails and attraction sites. Data such as group size, length of stay, vehicle occupancy, people at one time, and vehicles at one time in Yosemite Valley and other popular park destinations will contribute to park planning decisions and the Merced River Plan. Hiking is required. Base camp is in Yellow Pine campground. Meals are provided by Yosemite Association.

August 22-28: High Country Restoration 2

Protect the Tuolumne Meadows area by removing encroaching conifers and invasive non-native plants, restoring native habitat impacted by out of bounds campsites in Lower Lyell Canyon, and performing other restoration projects. Base camp is Tuolumne Meadows campground. Meals are provided by Yosemite Association.

October 3- 9: Yosemite Valley Restoration 3

Restore plant and wildlife habitat by removing social trails, protect meadows by removing encroaching conifer saplings, and assist with other habitat management projects. Base camp is in Yellow Pine campground. Meals are provided by Yosemite Association.

Work Week Program Protocol:

A work week crew consists of 12-15 volunteers and NPS staff. Volunteers arrive at their assigned campground Sunday afternoon and work roughly eight-hour days Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. On Wednesday, a day off, they hike together or do their own activities in the park. Three hearty meals a day are provided on site. The kitchen, cook, and gear for the meals are provided. Food is stored in bear boxes. Volunteers assemble their own lunches with provided food and take turns helping with meal preparation and cleanup. Volunteers provide their own camping equipment and share a group campsite. Showers are provided nearby. Participants camping in Tuolumne Meadows should have previous experience camping and working at high elevations.

The **Vogelsang High Sierra Restoration** work week, sponsored by DNC Parks and Resorts, follows a different protocol. Volunteers arrive at the assigned group campsite in Tuolumne Meadows on Sunday afternoon and provide their own meals. They hike to Vogelsang on Monday and work roughly eight hour days Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Wednesday is a day off to relax and enjoy the park. Meals are provided at Vogelsang by DNC, and volunteers camp together using their own camping equipment. Participants hike out on Saturday and provide their own meals upon returning to Tuolumne Meadows. Previous experience hiking, camping, and working at high elevations is expected.

How to Volunteer:

Please fill out the following application, choosing several work weeks in order of preference. The Association experiences a high level of applicants and a lottery is used to select new volunteers for the program. Because our volunteers support the National Park Service, a federal agency, they must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents (possessing a green card). Children under the age of 18 are not admitted into the work week program. All volunteers must be capable of performing the required tasks safely. Applicants 18 to 21 years old are considered on a case by case basis by the Association and the National Park Service and are subject to being accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Applications are due **March 31, 2010**, after which a lottery will occur to determine which applicants will be placed in each work week. Applications received after **March 31st** will be considered on a space-available basis. Each work week has a fee of \$150. Please send your completed application and fee to the Yosemite Association at the address below. If paying by credit card, you may fax the application using the contact information below. Admission to the program is subject to passing a background check. Late cancellations can result in wasted food and labor. If after being assigned to a work week, you are unable to attend and the Association is able to fill your position with a replacement, 85% of your fee will be refunded and a 15% cancellation fee will be retained. Cancellations that cannot be filled with a replacement will not be refunded. Fees will be refunded if the trip is cancelled by the organizers. Checks should be payable to Yosemite Association. Your payment will be processed after you have been selected for a work week.

An **Application** is below. Please read the answers to **Frequently Asked Questions**. If after reading this information, you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you again for your interest in joining our exceptional group of volunteers!

Sincerely,

Suzy Hasty
Volunteer Program Manager
Yosemite Association
PO Box 230
El Portal, CA 95318-0230
209 379-1906 extension 16
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shasty@yosemite.org

An Equal
Opportunity
Employer

YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION
2010 Work Week Program Application



Date of Application _____ Member ID# _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number(s) _____ Email _____

Social Security Number (required for mandatory background check) _____

WORK WEEK PREFERENCE 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

3rd Choice _____ 4th Choice _____ 5th Choice _____

Have you ever participated in a YA work week? Yes No

If so, how many total years? _____

EXPERIENCE

How far can you hike per day? Less than 1 mile 1-4 miles 5-10 miles

Do you have any prior experience working at high elevations? Yes No If so, please explain.

On some work trips, volunteers hike several miles per day to and from a work site, in addition to a strenuous day's work. Would this pose any problem for you? Yes No If so, please explain.

Are you comfortable working on uneven terrain? Yes No If not, please explain.

Working 7-8 hours doing manual labor at high elevations (8,000-9,000 feet) can tax heart and lungs; would this pose a problem for you? Yes No If so, please explain

Please describe your previous volunteer experience.

Why do you want to participate in a work week program?

Are you a minimum of 18 years old? Yes No

Can you present proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent residence in this country? Yes No

If accepted into the program may we share your contact information with other volunteers to encourage carpooling, gear sharing, and networking? Yes No

Do you have any special dietary needs? If so, please list. Yes No

Are you able to perform the essential functions of the job for which you are applying with or without reasonable accommodation? Please describe any functions that cannot be performed. Yes No

Note: We comply with the ADA and consider reasonable accommodation measures that may be necessary for eligible applicants to perform essential functions. Placement may be subject to passing a medical examination, skill, and agility tests.

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense (felony or serious misdemeanor)? Yes No
If yes, state the nature of the crime(s), when and where convicted, and disposition of the case.

Note: No applicant will be denied employment solely on the grounds of conviction of a criminal offense. The nature of the offense, date of the offense, the surrounding circumstances, and the relevance of the offense to the position(s) applied for may, however, be considered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Please read carefully, initial each paragraph and sign below:

I hereby certify that I have not knowingly withheld any information that might adversely affect my chances for volunteering and that the answers given by me are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further certify that I, the undersigned applicant, have personally completed this application. I understand that any omission or misstatement of material fact on this application or on any document used to secure a volunteer position shall be grounds for rejection of this application or for immediate discharge if I am volunteering, regardless of the time elapsed before discovery.

_____ **Initials**

I understand that nothing contained in the application, or conveyed during any interview that may be granted or during my time volunteering, is intended to create a contract between me and the company. In addition, I understand and agree that if I am volunteering, my volunteer stint is for no definite and determinable period and may be terminated at any time, with or without prior notice, at the option of either myself or the Yosemite Association, and that no promises or representations contrary to the foregoing are binding on the Yosemite Association unless made in writing and signed by me and the company's President.

_____ **Initials**

Should a search of public records (including records documenting an arrest, indictment, conviction, civil judicial action, tax lien or outstanding judgment) be conducted by internal personnel employed by the Yosemite Association, I am entitled to copies of any such public records obtained by the Yosemite Association unless I mark the check box below. If I am not asked to volunteer as a result of such information, I am entitled to a copy of any such records even though I have checked the box below.

_____ **Initials**

I waive receipt of a copy of any public record described in the paragraph above.

Signature _____ Date _____

I have enclosed a check for my \$150 deposit.

Please charge the \$150 deposit to my credit card

Card Number _____ Expiration date _____

YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318 (209) 379-2646 FAX (209) 379-2486