

2019 Work Week Crew Schedule and Descriptions

Schedule of Dates and Locations

<i>Location</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Arrive</i>	<i>Depart</i>
Wawona			
Wawona 1	Mariposa Grove Restoration and Invasive Plant Removal	June 2	June 8
Yosemite Valley			
Yosemite Valley 1	Washington Column Climber's Trail Rehabilitation	June 9	June 15
Yosemite Valley 2	Weed Warriors/ Washington's Column Climber's Trail Rehabilitation	June 16	June 22
Yosemite Valley 3	Washington Column Climber's Trail Rehabilitation	June 23	June 29
Yosemite Valley 4	Preventive Search and Rescue	June 30	July 6
Yosemite Valley 5	Washington Column Climber's Trail Rehabilitation	September 1	September 7
Yosemite Valley 6	Washington Column Climber's Trail Rehabilitation	September 8	September 14
Yosemite Valley 7	Weed Warriors/ Washington's Column Climber's Trail Rehabilitation	October 6	October 12
Yosemite Valley 8	Weed Warriors/ Washington's Column Climber's Trail Rehabilitation	October 13	October 19
Tuolumne Meadows			

Tuolumne Meadows 1	Tuolumne Meadows Restoration	July 28	August 3
Tuolumne Meadows 2	Tuolumne Meadows Restoration	August 4	August 10

Tioga Trails

Tioga Trails 1	Yosemite Creek Trail Maint. Moved to Yosemite Valley, see Project description for more details	July 7 July 6	July 13 July 12
Tioga Trails 2	Yosemite Creek Trail Maint. Moved to Yosemite Valley, see Project description for more details	July 21 July 21	July 27 July 26
Tioga Trails 3	Porcupine Creek Trail Maint.	August 11	August 17

Descriptions

Our work week participants overwhelmingly love their experience volunteering in Yosemite. Doing meaningful work in a special place, meeting new people and getting to know them through working and camping together, getting an insider's look at National Park Service projects and working alongside the park staff, and having good meals prepared for you each day are all part of the attraction of our work weeks.

Our crews work shoulder to shoulder with NPS project leaders who demonstrate tool use, task performance, and safety measures. Participants usually work Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Wednesday is a free day to enjoy the park. Some work weeks may have a different schedule, but all weeks will include 4 days of work with one day off. Yosemite is a dynamic place with unpredictable conditions. While projects are planned to accomplish specific goals, they could 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.

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. In general, no special skills, unless otherwise specified, are required.

Wawona

Mariposa Grove Restoration, June 2-8

Early June is a beautiful time to be in the Mariposa Grove. Mornings are cool, flowers are blooming, and the meadows under the sequoias are green with new growth. Volunteers will be helping to maintain the recent restoration sites in Mariposa Grove as well as surveying for and removing invasive plants. The project site ranges throughout the grove and in the new parking lot outside the Grove. The work locations vary from the cool shade of the sequoias in the Upper Mariposa Grove to replanted hillsides adjacent to the Welcome Plaza (where it can get hot in the afternoon). Tasks include: Planting, Duff collection and spreading, moving logs, invasive plant removal on steep landscapes with shovels and kneeling to hand pull in restoration sites. Moderate 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 30. For more information visit [Invasive Plants in Yosemite National Park](#) and [Mariposa Grove Restoration](#).

Base camp: Wawona Campground

Parking: Use of the campground's overflow parking (away from campsite) area may be required.

Elevation: 5,000 - 6,000 feet

Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy at group campsite

Transportation: Carpooling with personal vehicles

Work level: Moderate

Yosemite Valley

We scheduled our 2019 projects in Yosemite Valley so that our volunteers would be able to enjoy the Valley at its best. June has warm days, cool nights roaring waterfalls and green meadows. In September the summer heat abates, nights are cool again but the days are still long and sunny. October is Yosemite's version of autumn - the yellow oak leaves contrast against the dark green pines and cedars. The Valley feels quieter and uncrowded. Days are mild, nights can be cold, and a fire in camp feels welcome.

Washington Column Climber Trail Construction and Rehabilitation

June 9-15 and June 23-29, September 1-7 and September 8-14

Climber access routes are the non-technical approaches and descents to the technical climbing of Yosemite's cliffs. During this project volunteers will work with climbing rangers and trail crew to improve and restore climbing access route to Washington Column - a popular big wall climb in Yosemite Valley. We're very excited about this new project and a substantial amount of the work will be done by YC volunteers over the course of seven weeks in 2019. Volunteers will work with hand tools such as rock bars, single jacks, rakes and shovels to stabilize this steep approach route. Erosion issues will be mitigated through trail drains, tread work and stone steps where necessary. Volunteers will also perform restoration on braided social trails and help delineate preferred routes. Work days will be strenuous with hiking and heavy lifting in exposed environments. Participants could walk up to three miles and carry loads up to 40 lbs. For more information on the Yosemite Climbing Program and climber access routes visit [Climbing Yosemite](#).

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

Preventive Search and Rescue, June 30-July 6

Be part of the effort to prevent visitor injuries and accidents over the 4th of July week in the park. As a Preventive Search and Rescue (PSAR) volunteer you will prepare hikers to enjoy the park safely within their personal limits.

Volunteers will talk to hikers about Yosemite's hazards as well as answer a variety of general and specific park questions while either roving trails or staffing contact stations at trailheads and at trail junctions. The primary trails are the Mist Trail, John Muir Trail, 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. We are looking for friendly, approachable people with experience hiking in Yosemite who enjoy educating visitors about the unique risks in the park. Participants will learn how to communicate with patience, tact, and diplomacy. Visitor messaging information will be provided prior to arrival and the first day of work will be a training/orientation day.

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

COMBINATION Work Weeks: Weed Warriors and Washington Column Climber Trail Rehabilitation, June 16-22

This Combination Work Week will allow volunteers a chance to work on two very different projects in one week. These weeks will have 20 volunteers that will be split up each day to work between the two projects. This is an experiment and our goal is to give volunteers the opportunity to sample the different projects and tailor their daily work choice based on which project most matches their interests, skills, and physical capabilities for that day. Combining the two projects into one week also helps us maximize the efficiencies of our camping/ cooking logistics. The two projects are the [Climber Trail Rehabilitation](#) (described above) and the [Weed Warriors](#), described below. Volunteers are free to just work on one project all week and aren't required to work on both. Being flexible will be a plus - though you'll never be pressured to do more strenuous work than you're able.

Weed Warriors

Volunteers will be removing invasive plants from Ackerson Meadow for one of the days, and removing invasive plants and watering areas in recently planted restoration sites in Yosemite Valley for three days. Using shovels and hand pulling, you can help control the spread of invasive plant species. Most of the work will be in sunny meadows, and other areas with little shade protection. Moderate to strenuous physical exertion will be required. The project may also require lifting up to 30-40lbs. 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 to Valley work sites. Transportation to Ackerson Meadow will be provided by NPS and Yosemite Conservancy

Work level: Moderate

COMBINATION Work Weeks: Yosemite Valley Vegetation Work and Climber Trail Rehabilitation, October 6-12 and October 13-19

These Combination Work Weeks will allow volunteers a chance to work on two very different projects in one week. These weeks will have 20 volunteers that will be split up each day to work between the two projects. This is an experiment and our goal is to give volunteers the opportunity to sample the different projects and tailor their daily work choice based on which project most matches their interests, skills, and physical capabilities for that day. Combining the two projects into one week also helps us maximize the efficiencies of our camping/ cooking logistics. The two projects are the [Climber Trail Rehabilitation](#) (described above) and the [Yosemite Valley Fall](#)

Vegetation Work, described below. Volunteers are free to just work on one project all week and aren't required to work on both. Being flexible will be a plus - though you'll never be pressured to do more strenuous work than you're able.

Yosemite Valley Fall Vegetation Work

Fall vegetation work in Yosemite has a number of possibilities. Volunteers will work on some of these tasks while they enjoy the fall foliage and cooling temperatures in Yosemite Valley. **Informal Trail Removal** - These trails divide scarce meadow habitat into smaller and smaller sections providing opportunity for invasive plant invasions and disrupting hydrological processes.

Willow collection and planting - We are halting erosion and stabilizing Merced riverbanks by collecting and planting willows along the river corridor. **Planting** - Fall is prime planting season, so there is the possibility of assisting with various planting projects throughout Yosemite Valley. **Conifer Management** - Several acres of land in Yosemite Valley are being managed to restore scenic viewpoints, open up meadow habitat, control for hazardous trees, and protect stands of the California Black Oak. Volunteers are needed to make piles of the woody debris and cut down small conifers with loppers and handsaws. Task could include: using shovels to decompact ground, collecting and planting large plugs of meadow plants, collecting and burying downed trees for use in restoration, collecting and spreading native seeds and duff, cutting small conifers with loppers and handsaws, and collecting willow cuttings along the river.

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 to Valley work sites. Transportation to out of Valley work sites provided by NPS and Yosemite Conservancy

Work level: Moderate

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows Restoration, July 28-August 3 and August 4-10

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 will involve removing very small invasive plants from high elevation meadows, small conifer removal for scenic vista management, informal trail removal for habitat protection, and seed collection for future restoration projects. Tasks include: soil decompaction, planting large meadow plugs, moving materials in wheelbarrows, watering, invasive plant removal, lopping small trees, and collecting seeds and duff to spread on site. You should be able to work at high elevations, bend and kneel for long periods of time, walk a short distance from the campsite to project sites and lift up to 30 pounds.

Base camp: Tuolumne Meadows Campground (some participants' vehicles may have to be parked in nearby overflow parking overnight)

Elevation: 8,600 feet

Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy

Transportation: Carpooling with personal vehicles or walking to worksites

Work Level: Moderate to strenuous

Base camp: Tuolumne Meadows Campground

Elevation: 8,600 feet

Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy at group campsite P

Transportation: Carpooling with personal vehicles or walking to worksites

Work Level: Moderate to strenuous

Tioga Trails

~~**Yosemite Creek Campground, July 7-July 13, July 21-July 27**~~ **Moved to Yosemite Valley due to delayed campground openings because of high winter snowpack. New dates will be: July 6-July 12 and July 21-July 26. Camping for this project will now be in Yellow Pines campground in Yosemite Valley and the crew will work on Valley area trails.**

Porcupine Flat Campground, August 11-17- This project is also in an area of high snowpack but we believe we will be able to run it as scheduled. If Porcupine Campground is not open in time, we will move this project to Yosemite Valley

These projects are new for 2019, both in their locations and in the nature of the work. These projects will be working on the popular trails which leave from trailheads along the Tioga Road and follow the Yosemite Creek drainage. To make access to our work site efficient the group will camp at the off-the-beaten-path Yosemite Creek Campground and Porcupine Flat Campground. These sites are no frills, with no running water or flush toilets, but their beauty is in their remoteness and it is a much more laid back experience than camping in the bigger developed campgrounds in Yosemite Valley or Tuolumne. We will provide filtered water for drinking and water to wash up and there are vault toilets throughout the campgrounds. The work will consist of hiking the trails in smaller groups with a NPS trails leader and stopping to do maintenance as needed - clearing trail drainage structures, sawing logs off the trails, trimming brush, and repairing water bars and trail steps.

Base camp: ~~Yosemite Creek~~ **Yellow Pines Campground (4,000' elevation)** or Porcupine Flat Campground

Elevation: 7000-8000 feet

Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy

Transportation: Walk to work site or transportation provided

Work Level: Moderate to strenuous