

# 2020 Work Week Crew

## Schedule and Descriptions

<b>WAWONA</b>		
WW1 Mariposa Grove Trail Maintenance and Vegetation Restoration	May 24	May 29
WW2 Mariposa Grove Trail Maintenance and Vegetation Restoration	May 31	June 6
<b>YOSEMITE VALLEY</b>		
YV1 Vegetation Restoration - Pollinator Project	May 10	May 16
YV2 Valley Trail Maintenance and Lower River Canyon Climber Access Route Rehabilitation	June 7	June 13
YV3 Vegetation Restoration and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation	June 14	June 20
YV4 Weed Warriors and Valley Trail Maintenance	June 21	June 27
YV5 Meadow Restoration, Pollinator Project and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation	Oct 4	Oct 10
YV6 Meadow Restoration, Pollinator Project and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation	Oct 11	Oct 17
YV7 Meadow Restoration, Pollinator Project and Trail Maintenance	Oct 18	Oct 24
<b>TUOLUMNE MEADOWS</b>		
TM1 Climber Access Route Rehabilitation	Aug 9	Aug 15
TM2 Climber Access Route Rehabilitation and Invasive Plant Removal	Aug 16	Aug 22
TM3 Seed Collection and Vegetation Restoration	Aug 23	Aug 29
<b>TIOGA TRAILS</b>		
TT1 Old Tioga Road and Porcupine Creek Trail Maintenance	July 12	July 18
TT2 Old Tioga Road and Porcupine Creek Trail Maintenance	July 19	July 25
TT3 Old Tioga Road and Porcupine Creek Trail Maintenance	July 26	Aug 1

## Descriptions

The Yosemite Conservancy Work Week Program offers volunteers a unique, treasured opportunity to deepen your connection to Yosemite National Park. The innerworkings of this world-renowned location include nonstop improvement efforts to wildlife and habitat restoration, trails, and visitor experience; join us for the chance to work alongside numerous branches of the National Park Service and have a hand in bettering your park. Through this program, volunteers will do meaningful work, meet and bond with new people by working and camping together, get an insider's look at NPS projects, and have good meals prepared for them each day.

Our crews work shoulder to shoulder with NPS project leaders who demonstrate tool use, task performance



and safety measures. Participants will work Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Friday is a free day to enjoy the park. 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. NPS appreciates the flexibility of our volunteers when project tasks shift as the field season progresses.

In the case of participating in a combination work week, volunteers will have the chance to work on two very different projects in one week. These work weeks will have a greater number of participants that will be split up each day to work between the two projects. Our goal is to give volunteers the opportunity to sample different fields of work and tailor their daily work choice based on which project best matches their interests, skills, and physical capabilities on a given day. Volunteers are free to work on just one project all week and are not required to work on both. Being flexible will be a plus - though you'll never be pressured to do more strenuous work than you are able.

**While a variety of work will be offered as often as we are able to accommodate it, \* will mark official combination work weeks, when multiple branches of NPS will be in the field with us daily.**

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 Trail Maintenance and Vegetation Restoration, May 24-30, May 31-June 6

We will begin our season working in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. Mornings and evenings in the campground and under the trees will still hold a chill, the forest floor will present new shades of spring green, and trails will likely have excess water runoff as high elevation snow melt continues. Our volunteers will be adopting continued stewardship of the grove following the major restoration project that took place between 2015-2018; a joint effort of the Yosemite Conservancy and the National Park Service that stemmed from our donors' generosity and care. We will be maintaining trails within the grove, as well as around its perimeter. Tasks will include: digging new drains to prevent tread erosion, shaping existing drains to improve water diversion, raking and clearing trails of debris, removal of fallen logs with crosscut saw, brushing of any overgrowth on the trail, and fence repair. In addition to this, we will be assisting with the ongoing efforts of the NPS Vegetation and Ecological Restoration Crew. These tasks will include social trail and shortcut removal by hauling in debris and disguising disturbed soils, and identifying and pulling invasive plants and weeds. For more information visit [Invasive Plants in Yosemite National Park](#) and Mariposa Grove Restoration. For more information visit [Mariposa Grove Restoration](#).

Work will often be completed in steep and varied terrain and involve up to 3 miles of hiking. Volunteers will each carry 1-2 hand tools, completing maintenance as we progress along the trail. Most days will include the opportunity to choose between a moderate and strenuous project.

Base camp: Wawona Campground, off-site overflow parking may have to be utilized  
Elevation: 5,000-6,000 feet  
Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy  
Transportation: Carpool in YC and personal vehicles  
Work level: Moderate to Strenuous





## Yosemite Valley

Our 2020 projects in Yosemite Valley have been scheduled with the goal of letting our volunteers experience this majestic place at its best. May and June will boast roaring waterfalls, lush meadows and blooming wildflowers, while still maintaining workable daytime temperatures and less-than-peak crowd levels. Our return in late September will be nearing autumn, providing those present with, again, reduced crowds, milder daytime temps and a chill in the evenings, and the golden oak leaves and red dogwoods that comprise Yosemite fall colors. Come take part in the unending myriad of hard work and interesting projects that go in to keeping this land accessible and in balance.

### **YV1: Pollinator Project – Vegetation Restoration, May 10-16**

Join NPS Vegetation staff in Yosemite Valley taking care of our restoration sites planted to attract pollinators and provide habitat for them in the park. These restoration sites will need to be weeded, watered, and in general given some time and attention. Most of the work will be in areas with little shade protection, and require kneeling or bending. Additional tasks include hauling brush to keep footprints out of high visitation sites closed for restoration, conifer removal with hand saws to expand meadow habitat, or returning to the Mariposa Grove for additional work there. Find out more about our ongoing efforts for the [Pollinator Project](#).

Base camp: Yellow Pine Volunteer Campground in Yosemite Valley  
Elevation: 4,000 feet  
Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy  
Transportation: Carpool in YC and personal vehicles  
Work level: Moderate

### **\* YV2 Valley Trail Maintenance and Lower River Canyon Climber Access Route Rehabilitation, June 7-13**

Through a joint effort of NPS Trail Crew, Climbing Rangers and Stewards, and YC Work Crew Leader, we will be rehabilitating both hiking trails and climber access routes during this work week.

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 park staff to improve and restore approach routes to various crags in the Lower Merced River Canyon. Volunteers will work with hand tools such as rock bars, single jacks, rakes and shovels to stabilize these often steep approaches. 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. For more information on the Yosemite Climbing Program and climber access routes visit Climbing Yosemite . Work will be strenuous, with hiking and heavy lifting in exposed environments. Participants could walk up to two miles and carry loads up to 30 lbs.

Trail maintenance will take place on numerous hiking trails in and near Yosemite Valley. Crews may commute up to 40 minutes away, depending on project completion priorities for the National Park Service. Work tasks will include controlling tread erosion from high water runoff by digging and shaping new swale drains, as well as maintaining existing drains, clearing brush overgrowth with loppers and handsaws, removing excess and hazardous rocks and debris from trail, and potentially removing fallen logs with a crosscut saw or grip hoist. Work will often be completed in steep and varied terrain and involve up to 3 miles of hiking. Volunteers will each carry 1-2 hand tools, completing maintenance as we progress along the trail.

Base camp: Yellow Pine Volunteer Campground in Yosemite Valley  
Elevation: 4,000-8,000 feet  
Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy  
Transportation: Carpool in YC and personal vehicles  
Work level: Strenuous

### **\* YV3 Vegetation Restoration and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation, June 14-20**

This week will offer a combination of climber access route rehabilitation and general vegetation work, with a focus on informal trail removal. Both are described below.

We will continue the previous week's work with Climbing Rangers and Trail Crew to improve conditions on approach routes in the Lower Merced River Canyon and Yosemite Valley. Volunteers will work with hand tools such as rock bars, single jacks, rakes and shovels to stabilize these approaches. Erosion issues will be mitigated through trail drains, tread work and stone steps where necessary. Restoration will be performed on braided social trails and delineation will be added to preferred routes. Work days will be strenuous with hiking and heavy lifting in exposed environments. Participants could walk up to two miles and carry loads up to 30 lbs.

Volunteers will also have the opportunity to join Vegetation staff in protecting Yosemite Valley's meadows from trampling. We will be focusing our energy on hauling brush to keep footprints off recently closed trails. Additional tasks include decompacting bare ground with shovels, weeding and watering restoration sites, conifer removal with hand saws to expand meadow habitat, black oak project maintenance, or additional work in Mariposa Grove.

Base camp: Yellow Pine Volunteer Campground in Yosemite Valley  
Elevation: 4,000 feet  
Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy  
Transportation: Carpool in YC and personal vehicles  
Work level: Moderate to Strenuous





### **\*YV4 Weed Warriors and Valley Trail Maintenance, June 21-27**

Volunteers will be mitigating the spread of invasive plants by identifying and hand-pulling or digging target species. Project sites will be in Yosemite Valley and Ackerson Meadow, the most recent addition of land to Yosemite NP; you can find out more about this landmark donation and the critical meadow habitat restoration projects it presents. Additional tasks will include hauling brush to close down trails, conifer removal with hand saws to expand meadow habitat, black oak project maintenance, or additional work in Mariposa Grove. Most of the work will be in areas with little shade protection and require kneeling or bending for work.

In addition to vegetation projects, we will be working alongside NPS Trail Crew to maintain hiking trails around Yosemite Valley and the Glacier Point Road. Tasks will include controlling tread erosion from high water runoff by digging and shaping new swale drains, as well as maintaining existing drains, clearing brush overgrowth with loppers and handsaws, removing excess and hazardous rocks and debris from trail, and potentially removing fallen logs with a crosscut saw or grip hoist. Work will often be completed in steep and varied terrain and involve up to 3 miles of hiking. Volunteers will each carry 1-2 hand tools, completing maintenance as we progress along the trail.

Base camp: Yellow Pine Volunteer Campground in Yosemite Valley

Elevation: 4,000-8,000 feet

Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy

Transportation: Carpool in personal vehicles to Valley work sites, transportation to Ackerson Meadow will be provided by NPS and YC

Work level: Moderate to Strenuous

### **\*YV5/YV6 Yosemite Valley Meadow Restoration and Climber**

#### **Access Route Rehabilitation, October 4-10, October 11-17**

#### **YV7 Pollinator Project and Trail Maintenance October 18-24**

All three of our fall work weeks will be combination weeks. Each will include a portion with the NPS Vegetation & Ecological Restoration branch, as well as NPS Trail Crew or Climbing Rangers. Please refer to each Work Week title to determine which projects are being offered on which dates.

Join Vegetation staff in taking care of [Yosemite Valley Meadows](#). We have previous restoration sites and new restoration sites to work on. Most of the work will be in areas with little shade protection, and require kneeling or bending for work. Tasks could include: hand weeding, watering, planting meadow plugs, collecting and hauling chip mulch, using shovels to decompact ground, recontouring the landscape with rakes, collecting and spreading native seeds and duff, cutting small conifers with loppers and handsaws, and hauling brush to discourage trampling. Some hours of each week will also be dedicated to the ongoing efforts of the Pollinator Project, a great effort created and led by one of Yosemite's Park Biologists, on which you can find more information here [Pollinator Project](#).

Volunteers who choose to work on Climbing Access Route Rehabilitation projects will work with NPS Trail Crew and Climbing Rangers to improve and restore the approaches to various crags in Yosemite Valley. Volunteers will work with hand tools such as rock bars, single jacks, rakes and shovels to stabilize these approaches. Erosion issues will be mitigated through trail drains, tread work and stone steps where necessary. Restoration will be performed on braided social trails and delineation will be added to preferred routes. Work will be strenuous with hiking and heavy lifting in exposed environments.

For YV7, volunteers will also have the option to do maintenance on hiking trails around Yosemite Valley. Tasks will include controlling tread erosion from high water runoff by digging and shaping new swale drains,

as well as maintaining existing drains, clearing brush overgrowth with loppers and handsaws, removing excess and hazardous rocks and debris from trail, and potentially removing fallen logs with a crosscut saw or grip hoist. Work will often be completed in steep and varied terrain and involve up to 3 miles of hiking. Volunteers will each carry 1-2 hand tools, completing maintenance as we progress along the trail.

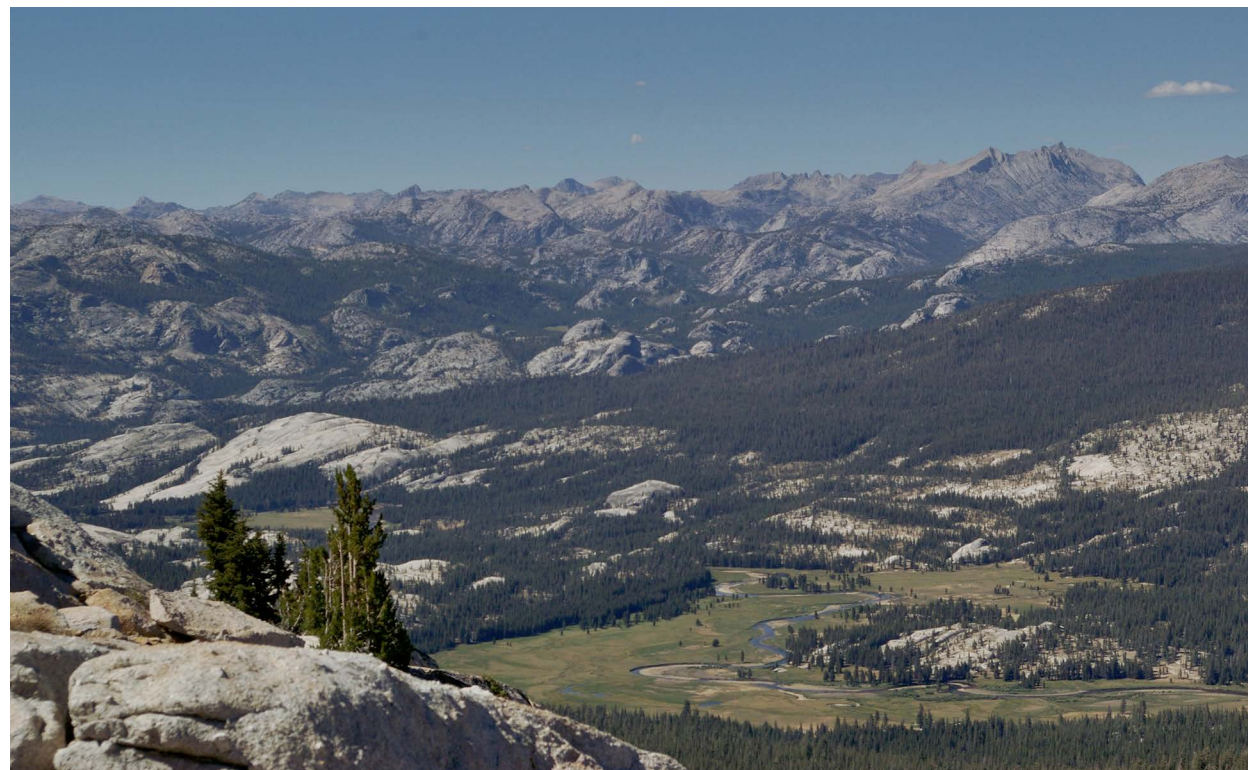
Base camp: Yellow Pine Volunteer Campground in Yosemite Valley

Elevation: 4,000 feet

Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy

Transportation: Carpooling in YC and personal vehicles to Valley work sites

Work level: Moderate to Strenuous



## **Tuolumne Meadows**

### **TM1 Climber Access Route Rehabilitation, August 9-15**

For 2020, we are excited to add the task of Climber Access Route Rehabilitation to our annual efforts in Tuolumne Meadows, a beloved location of park staff and visitors alike. Work for this week will be focused on the approach route to Fairview Dome, an impressive hunk of granite boasting classic technical rock climbs of varying grades. With the popularity of rock climbing steadily increasing, it is becoming ever-important to become stewards of our outdoor crags. Improving approach routes to better withstand heavier foot traffic and lessen the damage to the surrounding land is a fantastic way you can help. Volunteers will work with hand tools such as rock bars, single jacks, rakes and shovels to make this, and other routes, more sustainable. Groups may also clear trails of fallen trees, therefore reducing new bypass paths, using traditional crosscut saws. Erosion issues will be mitigated through trail drains, tread work and stone steps where necessary. Work days will be strenuous, with hiking and heavy lifting at high elevation. Participants could walk up to three miles and carry loads up to 30 lbs.

Base camp: Tuolumne Meadows Campground, nearby overflow parking may have to be utilized

Elevation: 8,000 - 10,000 feet

Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy



Transportation: Carpool in YC and personal vehicles  
Work Level: Strenuous

### **TM2 Climber Access Route Rehabilitation and Invasive Plant Removal, August 16-22**

Our second week in Tuolumne will be a continuation of the previous week's efforts. In addition to our work on Climber Access Routes, we will also offer 2-3 days of vegetation projects, the specifics of which will follow the needs of Vegetation staff and the Tuolumne Restoration Crew. Amongst these, volunteers will hunt for and remove small invasive plants in former restoration sites in and around Tuolumne Meadows. Volunteers should be prepared to work at high elevations, bend and kneel for long periods of time, and walk a short distance from the campsite to project sites, as well as assist with the more strenuous efforts of our access route rehabilitation project at least one day of the week.

Base camp: Tuolumne Meadows Campground, nearby overflow parking may have to be utilized  
Elevation: 8,000 - 10,000 feet  
Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy  
Transportation: Carpool in YC and personal vehicles  
Work Level: Moderate to Strenuous

### **TM3 Seed Collection and Vegetation Restoration, August 23-29**

Help protect and enhance this extraordinary meadow habitat. Tuolumne Meadows represents some of the most extensive sub alpine meadow and riparian habitat in the Sierra Nevada, sites of exceptional ecological importance. The focus of this week will be to wander through the high country in search of native plant seeds to collect. Tasks could include: seed collection, soil decompaction, planting large meadow plugs, moving materials in wheelbarrows, watering, invasive plant removal, lopping small trees, and collecting duff to spread on site. Some subgroups could be hiking up to six miles in a day. Volunteers should be able to work at high elevations, bend and kneel for long periods of time, walk a short distance from camp to project sites, and lift up to 30 pounds.

Base camp: Tuolumne Meadows Campground, nearby overflow parking may have to be utilized  
Elevation: 8,000 - 10,000 feet  
Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy  
Transportation: Carpool in YC and personal vehicles  
Work Level: Easy to Moderate



## **Tioga Trails**

### **TT1-TT3 Old Tioga Road and Porcupine Creek Trail Maintenance, July 12-18, July 19-25, July 26-August 1**

Tioga Trails is back for our 2020 season! Varying greatly in setup from our offerings in Yosemite Valley, these work weeks are based at two remote, “dry” campgrounds, meaning there is no running water or flush toilets, but a quiet, laid back environment quickly makes up for the shift in amenities. Both Porcupine Flat and Yosemite Creek campground are located on perennial creeks, providing us the opportunity to give volunteers fresh-from-the-source, filtered alpine water for drinking and hand washing. Solar showers will be provided, or one can explore downstream for bathing spots in their afternoon time. Vault toilets are located throughout both campgrounds.

As for our commute to work, it will be done on foot. Most days, we will be hiking with NPS trail crew directly to the work site. The main focus of these work weeks will be to open a new hiking route along a section of the Old Tioga Road, the predecessor to Tioga Pass/Highway 120. We will be working on the connecting piece from the two aforementioned campgrounds, eventually linking them with a passable trail. Doing this will involve a lot of drain work, digging and shaping swales, and possibly constructing water bars from nearby rocks. We will be clearing brush with loppers and hands saws, and occasionally hauling logs aside with a grip hoist, widening the trail enough for hikers and mules to pass through. This new section of trail will be what we consider a Type 1, primitive trail, meaning we want to make our presence and work as unobvious as possible, doing restoration work as we go to minimize impact. It is a unique opportunity to be a part of something “new” in such an established place as Yosemite, and we are eager to be able to share that chance with our YC volunteers.

In addition to making passage along the Old Tioga Road, we will be doing maintenance on the beginning portions of the Porcupine and Yosemite Creek trails. Tasks include controlling tread erosion from water runoff by digging and shaping new swale drains, as well as maintaining existing drains, clearing brush overgrowth with loppers and handsaws, removing excess and hazardous rocks and debris from trail, and potentially removing fallen logs with a crosscut saw or grip hoist. Work will often be completed on varied and uneven terrain and involve up to 4 miles of hiking, with less than 1000 ft of elevation change. Volunteers will each carry 1-2 hand tools, completing maintenance as we progress along the trail.

Base camp: Yosemite Creek or Porcupine Flat Campground  
Elevation: 7000-8000 feet  
Meals: Provided by Yosemite Conservancy  
Transportation: Walk to work site or carpool in YC and personal vehicles  
Work Level: Strenuous

### **Further project-related reading:**

[Mariposa Grove Restoration](#)  
[Invasive Plants in Yosemite](#)  
[Yosemite Climbing Trails Program](#)  
[Pollinator Project](#)  
[Ackerson Meadow](#)  
[East Valley Wetlands Restoration](#)  
[Yosemite Wilderness Restoration](#)  
[Merced River Plan Restoration](#)