



# Art Instructor

## FAQS

Frequently Asked  
Questions

The Art Instructor instructs daily art classes from 9am-1pm Monday through Friday for a maximum of two weeks. The information below will give you an idea of what it is like to live and work in Yosemite Valley for 1-2 weeks.





## REQUIREMENTS

### **1. What are the important qualities of an art instructor working at Happy Isles Art and Nature Center?**

Serving as a volunteer in Yosemite National Park, a World Heritage Site, is an honor and a privilege. Our volunteers recognize this and take pride in representing Yosemite, the National Park Service, and Yosemite Conservancy. They enjoy working with people and serving the public. They work congenially with each other, the park's partners and Conservancy employees. They have excellent communication skills and a strong desire to support the mission of the Conservancy and the National Park Service. They abide by the rules and regulations of both agencies and put the needs of others above their own.

Art Instructors should have experience teaching fine arts, and extensive knowledge of their medium. They must have a passion and interest in connecting students to Yosemite's landscape and ecology through art. Artists should know how to teach beginner level students, some of whom have not used a paint brush since middle school.

Our volunteers are passionate about Yosemite and have personal experience with trails and activities to share with visitors. They come with a commitment to work for the park rather than as a means to have a vacation. They work as part of a team and are flexible when schedule changes are needed. They are in good health with strong stamina. Whether camping, working, or enjoying time off, they are committed to helping visitors get the most out of a visit to Yosemite.

### **2. Do I have to be a U.S. citizen to participate?**

U.S. citizenship or possession of a green card is required.

### **3. What is the age requirement?**

Our participants must be a minimum of 18 years old and accompanied by a parent/guardian at this age.

#### **4. Do I have to be a donor to apply?**

While your work as a volunteer is a wonderful contribution to Yosemite, administration of this award winning volunteer program is funded by donations. Yosemite Conservancy relies on the generosity of our donors to support projects and programs that protect Yosemite's grandeur through the ages. We will encourage all participants to make a monetary donation to the Conservancy.

#### **5. How do I make a donation?**

Online: Visit [Yosemite.org/giving](https://www.yosemite.org/giving)

Phone: Call 800 4MYPARK (800 469-7275) to donate with a credit card.

Mail: Send a check to Yosemite Conservancy, 101 Montgomery Street, Suite 1700, San Francisco, CA 94101.

#### **6. What is the schedule of dates and locations for the season?**

Dates are determined based on artist's availability and preference. Please indicate your availability and preference in the online application. Please note that the minimum requirement is a 1 week commitment, a maximum of 2 weeks. Available dates range from the end of March to the end of October each season, please see the Application Form for more details.

Once on the schedule to instruct classes with us, please make sure to put that on your calendar as a commitment. We rely on your commitment of one or two weeks to have a full schedule and it is very difficult to get substitute instructors last minute.

#### **7. Is there a job description for this position?**

For a description of this position read Art Instructor position description.

#### **8. How do I apply?**

After reading all the information, fill out the Volunteer Art Instructor online application.

#### **9. When does the application process begin and end?**

We typically recruit volunteers one year in advance (e.g. we recruit in 2022 for 2023). Please look at the date at the top of the online application form to see what year you are applying for.

#### **10. What is the application process?**

Applicants can fill out the application form and choose the weeks they are available to volunteer as the art instructor. Applications are processed in the order their online applications are received. Whether a new or returning volunteer, once admitted into the program, all the information needed to participate is emailed at a later date.

Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview. Volunteers will be selected and scheduled based on their answers in their application and in their interview. Applicants are notified of their volunteer placement via phone and email.

#### **11. Are there waiting lists?**

Yes. Applicants can ask to be placed on waiting lists if none of their choices are available. They are notified when availability occurs.

#### **12. Can I volunteer for less or more than 2 weeks?**

To provide visitors with unique experiences and diversity, as well as to provide fairness and opportunity for artists applying, artists in residence will only instruct classes for a maximum of 2 weeks and a minimum of 1 week.

# VOLUNTEER LOCATIONS

## **13. Where in the park does the artist in residence instruct daily art classes?**

This position will be located only in Yosemite Valley at the Happy Isles Art and Nature Center

General location information: Yosemite Valley sits at about 4,000 feet in elevation. Generally, in May, early June, and after Labor Day, the park is not as crowded as mid-June through Labor Day. The art instructor lives in North Pines Campground in a tent with a sleeping cot, a cook stove, chairs and lighting, provided by Yosemite Conservancy. North Pines Campground can be crowded, noisy, and smoky during some months. Parking at the camp site is limited to 2 vehicles. The free shuttle and bicycles are the preferred mode of transportation, though there is parking available at the Happy Isles Art and Nature Center for the art instructor to help with transporting art and supplies. Food discounts are provided at nearby Half Dome Village Pavilion and the Yosemite Valley Lodge Food Court. Laundry is available at Housekeeping Camp and showers are available in Half Dome Village.

## **14. What is the weather like in the different locations in the park?**

Yosemite Valley: The weather can shift suddenly. In May, days can be warm and sunny one day and cold, wet, or stormy the next. May temperatures range in the 70s. June temperatures are in the 80s. July and August are in the 90s and occasionally reach the 100s. In September the temperature returns to the 70s and 80s.

Big Oak Flat: In May the high temperatures are in the 60s, though it's frequently colder and may rain or snow. In June temperatures are in the low 70s.

Tuolumne Meadows: Temperatures in mid-summer are usually in the 70s in the daytime and in the 30s at night. Though skies are usually clear, thunderstorms can occur during summer afternoons. Usually forming at higher elevations, they arrive suddenly and provide intense but brief downpours, lightning, thunder, hail, and gusty winds. Typically, by nightfall skies are clear again. Volunteers in September can wake up to frozen water bottles.

# DUTIES AND TRAINING

## **15. What are the duties of Volunteer Art Instructor?**

The Art Instructor is responsible for teaching 4-hour art workshops in a medium they specialize in. These classes are held daily, Monday through Friday, from 9am to 1pm and accommodate ages 12 and up. These classes start indoors, but spend most of the time out of doors, in Yosemite Valley; Artists are responsible for preparing for and cleaning up after each class. Duties include both engaging visitors in conversation and sharing Yosemite Conservancy messaging in group situations.

## **16. What are the skills and abilities required for this position?**

Experience as an artist and experience teaching art classes to all ages is preferred. Taking an active role in creating and presenting engaging art material is required. Strong communication skills and an understanding of different age appropriate art media are also needed. The ability to support beginner level art students feel comfortable and successful is crucial to the visitor experience and success of our program.

Conservancy volunteers are friendly, approachable, and enjoy engaging with visitors. They are knowledgeable and experienced with Yosemite. They are also committed to promoting Yosemite Conservancy's mission of education and stewardship in the park, and are committed to carrying on the long tradition of art classes in Yosemite. They are outgoing, coachable, and professional with the ability to work both independently and as team members. They are also comfortable camping in communal campsites and interested in Yosemite Conservancy's art programs.

## **17. Will I determine my own work schedule?**

The Art Instructor's schedule will be covering the daily art classes, Monday through Friday 9am – 1pm including set-up and clean-up required. Art Instructors teach for a minimum of 1 week and a maximum of 2 weeks.



### **18. Will I receive training?**

We make every effort to provide our volunteers with the resources needed to perform professionally. All artists will receive information about their accommodations, and teaching location before they arrive, along with instructions on how and when to report for duty. All instructors will also be given an orientation of the building, classroom and expectations of class structure once they arrive. Each instructor will also be given a self-guided orientation training sheet to help them get oriented to Yosemite Valley and the many locations to paint or draw with their class.

## **CAMPING**

### **19. What kind of accommodations will I have?**

Art Instructors receive a private camp site with a tent, sleeping cot, cook stove, dishes, camp chairs and lighting provided. Instructors are expected to provide their own linens, food, coolers to store perishables, and anything else they may need to be comfortable. Storing food and scented items in the provided bear-proof locker is mandatory. There are no hookups or showers in campgrounds and restrooms have cold water only. Showers are available nearby. Previous camping experience is recommended and no pets are allowed.

Campground quiet hours for our volunteers are from 10:00 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.

Volunteers are expected to be respectful and courteous to the public and other volunteers camping adjacent to their sites. Music must not be played loudly.

Smoking should occur away from the camping area with smoking materials collected to prevent litter and fires. Valuables should not be left in the campground during the day. It's expected that volunteers adhere to the code of conduct while staying in park provided camp sites.

Camping in Yosemite includes the possibility of bear activity, which requires diligent adherence to bear-proof food locker regulations. There are occasions when a late night bear patrol may come through camp, which can disrupt sleep. Protective wildlife and tree regulations must be followed. For example, ropes for clotheslines or hammocks cannot be tied directly around trees without placing cardboard or other protective material under ropes.

### **20. Can I bring my RV or camper?**

RV and camper space is limited. Prior approval from the Conservancy is required in order to bring these and the maximum length is 25 feet for an RV and 18 feet for a camper trailer

### **21. Can I use a generator?**

Generator owners must be present during operation and run the unit for no more than one hour at a time. It is expected that owners contribute to a peaceful atmosphere by using a generator when it impacts as few people as possible. Use of solar panels is encouraged.

### **22. Can I arrive early or extend my stay in the park?**

Yes, but you must make your own camping/lodging arrangements.

### **23. Can I park my car in the campground?**

The NPS requirement is two vehicles per campsite in all campground locations. This is strictly regulated by the Conservancy as well as NPS. All additional cars must be parked at Curry Village parking lot.

### **24. How will I store my food and scented items?**

Food and all scented items are stored in bear-proof food lockers. Additionally, stored items should be inside plastic bins with snap on lids to prevent access by small wildlife such as mice.



### **26. What bear precautions should I take?**

All items with a scent, including canned goods, drinks, cleaning supplies and toiletries must be stored in bear-proof food lockers. These lockers must be closed and latched at all times, even while at your campsite. Following these regulations and precautions decreases personal injury/property damage, and keeps Yosemite's bears wild. For more information visit: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/bears.htm>  
<http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/scarebears.htm>

### **27. What size are the bear-proof food lockers?**

Lockers vary in size with the smallest 47" wide x 22" high x 38" deep. Ice chests must be able to fit in these containers which are shared by two volunteers.

### **28. Can I bring my pet or have my pet visit me?**

Because pets are not allowed at volunteer stations, or to be left in tents, RV/campers, or tied up unattended in camp, we require that pets be left at home at all times.



## **BENEFITS**

### **29. What benefits will I receive as a Conservancy volunteer?**

Participants in the program gain work experience in one of the world's most beautiful places. They receive free park entrance passes, campsites, shower passes, free theater attendance, as well as use of select swimming pools and a Wellness Center. Discounts at Yosemite Conservancy retail locations and select Aramark food concessions are also provided. An added benefit is the opportunity to participate in one educational Outdoor Adventure course within a year after volunteer service at no cost. This benefit is based on space availability with the possibility of being bumped by a paying customer. Participation in these classes should not be scheduled while volunteering in the park.

### **30. What are the discounts?**

The Conservancy provides a 30 percent discount at its retail stores at Big Oak Flat, Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, and Wawona Visitor Centers as well as at the museum store adjacent to the Museum Gallery in Yosemite Village and the Happy Isles Art and Nature Center. Volunteers also enjoy free admission to the Yosemite Village Theater when space is available. The concessioner, Yosemite Hospitality, provides fifty percent discounts at base Camp Eatery, Curry Village Pavilion, and the Tuolumne Grill.

## **UNIFORMS, MEALS AND HYGIENE**

### **31. Will I wear a uniform?**

Complimentary Yosemite Conservancy name tags will be provided for the artists to wear while teaching. Wearing a Yosemite Conservancy art apron is optional.



### **32. What are the meal/grocery arrangements?**

Artists are responsible for their own meals. They store their own food in bear-proof food lockers. Ice chests must fit in these lockers. Volunteers obtain ice from NPS machines or store their ice packs in a freezer to keep food cold.

Yosemite Valley: Dining at a fifty percent discount is available at Base Camp Eatery and the Curry Village Pavilion. Groceries are available in the valley as well as Mariposa (1½ hours away) via highway 140.

### **33. Are there alcohol restrictions?**

Alcoholic beverages are not allowed for volunteers under 21 years of age. Responsible, polite behavior is expected of everyone where alcohol is consumed anywhere in the park. Drinking is not allowed while on duty. The Conservancy expects those who drink alcohol to act responsibly, not drink and drive, and be able to do required work each day.

### **34. Will I be able to do laundry?**

There are coin operated laundry facilities located in Yosemite Valley at Housekeeping Camp.

### **35. Will I have access to showers?**

There are no showers in any of Yosemite's campgrounds; however, there are showers nearby for volunteer use free of charge.

## **TIME OFF**

### **36. What do volunteers do in the evenings?**

Many volunteers simply relax and enjoy the camping experience. The following free activities are also offered in each park location:

Yosemite Valley: Amphitheater, theater (when seats are available), and Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center programs, a Wellness Center with DVD checkout, exercise classes and equipment, the Ahwahnee and Curry Village lounges to read and play games.

Tuolumne Meadows: Amphitheater programs, music walks, and occasional cultural events at Parsons Lodge.

## **FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

### **37. Can my children accompany me/family stay with me while I volunteer?**

Artists are provided a private campsite and may bring their friends and/or family to join them. Two sleeping cots are provided. If the artist needs additional sleeping arrangements they must bring them. Though, friends and family are welcome, they must not interfere with the artist arriving to work on time and performing their duties as a volunteer. The maximum number of people allowed in the campsite is 6.

### **38. How long can family and friends stay with me?**

Volunteering is not a means of providing a campsite for family and friends. Family staying with the artist may stay while the artist is volunteering for the Yosemite Conservancy; volunteers cannot loan their site and leave.

## **COMMUNICATION AND BANKING**

### **39. How will my family and friends be able to contact me?**

Yosemite Conservancy  
5020 El Portal Road, El Portal, CA 95318  
Attn: Art Program



Phone number for Art and Nature Center: 209-372-0631

**40. What is the emergency contact procedure?**

If an emergency situation happens to you, the person you provided as the emergency contact in your online registration form will be contacted if you are unable to do so. Emergency contact information is treated as protected information that is available as needed and maintained by the Conservancy and Park Service.

Depending on your service provider, there is limited cell phone coverage in the park. In case of a serious, life-threatening family emergency, your family can reach you by calling the Park Service dispatch center at (209) 379-1992. Callers should state the emergency, provide your name and campsite location, and request a relay of a message to you. Please use this procedure for emergencies only as dispatch services more than one national park.

**41. Will I be able to use a cell phone?**

Service is available in and near Yosemite Village for AT&T and Verizon customers. Verizon has limited service in Big Oak Flat, and Tuolumne Meadows.

**42. Will I be able to charge batteries and my cell phone?**

There are locations in Yosemite Valley, Big Oak Flat, and Tuolumne Meadows where volunteers can charge batteries and cell phones while they work.

**43. Will I have wireless Internet access?**

Wireless access is available to the Conservancy's volunteers at various locations in Yosemite Valley.

**44. How can I reach Yosemite Conservancy's volunteer program?**

Emily Brosk, Volunteer Program Manager  
209-379-2317, extension 14; EBrosk@yosemite.org  
P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318  
FedEx or UPS: 5020 El Portal Road, El Portal, CA 95318

Reach the Art and Nature Center Programs Manager at:  
Kristin Anderson  
209-372-0631  
kanderson@yosemite.org  
P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318  
FedEx or UPS: 5020 El Portal Road, El Portal, CA 95318

## TRANSPORTATION

**45. How do I get to Yosemite using public transportation?**

For information visit Yosemite Public Transportation.

**46. What do I do about camping gear if I'm traveling by air?**

Gear can be shipped to Yosemite Conservancy's El Portal Office. If delivery is to Wawona, Big Oak Flat, or Tuolumne Meadows, it must arrive two weeks in advance to ensure delivery from the El Portal office to the campground in a timely manner. Send to Yosemite Conservancy, 5020 El Portal Road, El Portal, CA, 95318; Attn: Volunteer Program

**47. What transportation is available in the park?**

In Yosemite Valley bikes or the free shuttle are used. In Wawona volunteers drive their cars to the Wawona store parking area to catch a shuttle to the grove. In Big Oak Flat, they drive their cars to the Big Oak Flat Visitor Center and the groves. In Tuolumne Meadows they drive and use the shuttle.



#### 48. How do I get from one part of the park to another using public transportation?

The Tuolumne Meadows hiker bus connects Yosemite Valley to Tuolumne Meadows and stops at various trailheads on Tioga Road.

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) provides service between Yosemite Valley, Wawona, and Tuolumne Meadows for a fee. For more information visit [Yosemite Public Transportation](#).

#### 49. How do I get to the park?

From San Francisco/Bay Area

Distance: 195 mi/314 km; time: 4-5 hours

Take I-580 east to I-205 east to Highway 120 east (Manteca) or Highway 140 east (Merced)

From Sacramento Area

Distance: 176 mi/283 km; time: 4 hours

Take Highway 99 south to Highway 120 east (Manteca) or Highway 140 east (Merced)

From Los Angeles

Distance: 313 mi/504 km; time: 6 hours

Take I-5 north (or I-405 north to I-5) to Highway 99 north to Highway 41 north (Fresno)

There can be vehicle restrictions to enter the park.

Please see this NPS website: [Yosemite National Park](#).

