

Work Week Schedule 2023

PROJECT	LOCATION & WORK	ARRIVE	DEPART
WW1	Mariposa Grove Trail Maintenance and Wildland Fire Mitigation	MAY 20	MAY 26
WW2	Sunrise Creek Backcountry Trail Maintenance	JUNE 2	JUNE 10
WW3	Ackerson Meadow Restoration, Tioga Trail Work, and Wildland Fire Mitigation	JUNE 18	JUNE 24
WW4	Ackerson Meadow Restoration and Tioga Trail Work	JUNE 25	JULY 1
WW5	Old Tioga Road and Yosemite Creek Trail Maintenance	JULY 16	JULY 22
WW6	Old Tioga Road and Yosemite Creek Trail Maintenance	JULY 23	JULY 29
WW7	Tuolumne Meadows Climber Access Route Rehabilitation and Vegetation Restoration	AUGUST 6	AUGUST 12
WW8	Tuolumne Meadows Trail Maintenance and Vegetation Restoration	AUGUST 13	AUGUST 19
Stewardship Weekend 1	Tuolumne Meadows Climber Access Route Rehabilitation & Outdoor Adventure	AUGUST 17	AUGUST 20
WW9	Tuolumne Meadows Trail Maintenance	AUGUST 20	AUGUST 26
Stewardship Weekend 2	Yosemite Valley Meadow Restoration & Outdoor Adventure	SEPT 7	SEPT 10
WW10	Yosemite Valley Meadow Restoration and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation	SEPT 10	SEPT 16
WW11	Ackerson Meadow Restoration	SEPT 24	SEPT 30
WW12	Yosemite Valley Meadow Restoration and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation	OCT 8	OCT 14
WW13	Yosemite Valley Meadow Restoration and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation	OCT 15	OCT 21
WW14	Ackerson Meadow Restoration	NOV 5	NOV 9

Our work week participants overwhelmingly love their experience volunteering in Yosemite. Doing meaningful tasks in a special place, creating new bonds with people through working and camping together, getting an insider's look at National Park Service projects while working alongside staff, and having fantastic meals prepared each day are the foundation of this program.

Our crews work shoulder to shoulder with NPS and YC project leaders who demonstrate tool use, task performance, and safety measures. In most cases, participants will volunteer for four days and have one 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.

A day pack, water bottles to carry 2-3 liters of water, and lunch container are required for daily use. Hiking boots with hard soles are recommended. Unless specified, participants should be in strong physical condition, but no special skills are required. Work levels noted in descriptions are relative- each project will involve physical work in the outdoor elements for up to 7 hours a day.



WW1 - Mariposa Grove Trail Maintenance and Wildland Fire Mitigation, May 20-26

May is the time to experience the lower elevations of the park returning to life. Water flowing, flowers blooming, and a winter's worth of erosion, fallen trees, and overgrown brush to tend to. Following seasons of construction, storm damage, and wildfire closures, the Mariposa Grove is looking for some TLC before the crowds of summer filter back in. Work may consist of rehabilitating widened and social trails, brushing overgrowth, raking storm debris, clearing and reshaping swale drains, moving or crosscutting logs, and whatever else the land calls for. Work sites for trail work will shift between the Washburn approach trail, lower and upper groves. Strenuous physical exertion will be required. Volunteers will be hiking continuously throughout each day, working as we move. Mariposa Grove can be a steep environment to traverse, so come prepared with hiking boots. The project may require lifting up to 30 lbs. For more information on the Yosemite Conservancy donor-funded project that you will be a part of, visit [Mariposa Grove Restoration](#).

Additionally, those assisting with wildland fire mitigation efforts will be thinning small conifers or building burn piles between Wawona and the grove. Depending on the stage of growth, some volunteers may split off trail, traversing steep hillsides, on the hunt for the latest batch of invasive bull thistle with the Vegetation and Ecological Restoration (VER) crew.

Base camp: Wawona Campground

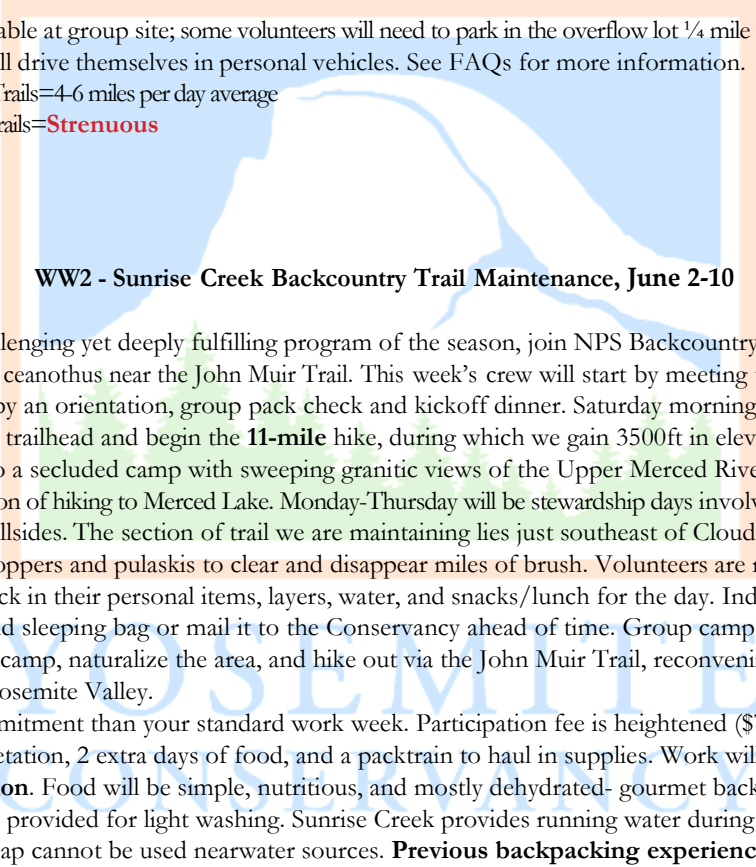
Elevation: 5,000 - 6,000 feet

Parking: Limited amount available at group site; some volunteers will need to park in the overflow lot ¼ mile away

Transportation: Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles. See FAQs for more information.

Hiking: Fire=1-2 miles per day, Trails=4-6 miles per day average

Work level: Fire= **Moderate**, Trails=**Strenuous**



WW2 - Sunrise Creek Backcountry Trail Maintenance, June 2-10

For our most physically challenging yet deeply fulfilling program of the season, join NPS Backcountry Trails along with YC staff to clear a heavily overgrown sea of ceanothus near the John Muir Trail. This week's crew will start by meeting their guides in Yosemite Valley on Friday afternoon, followed by an orientation, group pack check and kickoff dinner. Saturday morning, following a predawn breakfast, we will mobilize to Happy Isles trailhead and begin the **11-mile** hike, during which we gain 3500ft in elevation, following the Merced River and its iconic waterfalls to a secluded camp with sweeping granitic views of the Upper Merced River Canyon. Sunday will be a rest & recover day at camp with the option of hiking to Merced Lake. Monday-Thursday will be stewardship days involving hiking **3-8 miles** roundtrip on sunny, southern exposure hillsides. The section of trail we are maintaining lies just southeast of Clouds Rest, in the 2014 Meadow Fire burn scar. Volunteers will use loppers and pulaskis to clear and disappear miles of brush. Volunteers are required to provide their own camping gear. They will backpack in their personal items, layers, water, and snacks/lunch for the day. Individuals will be required to either pack in their tent, pad and sleeping bag or mail it to the Conservancy ahead of time. Group camp and food will be hauled in by mules. On Friday, we will pack camp, naturalize the area, and hike out via the John Muir Trail, reconvening for a recognition dinner and one final night of camping in Yosemite Valley.

Notes: WW2 is a longer commitment than your standard work week. Participation fee is heightened (\$795) to cover costs of professional guides and interpretation, 2 extra days of food, and a packtrain to haul in supplies. Work will be performed in **sunny, exposed conditions at elevation**. Food will be simple, nutritious, and mostly dehydrated- gourmet backpacking style. One solar shower and soft buckets will be provided for light washing. Sunrise Creek provides running water during the workday; a tarn will be our water source near camp. Soap cannot be used near water sources. **Previous backpacking experience is required.**

Base camp: Wilderness

Elevation: 4,000 – 9,000 feet

Parking: Available at group campsite for arrival and departure days, and at Happy Isles overflow lot while in backcountry

Transportation: Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles time of project.

Hiking: Average 4-10 miles per day

Work level: **Very Strenuous**

WW3 - Ackerson Meadow Restoration, Tioga Trail Work, and Wildland Fire Mitigation, June 18-24
WW4 - Ackerson Meadow Restoration and Tioga Trail Work, June 25-July 1

These combination work weeks will allow for volunteers to work with both Vegetation and Ecological Restoration (VER) and the Trails department of NPS, with the addition of Fire in WW3, splitting the group in two each day. Volunteers with VER will focus on hand-pulling a high priority annual invasive grass from the meadow. They may also assist with informal trail removal in the region. For more information on efforts in Ackerson Meadow and the Conservancy's role in protecting it, visit [here](#) and [here](#).

Trail work will consist of clearing and shaping swale drains, lopping overgrown brush, clearing downed trees, rehabilitating social trails, repairing split rail fencing, and more. We will work a variety of trails in the western Tioga Road region, around Crane Flat and Hodgdon Meadow. This portion of the project will be strenuous, involving 2-6 miles of hiking per day while carrying tools and your gear whilst working. Fire mitigation will involve work aimed at fuel reduction in forested areas of the park. Volunteers will help NPS to thin and collect vegetation and potentially build burn piles. This work is critical in areas and times of year where use of heavy equipment is not possible.

Groups will camp at Hodgdon Meadow group site. Potable water is available; vault toilets are at the campsite and flush toilets are available in the main campground. Solar showers will be available in camp, or volunteers are welcome to head to the nearest creek for a dip.

Notes on weather and cancellations: If workdays are forecasted to reach 95+ degrees, work will end early or be cancelled completely.

Base camp: Hodgdon Meadow Campground

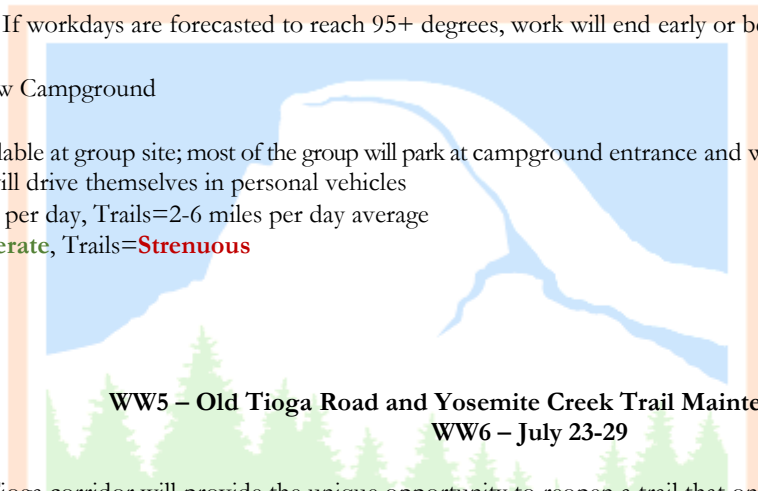
Elevation: 4,500 - 5,000 feet

Parking: Limited amount available at group site; most of the group will park at campground entrance and walk ¼ mile to camp

Transportation: Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles

Hiking: VER+Fire=1-3 miles per day, Trails=2-6 miles per day average

Work level: VER+Fire=**Moderate**, Trails=**Strenuous**



WW5 – Old Tioga Road and Yosemite Creek Trail Maintenance, July 16-22

WW6 – July 23-29

These 3 weeks in the Tioga corridor will provide the unique opportunity to reopen a trail that once provided the only vehicular access through this region of Yosemite- the Old Tioga Road (OTR). Not yet signed but displayed on many recreational maps as a trail route, this section of OTR has steadily become overgrown with trees and brush since the creation of Highway 120. Once maintained, this trail will provide hiker access between popular campgrounds and trailheads in the area. Volunteers will be working with NPS Trail Crew to clear brush, dig swale drains, and remove live trees and downed logs to widen the path, as well as maintaining other trails in the Yosemite Creek vicinity. Crews will hike throughout the entire workday, stopping to do maintenance as needed.

To make access to our work site efficient, the group will camp at off-the-beaten-path Yosemite Creek Campground. Because this enables us to hike straight from camp most days instead of driving, activity may be more strenuous than other trail projects. These sites are no frills, with no running water or flush toilets, but their beauty is in their serene remoteness. We will provide filtered water for drinking and solar showers to bathe, though creek dips are always an encouraged option. Vault toilets are available throughout the campground.

Base camp: Yosemite Creek Campground

Elevation: 7,000 - 8,500 feet

Parking: Available at campsites and by the turnoff of Highway 120

Transportation: Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles

Hiking: Average 3-8 miles per day

Work level: **Strenuous-Very Strenuous**

WW7 – Tuolumne Meadows Climber Access Route Rehabilitation and Vegetation Restoration, August 6-12

WW8 - Tuolumne Meadows Trail Maintenance and Vegetation Restoration, August 13-19

WW9 - Tuolumne Meadows Trail Maintenance, August 20-26

While Tuolumne Meadows remains in a period of hibernation from overnight guests, the restoration needs take no rest! Volunteer crews will return for 3 jam-packed weeks of hiking and climbing trail maintenance and meadow restoration work. Trails projects will consist of installing log checks and water bars to mitigate erosion, drain maintenance, crosscut log removal, social trail rehabilitation, and rock work to repair and build steps and retaining walls. Work will be strenuous, requiring volunteers to hike while carrying tools and their packs, pausing to work as needed and occasionally lifting up to 40lbs.

For WW7 & WW8, half or more of the crew will head out with VER to survey for and remove invasive plants in old restoration projects, remove small conifers from the meadows, and collect native seed. Work will often occur in open meadow terrain, hiking on uneven ground in the elements, but will be moderate in nature.

Due to the reconstruction of Tuolumne Meadows campground, volunteers will be based further west on Tioga Road, most likely at Porcupine Flat Campground, and commuting to the work site by car. The drive will be 30-45 minutes in each direction. Because we have a limited number of seats available in the YC vehicle, most volunteers will be asked to drive themselves. Mileage reimbursements are not available in 2023 and the nearest gas stations are over 20 miles away; please come prepared if applying to these high-country projects. Solar showers and a creek (no soap) will be available for washing and potable water for drinking. Dependent on COVID regulations at the time, showers may or may not be available in Tuolumne. For more information on the changes happening in the region, visit [Tuolumne Repairs](#).

Notes on weather and cancellations: Wildfire risk is high in August; be prepared for camping and working in poor air quality. If air quality index is unhealthy (151 or greater), or if your campground is under fire threat, work weeks are subject to cancellation.

Base camp: Tentative Porcupine Flat Campground

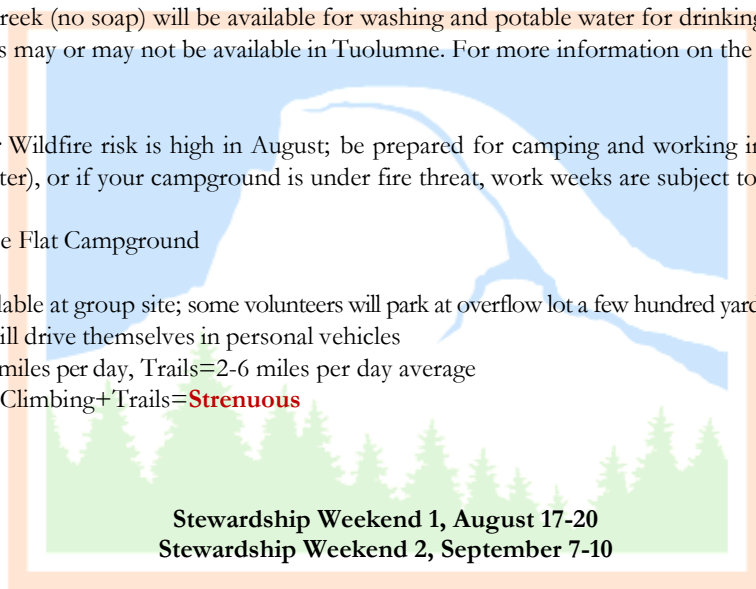
Elevation: 8,000 - 9,000 feet

Parking: Limited amount available at group site; some volunteers will park at overflow lot a few hundred yards away

Transportation: Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles

Hiking: VER+Climbing=1-3 miles per day, Trails=2-6 miles per day average

Work level: VER=**Moderate**, Climbing+Trails=**Strenuous**



For more information and to register for this collaboration project with Yosemite Conservancy's Outdoor Adventures, please visit <https://yosemite.org/event/day-hike-stewardship-weekend-1/> or <https://yosemite.org/event/day-hike-stewardship-weekend-2/>

Weekend 1 will involve one day of strenuous volunteering on climbing approach routes in the Tuolumne area, one full day hike (6-7 miles) and one free day in the park. Weekend 2 will provide a moderate day of volunteering on meadow restoration in the Valley, one full day hike (6-7 miles) and one free day in the park.

Notes on weather and cancellations: Wildfire risk is high in August and September; be prepared for camping and working in poor air quality. If air quality index is unhealthy (151 or greater), or if your campground is under fire threat, work projects are subject to cancellation.

Base camp: White Wolf or Upper Pines Campground

Transportation: Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles

Work level: **Moderate** – **Strenuous**

Hiking: **Intermediate**

WW10 Yosemite Valley Climber Access Route Rehabilitation and Meadow Restoration, September 10-16

WW12 October 8-14

WW13 October 15-21

We will send off the summer and greet fall in beloved Yosemite Valley working with the Vegetation & Ecological Restoration and Climbing branches of NPS. During WW10, volunteers will join park service biologists for a week full of seed collection. September is the prime time to find target plant species ready to drop their seeds. We need your help to collect a wide diversity that will eventually be used for the Ackerson meadow restoration project. Halfway to our collection goal, the VER team hopes to collect another 90 pounds of seed in 2023. Be prepared for hot days with little shade protection, hiking through open meadow environments. In October, we will continue with a large restoration project in Ahwahnee meadow, with the potential to plant in other smaller restoration sites around the valley. Your time and energy can really make an impact during this busy time of year as there is a small window during which conditions are right for planting. Tasks will consist of planting, seed collection, duff and mulch collection, watering, invasive plant removal, and more. Volunteers will be lifting potentially heavy plants, moving heavy wheelbarrows, using shovels, and much of the work will be on hands and knees.

The portion of the group that heads out with the Climbing Rangers will work to repair the non-technical approaches and descents to the climbing routes of Yosemite's cliffs and crags. Areas may include the Cathedrals, Fifi Buttress, Sentinel Creek, El Capitan, Royal Arches or Pat n Jacks. Erosion issues will be mitigated through trail drains, tread work like log checks and rock steps, and retaining walls, and restoration will be performed on braided social trails in conjunction with primary trail delineation. Note that less than half of the group will be asked to go on climbing projects each day in order to maintain a safe work environment.

Notes on weather and cancellations: WW10- Wildfire risk is present in September, so be prepared for camping and working in poor air quality. If air quality index is unhealthy (151 or greater), or if your campground is under fire threat, work weeks are subject to cancellation.

WW12/13- Be prepared for October weather in the Valley. Daytime temps are often pleasant for working, with highs in the 60-80 degree range. Temperatures at night dip down to 30-40 degrees and sunlight is limited in the canyon. Yosemite often receives the first big rainfall of the year in late October, so bring plenty of layers, rain gear, extra socks, and good sleeping bags and tents. Extra blankets are always a bonus when nightfall arrives. Workdays will be cancelled if an atmospheric river event is predicted. This is also the time of year park service plans for burn piles and prescribed fire events and air quality can subsequently fluctuate between good to hazardous.

Base camp: Yellow Pine
Campground **Elevation:** 3,000 –
4,500 feet

Parking: Available at group
campsite

Transportation: Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles

Hiking: Average 1-4 miles per day

Work level: VER=**Moderate**, Climbing=**Strenuous**



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WW11 Ackerson Meadow Restoration, September 24-30

WW14 November 5-9

Ackerson Meadow is Yosemite's newest acquisition on the northwest border of the park dotted with endemic wildflowers and rich in wildlife. You will be witness to large changes in 2023. The meadow will start to look more like a construction site as the park endeavors to fill a 3-mile-long erosion gully with 150,000 cubic yards of soil and organic matter. Filling the gully will stop excess erosion, stop rapid water loss, and reverse vegetation change. Volunteers will be tasked with collecting willows to create fascines and willow stakes that will be used for erosion prevention on the gully's soil surface. Willows will be salvaged from the base of the gully before crews come in with soil. For more information on efforts in Ackerson Meadow and the Conservancy's role in protecting it, visit [here](#) and [here](#).

For WW11, groups will camp at Hodgdon Meadow group site. Potable water is available; vault toilets are at the campsite and flush toilets are available in the main campground. Solar showers will be available in camp, or volunteers are welcome to head to the nearest creek for a dip. Many participants will need to park in the overflow area at campground entrance. Extra camp chores like hauling water jugs in a utility cart will be requested.

While the work will be the same for WW14, logistics will shift. Participants of this program will have the option to stay in a cabin at Evergreen lodge at a discounted rate. Total prices for lodging will range from **\$325-\$680**, depending on whether you reserve a private cabin or share with up to 3 other people. Because of this, we encourage and allow groups of friends and relatives to sign up for this program, keeping costs down, versus the usual limit of one requested friend to volunteer with. Meals will **not** be provided for this week. Instead, a 10% discount card will be provided for all food purchases at the lodge. You are also welcome to pack your own food. For those that wish to camp instead, a free site will be available at Hodgdon Meadow. The participation fee will be \$25 for WW14. Work will take place Monday-Wednesday and a complimentary naturalist hike will be hosted on Thursday morning.

Notes on weather and cancellations: Rain is typically expected in November, and we'll be working in and near the gully. Boots and warm socks are needed to keep your feet warm and dry. Bring many layers including a raincoat. We will have waders for people working in water. To drive mountain roads during this time, make sure your vehicle is equipped with chains.

Base camp: Hodgdon Meadow Campground or Evergreen Lodge

Elevation: 4,500 - 5,000 feet

Parking: Limited amount available at group site; most of the group will park at campground entrance and walk ¼ mile to camp

Transportation: Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles

Hiking: Average 1-4 miles per day

Work level: **Moderate**



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