



## Join us in 2024 for Work Week and Stewardship Weekends

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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 (NPS) 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 Yosemite Conservancy 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 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 to 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.



## 2024 Work Week and Stewardship Weekends Schedule

Project	Location & Work	Arrive	Depart
WW1	Mariposa Grove Trail Maintenance	May 12	May 18
WW2	Ackerson Meadow Restoration and Tioga Trail Work	June 9	June 15
	LGBTQIA+ Stewardship Weekend	June 13	June 17
WW3	Glacier Point Road Trail Maintenance	July 21	July 27
WW4	Glacier Point Road Trail Maintenance	July 28	August 3
WW5	Tuolumne Meadows Climber Access Route Rehabilitation and Vegetation Restoration	August 11	August 17
	Stewardship Weekend 1	August 15	August 19
WW6	Tuolumne Meadows Trail Maintenance and Vegetation Restoration	August 18	August 24
	Stewardship Weekend 2	September 5	September 9
WW7	Ackerson Meadow Restoration and Tioga Trail Work	September 8	September 14
WW8	Ackerson Meadow Restoration and Tioga Trail Work	September 15	September 21
WW9	Yosemite Valley Restoration Planting and Trail Maintenance	October 6	October 12
WW10	Yosemite Valley and Ackerson Meadow Restoration and Trail Maintenance Restoration	October 13	October 19
WW11	Ackerson Meadow Restoration	November 3	November 8

# Mariposa Grove Trail Maintenance

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**MAY 12-18**

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. 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 and 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 pounds.

*For more information on the Yosemite Conservancy donor-funded project that you will be a part of, visit [Mariposa Grove Restoration](#).*

Depending on the stage of growth, some volunteers may split off trail for one day – in Wawona or the steep hillsides of the Grove, 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:**

Trails=4-6 miles per day average

**WORK LEVEL:**

Trails=Strenuous

# ACKERSON MEADOW RESTORATION AND TIOGA TRAIL WORK

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**WW2: JUNE 9-15**

**WW7: SEPTEMBER 8-14**

**WW8: SEPTEMBER 15-21**

These combination work weeks will allow for volunteers to work with both Vegetation and Ecological Restoration (VER) and the Trails department of NPS, splitting the group in two each day. Volunteers with VER will partake in the largest full-scale meadow restoration project to take place in the Sierra Nevada — and the newest part of the national park: Ackerson Meadow!

In June, we will focus on hand-pulling a high-priority annual invasive grass from the meadow, a vital task to the success of this multi-year project. Those that return in September will be key players in the year's native seed collection efforts — doing our part to slow down, connect, and revegetate!

*For more information on efforts in Ackerson Meadow and the Conservancy's role in protecting it, visit [here](#) and [here](#).*

Trail work may 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 to 6 miles of hiking per day while carrying tools and your gear whilst working. 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.

## **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=1-3 miles per day, Trails=2-6 miles per day average

## **WORK LEVEL:**

VER=**Moderate**, Trails=**Strenuous**

## GLACIER POINT ROAD TRAIL MAINTENANCE

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**WW3: JULY 21-27**

**WW4: JULY 28-AUGUST 3**

The Glacier Point Road is back in action and overdue for some trail TLC! Time to scout the trails, mitigate water erosion, relocate signage, and polish up this prime sub-alpine zone.

Work may consist of clearing and shaping swale drains, lopping overgrown brush and limbs, clearing downed trees, rehabilitating social trails, repairing trail signs, and more. Half the group will be asked to split off on a scouting mission one day to find and remove invasive plants in the area. Work will generally be strenuous; hiking up to 6 miles a day at moderately high elevation while carrying tools and pausing to do maintenance.

We will be camped at the Bridalveil Creek Campground, approximately halfway down the Glacier Point Road to the point itself (so many local hikes!). Potable water and flush toilets will be available in camp. Solar showers and tent stalls will be provided and local creeks are available for a swim (no soap near natural water sources).

### **BASE CAMP:**

Bridalveil Creek Campground

### **ELEVATION:**

7,400 feet

### **PARKING:**

Limited amount available at sites; be prepared to utilize overflow parking after setting up your gear

### **TRANSPORTATION:**

Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles

### **HIKING:**

2-6 miles per day average

### **WORK LEVEL:**

**Strenuous**

# TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

## WW5: AUGUST 11-17

### Tuolumne Meadows Climber Access Route Rehabilitation and Vegetation Restoration

## WW6: AUGUST 18 – AUGUST 24

### Tuolumne Meadows Trail Maintenance and Vegetation Restoration

While Tuolumne Meadows remains in a period of hibernation from overnight guests, the restoration needs take no rest! Volunteer crews will return for 2 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.

Each week, half or more of the crew will head out with Vegetation and Ecological Restoration (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 at Porcupine Flat Campground and commuting to the work site by personal vehicle. The drive will be 30-45 minutes each direction. Because we have a limited number of seats available in the Conservancy vehicle, most volunteers will be asked to drive themselves. The nearest gas stations are >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. *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. Work weeks are subject to cancellation if air quality index is unhealthy (151 or greater) or if your campground is under fire threat.

**BASE CAMP:**

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**

# STEWARDSHIP WEEKENDS

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**LGBTQIA+ STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND, JUNE 13-17**

**STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND 1, AUGUST 15-19**

**STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND 2, SEPTEMBER 5-9**

For more information and to register for this collaboration project with Yosemite Conservancy's Outdoor Adventures, please visit:

[yosemite.org/event/day-hike-lgbtqia-stewardship-weekend](https://yosemite.org/event/day-hike-lgbtqia-stewardship-weekend)

[yosemite.org/event/day-hike-stewardship-weekend](https://yosemite.org/event/day-hike-stewardship-weekend)

[yosemite.org/event/day-hike-stewardship-weekend-2](https://yosemite.org/event/day-hike-stewardship-weekend-2)

Both our LGBTQIA+ and Stewardship Weekend 1 events will involve one full day of moderate, guided stewardship with NPS's Vegetation and Ecological Restoration team in Yosemite Valley, removing invasive plant species or collecting native plant seed, followed by a moderate to strenuous full-day hike.

Stewardship Weekend 2 will include one day of strenuous volunteering on climbing approach routes in the Tuolumne area followed by a full-day hike. Each program allows you one full free day in the park. Follow the links above for more detailed information and to register for these awesome short-term opportunities!

**Notes on weather and cancellations:** Wildfire risk is high in August and September; be prepared for camping and working in poor air quality. Work weeks are subject to cancellation if air quality index is unhealthy (151 or greater).

## **BASE CAMP:**

Upper Pines or White Wolf Campground

## **TRANSPORTATION:**

Volunteers will drive themselves in personal vehicles

## **HIKING:**

**Intermediate**

## **WORK LEVEL:**

**Moderate - Strenuous**

# YOSEMITE VALLEY RESTORATION PLANTING AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE

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OCTOBER 6-12

We will send off the summer and greet fall in beloved Yosemite Valley working with the Merced River Plan of Vegetation and Ecological Restoration (VER) and Trails branches of NPS. This week we'll be continuing with the largescale Sugar Pine Floodplain restoration project, 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 may include planting, seed collection, duff and mulch collection, watering, invasive plant removal, etc. We 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 Trails will work to fabricate and repair fencing around the Valley and attend to regular trail maintenance needs. Tasks could include social trail restoration, rocking trails, improving tread, brushing, and more. 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:** 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 and 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**, Trails=**Strenuous**



# YOSEMITE VALLEY AND ACKERSON MEADOW RESTORATION AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE

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**OCTOBER 13-19**

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. Some days, the group will be asked to caravan to Ackerson Meadow to pursue ideal and scenic collection sites. The drive will be approximately 40 minutes each way. Please come prepared to drive yourself when needed and to balance your work days between both departments.

The portion of the group that heads out with Trails will work to fabricate and repair fencing around the Valley and attend to regular trail maintenance needs. Tasks could include social trail restoration, rocking trails, improving tread, brushing, and more. 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:** 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 and 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**, Trails=**Strenuous**

# ACKERSON MEADOW RESTORATION

NOVEMBER 3-9

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](#).*

To stay comfortable in the November weather, 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 **approximately \$350-\$775**, depending on whether you reserve a private cabin or share with up to three 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 through 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, gaiters, 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**