



Retreat Supply List

Participants are responsible for supplying their own art materials, camping gear, and food for the duration of the retreat! Below are some lists to help you prepare. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us at art@yosemite.org!

ART SUPPLIES:

PAINT PALETTE: Any portable watercolor pan kit or self-poured field kit, student-grade paints or better, with at least eight colors. Casey recommends split primary colors, meaning warm and cool hues of blue, red, yellow, and whatever other colors you may prefer. If you prefer to pour your own paint, please remember to do so well in advance to ensure your kit is dry, portable, and packable. Casey strongly recommends against using "live" tubes in the field as they're easily lost and fiddly. Palettes suggested by Casey:

- [Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolor Field Set \(pre-filled\).](#)
- [Sakura Koi Pocket Field Sketch Kit \(pre-filled\)](#)
- [Portable Painter Watercolor Palette \(empty, fill with your own colors\).](#)
- [Portable Painter Pro Bundle \(empty, fill with your own colors\).](#)

WATERCOLOR SKETCH JOURNAL that is 8x10" or smaller, flat laying wire or bound, rectangular or square, with cold press paper at least 140 lb/270–300 gsm (or heavier). Casey often uses this affordable [Strathmore brand journal](#), but sometimes splurges for [Arches](#), [Stillman & Birn](#), or [Pentalic journals](#). [Watercolor paper blocks](#) are acceptable and provide a built-in hard surface for painting, but Casey personally prefers bound books for portability.

WATER CONTAINERS: Keep in mind that we practice Leave No Trace while painting in Yosemite and that dirty paint water cannot be poured outside anywhere. At least one [collapsible cup](#) is great while painting and extra portable as you move around; some artists will use two cups, one for dirty paint water and one for clean paint water as they paint. You'll need at least one sealed container, like an empty Talenti ice cream jar, Nalgene bottle, or [soft water bottle](#) to pack out your dirty paint water!

BRUSHES: Casey prefers water brushes (aka water pens) for portability and convenience in the field (smaller flats/rounds, your choice!); she recommends the [Arteza](#) brand! [Rosemary & Co also makes a beautiful line of travel brushes](#) which require water/containers, and Amazon offers a selection of less expensive travel brushes.

WATERPROOF PENS: Casey recommends at least TWO of either these [Micron 003 pens](#) or a similar waterproof pen like [this Sharpie extra fine line set](#)!

PLEIN AIR GEAR: If you're new to outdoor painting, think about bringing something to sit on, as well as a way to balance your sketchbook with access to water and paint! Remember that you'll need to carry all your belongings as we walk from site to site throughout the day. Some helpful pieces of gear include a [mini table](#), **tripod**, **pochade**, and/or **field umbrella**!

PAPER TOWELS (to clean your brush between colors)

SMALL WATER SPRAY BOTTLE (optional)

1/4" WIDE ROLL of PAINTERS TAPE (optional, nice to create clean borders)

[BINDER CLIPS](#), [HEMMING CLIPS](#), or **RUBBER BANDS** (optional, to hold pages down)

SALT PACKETS (optional)

PRECUT MATS & CELLO SLEEVES (optional, nice to "frame" and transport finished art)

GENERAL DAY SUPPLIES (in addition to your art supplies):

- **Backpack** to hold your supplies and keep your hands free as you walk around.

- **Clipboard or piece of foam board** for support under your paper or sketchbook.
- [Portable stool, camping chair](#), sitting pad, or towel to sit on.
- **Weather appropriate attire** (waterproof jacket for unexpected rainstorms).
- **Sturdy, water-resistant hiking shoes or boots.**
- **Sunscreen, sunhat, and sunglasses.**
- **Personal first aid kit.**
- **Bug repellent.**
- **Lunch, snacks, and plenty of drinking water** (a refillable bottle is handy!)
- **Bicycle** (optional, but can be helpful to get around Yosemite Valley)

Remember that you want to be able to carry your supplies efficiently. Come prepared with a setup that is compact enough to carry around and move from location to location. Striking a balance between comfort and efficiency is the key! If you'd like to dig deeper into more of Casey's personal recommendations, you can visit her art site ([linked here](#)), but the above list should serve as a good foundation for beginner artists!

CAMPING GEAR & FOOD:

All camping gear and supplies are the responsibility of participants. Yosemite Conservancy does not provide camping gear to participants. We recommend using this [REI Camping Checklist](#) as you pack for your visit!

Participants must be prepared with their own food for the duration of their visit. Need ideas? Check out this [REI Camp Kitchen Checklist](#) for a list of common food basics and cookware for camping.

If you're craving a meal without wanting to cook, Yosemite has a small variety of [restaurants](#) as well as [gift shops](#) that sell groceries, toiletries, and souvenirs!