



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:

PAPER: A 9"x12" or 12"x16" pad or block of 140 lb Cold Press Watercolor paper is recommended. Steve likes [Arches 140lb Cold Press \(green cover\)](#), but any good brand will suffice. You can choose to work larger if you wish, but remember, we will be painting outside with changing light conditions. Smaller sizes of paper allow you to get something accomplished without being overwhelmed.

BRUSHES: for the size paper noted above, your "workhorse" will be a #10 or #12 round brush. Steve likes sable brushes, but they are expensive. Synthetics work fine and are much less expensive, but they carry less water. It is good to have a smaller brush too, such as a #6 round. A 3/4" or 1" flat brush is useful too, for more "chiseled" shapes.

BRUSH HOLDER: A bamboo roll-up mat or brush holder folder is a good idea to keep your brushes organized and protected.

PAINTS can be purchased as a pan set with pre-measured cakes of paint, or you can buy tubes of paint and a blank palette to create your own setup. You want to have a "working palette" with plenty of mixing area. Once you have your palette set up, you put your tubes away and work directly from your palette. Steve likes to have the following colors:

- Lemon Yellow.
- Cadmium Yellow.
- Alizarin Crimson.
- Cadmium Red.
- Hookers Green.
- Sap Green.
- Yellow Ochre.
- Burnt Sienna.
- Burnt Umber.
- Cerulean Blue.
- Ultramarine Blue.
- Payne's Gray.

PENCIL & ERASER: Regular or mechanical. Don't forget a pencil sharpener and a small baggie to catch pencil shavings if you bring a regular pencil!

WATER CONTAINER: You'll need two small cups to hold water while painting and two containers to carry water. Collapsible cups are terrific for saving space, but not necessary for the workshop. Nalgene bottles or soft water bottles are great for carrying water — you'll need one to refill your water cup and one to carry out dirty paint water.

PAPER TOWELS, a sponge, or fabric to help clean your brush between colors.

SMALL WATER SPRAY BOTTLE

PAINTERS TAPE (optional)

BINDER CLIPS (optional)

GENERAL DAY SUPPLIES:

- **Backpack** to hold all 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.
- **Small, portable table** (TV dinner folding table) to hold supplies.
- **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** (reusable bottle is handy for refills!).
- **Bicycle** (optional; but can be helpful to bring 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.

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 bring 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!