



Retreat Supply List

Participants are responsible for supplying their own art materials, backpacking/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:

SKETCHBOOK and PAPER of your choice. Select a watercolor paper suitable for pen ink and thick enough for watercolor (140 lb strongly recommended). Portrait, landscape, or square format is okay; size 8.5"x11" or smaller. Be sure to choose sketchbooks and looseleaf paper with similar qualities! Instructor Nikki enjoys the Stillman & Birn Beta Series.

WATERCOLOR TUBE PAINT that's been squeezed and dried in a palette is great for saving space outside! If you already own a set that you love using, please bring that. If buying colors, Nikki suggests Schmincke or Daniel Smith paints. Some of Nikki's favorite colors lately are Helio Turquoise, Cerulean Blue, Indigo, May Green, Viridian Green, Naples Yellow Warm, Quinacridone Red, Magenta, Violet, and Payne's Grey.

PALETTE: Nikki suggests Art Toolkit palettes in any size. If you prefer a small palette, you can bring an additional mixing tray! There are many travel-size palettes available for purchase, but you can also use a small container like an Altoids tin and purchase some half pans to make your own paint set. If you decide to go with a smaller, more compact palette, bring a Ziploc bag to waterproof it when you put it away. Whichever palette you choose, make sure to pre-squeeze your paints before our retreat!

PENS: Waterproof black ink pen with waterproof or water-resistant ink. Nikki suggests Sakura Fudenosuke (soft and hard-tipped) brush pens.

PENCIL: regular or mechanical. Mechanical is a good idea for backpacking because it doesn't require sharpening — just make sure to bring extra lead. If you bring a regular pencil, don't forget a pencil sharpener and a small plastic baggie to catch pencil shavings, as we practice "Leave No Trace principles" during all art programs.

ERASER: kneaded or white plastic.

BRUSHES:

- If you are bringing large sheets of paper, bring the biggest brushes you have. Nikki loves a huge brush for small paintings. Look for a round brush the size of your thumb. She also likes a flat 2-inch brush for covering large areas of sky.
- Water brushes work great for traveling since you can fill the plastic barrel of the brush with water and paint anywhere. Recommended brands: Faber Castel, Niji, Pentel, or any brand you can find on Amazon.

WATER CONTAINER: Two sealable water containers. Nikki likes using empty "Talenti" Ice Cream containers because they don't leak. Make sure you have two, one for clean water and one for dirty water. We will be following Leave No Trace ethics in this workshop by carrying out used paint water.

WATER SPRAY BOTTLE to spritz your watercolors.

PAPER TOWELS, a sponge, or fabric to help clean your brush between colors. Blue shop towels work great, and can be rinsed, dried, and reused.

ZIPLOC BAG(s) to capture any micro trash. Since we are painting as part of a backpacking trip, we need to be sure to pack out any trash we might have!

MASKING TAPE: A small amount wrapped around a pencil or similar saves space and weight.

BINDER CLIPS for holding sketchbook pages down.

MASKING FLUID (optional): Nikki loves “Fineline Masking Fluid” because of its easy-to-use applicator.

NOTE FROM NIKKI: Please bring any favorite tools or colors that have proven “tried-and-true” for you. Although we will be focusing on pen and watercolor, you can bring other materials like colored pencils, markers, or gouache to explore.

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, & plenty of drinking water** (reusable bottle is handy for refills).

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.

BACKPACKING & CAMPING GEAR

All backpacking/camping gear, supplies, and meals are the responsibility of participants. Yosemite Conservancy does not provide any gear for art retreats. We recommend using [this REI Backpacking Checklist](#) as you pack for your visit! Packing Tips:

- Focus on a balance between preparedness, comfort, and weight.
- Pack heavier gear in the middle or bottom of your pack.
- Check the weather prior to your arrival.

Participants must be prepared with their own food for the duration of their visit. Need ideas? Check out this [REI Backpacking Food Article](#) for ideas to help you meal plan.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Bear-proof canisters are required for backpacking in Yosemite!** Your registration fee includes a canister rental that you need to pick up from the wilderness center.
- **Bear spray is illegal in Yosemite!** [Please read here](#) about what to do if you see/encounter a bear.