



Join us in 2026 for Work Weeks

.....

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 daypack, water bottles to carry 2 to 3 liters of water, and lunch containers 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.



2026 Work Week Schedule

Project	Location & Work	Arrive	Depart
WW1	Mariposa Grove Trail Maintenance & Wawona Cabin Restoration	May 10	May 16
WW2	Glacier Point Road Trail Maintenance	July 19	July 25
WW3	Tuolumne Meadows Climber Access Route Rehabilitation and Vegetation Restoration	August 9	August 15
WW4	Tuolumne Meadows Climber Access Route Rehabilitation and Vegetation Restoration	August 23	August 29
WW5	Tuolumne Meadows Trail Maintenance and Vegetation Restoration	August 30	September 5
WW6	Yosemite Valley Restoration and Trail Maintenance	September 13	September 19
WW7	Ackerson Meadow Restoration	October 4	October 10
WW8	Ackerson Meadow Restoration	October 11	October 17

Mariposa Grove Trail Maintenance

MAY 10-16

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, and a historic cabin in Wawona needs a facelift.

Trail 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.

Cabin restoration will include pressure washing, sanding, and preparing the log cabin exterior for re-sealing and applying new sealant.

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**, Cabin Restoration = **Moderate-Strenuous**

GLACIER POINT ROAD TRAIL MAINTENANCE

WW2: JULY 19-25

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 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

WW3: AUGUST 9-15

Tuolumne Meadows Climber Access Route Rehabilitation and Vegetation Restoration

WW4: AUGUST 23-29

Tuolumne Meadows Climber Access Route Rehabilitation and Vegetation Restoration

WW5: AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 5

Tuolumne Meadows Trail Maintenance and Vegetation Restoration

As Tuolumne Meadows awakens from its winter hibernation and welcomes back overnight visitors, volunteer crews will return for a few weeks of restoration and trail work in one of the largest sub-alpine meadows in the Sierra Nevada.

Trails and Climber Access Route Rehabilitation 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, collect native seed, and restore former wilderness sites. Work will often occur in open meadow terrain, hiking on uneven ground in the elements, but will be moderate in nature.

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:

Tuolumne Meadows 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**

YOSEMITE VALLEY RESTORATION AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE

WW6: SEPTEMBER 13-19

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.

Ecological Restoration aims to heal degraded lands and restore natural processes. In Yosemite Valley we are tasked with completing restoration projects outlined in the Merced River Plan. Volunteers typically assist on social trail removal, planting, seed collection and dispersal, conifer removal, duff collection and dispersal, beaver dam analog creation, and watering projects. Most projects happen in the spring or fall during variable weather conditions so be prepared for cold and/or wet weather. Tasks can involve stooping for long periods of time, working in low flowing streams, working on hands and knees, digging, or walking long distances.

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 could work a variety of trails in Yosemite Valley or the higher elevations. This portion of the project will be moderate to strenuous, involving 2 to 6 miles of hiking per day while carrying tools and your gear while working. Volunteers will camp at the Yellow Pine Campground in a group site. Potable water and vault toilets are available. Showers are available in Curry Village, or volunteers are welcome to head to the Merced River for a dip.

BASE CAMP:

Yellow Pine Campground

ELEVATION:

4,000 ft

PARKING:

Available at group campsite

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**

ACKERSON MEADOW RESTORATION AND TIOGA TRAIL WORK

WW7: OCTOBER 4-10

WW8: OCTOBER 11-17

Ackerson Meadow is Yosemite's newest acquisition on the northwest border of the park dotted with endemic wildflowers and rich in wildlife. Volunteers will be tasked with a variety of different tasks depending on conditions and what is needed, including but not limited to: planting nursery plugs, watering and mulching plants, seed collection, seed dispersal, willow collection, or willow bundle creation (fascines).

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

Notes on weather and cancellations: Although October typically has perfect working weather, rain and/or cold weather can be expected as well. Bring many layers, including a raincoat. We will have waterproof waders for people working in water.

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:

Average 1-4 miles per day

WORK LEVEL:

Moderate