



## VOLUNTEER YOUTH ART TEACHER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The volunteer Youth Art Teacher will teach up to 4 youth art classes per day for ages 2-12, Monday through Thursday for the month of August.

### REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

#### **1. What are the important qualities of visitor information volunteers working at Happy Isles Art and Nature Center?**

Serving as a volunteer in Yosemite National Park, a World Heritage Site, is an honor and a privilege. Our volunteers recognize this and take pride in representing Yosemite, the National Park Service, and Yosemite Conservancy. They enjoy working with people and serving the public. They work congenially with each other, the park's partners and Conservancy employees. They have excellent communication skills and a strong desire to support the mission of the Conservancy and the National Park Service. They abide by the rules and regulations of both agencies and put the needs of others above their own.

The Youth Art Teacher should have experience teaching fine arts to children ages 2-12, utilize their knowledge child development to develop and teach age appropriate art activities. Art activities taught should be reasonable for very young children and be adaptable to older children's interests. The Youth Art Teacher should have a passion and interest in connecting students to Yosemite's landscape and ecology through art.

Our volunteers are passionate about Yosemite and have personal experience with trails and activities to share with visitors. They come with a commitment to work for the park rather than as a means to have a vacation. They work as part of a team and are flexible when schedule changes are needed. They are in good health with strong stamina. Whether camping, working, or enjoying time off, they are committed to helping visitors get the most out of a visit to Yosemite.

#### **2. Do I have to be a U.S. citizen to participate?**

U.S. citizenship or possession of a green card is required.

#### **3. What is the age requirement?**

Our participants must be a minimum of 18 years old and accompanied by a parent/guardian at this age.

#### **4. Do I have to be a donor to apply?**

While your work as a volunteer is a wonderful contribution to Yosemite, administration of this award winning volunteer program is funded by donations. Yosemite Conservancy relies on the generosity of our donors to support projects and programs that protect Yosemite's grandeur through the ages. We will encourage all participants to make a monetary donation to the Conservancy.

#### **5. How do I make a donation?**

Online: Visit [Donate-Yosemite Conservancy](https://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/donate) .

Phone: Call 800 4MYPARK (800 469-7275) to donate with a credit card.

Mail: Send a check to Yosemite Conservancy, 101 Montgomery Street, Suite 1700, San Francisco, CA 94101.

#### **6. What is the schedule of dates and locations for the season?**

This position will plan, prepare for, and provide youth art classes for the month of August, Monday through Thursday for children ages 2-12 years. This volunteer will be working out of the Happy Isles Art and

Nature Center for the month of August, starting August 1, training on August 2, and departing on August 30.

#### **7. Is there a job description for this position?**

For a description of this position read [Youth Art Teacher Volunteer Position Description](#).

#### **8. How do I apply?**

After reading all the information, use the [Youth Art Teacher Volunteer Registration Form](#).

#### **9. Is there a fee?**

There is no registration fee, however any donation to further our projects and programs in the park are welcomed.

#### **10. When does registration begin and end?**

When the schedule is posted on this website, online registration has begun and remains open until all positions are filled.

#### **11. What is the registration process?**

Applicants can fill out the registration form to submit their application. Applications are processed in the order their online registrations are received. Whether a new or returning volunteer, once admitted into the program, all the information needed to participate is emailed at a later date.

Applicants selected will be determined by qualifications provided in the registration form. Applicants will be interviewed over the phone and references will be checked. Applicants will be notified whether they have been selected via email.

#### **12. Are there waiting lists?**

Yes. Applicants can ask to be placed on waiting lists if none of their choices are available. They are notified when availability occurs.

### **VOLUNTEER LOCATIONS**

#### **13. What is Yosemite Valley Like?**

Yosemite Valley (Elevation: 4,000 feet)

Eighteen to twenty volunteers work here each month. In May, early June, and after Labor Day, the park is not as crowded as mid-June through Labor Day. Our volunteers share campsites in Lower Pines Campground which can be crowded, noisy, and smoky during some months. Because of limited parking space, everyone takes turns parking their vehicles in the Half Dome Village parking area. A free shuttle and bicycles are the preferred mode of transportation. Food discounts are provided at nearby Half Dome Village Pavilion and the Yosemite Valley Lodge Food Court.

#### **14. What is the weather like in the different locations in the park?**

Yosemite Valley: The weather can shift suddenly. In May, days can be warm and sunny one day and cold, wet, or stormy the next. May temperatures range in the 70s. June temperatures are in the 80s. July and August are in the 90s and occasionally reach the 100s. In September the temperature returns to the 70s and 80s.

Big Oak Flat: In May the high temperatures are in the 60s, though it's frequently colder and may rain or snow. In June temperatures are in the low 70s.

Tuolumne Meadows: Temperatures in mid-summer are usually in the 70s in the daytime and in the 30s at night. Though skies are usually clear, thunderstorms can occur during summer afternoons. Usually forming at higher elevations, they arrive suddenly and provide intense but brief downpours, lightning, thunder, hail, and gusty winds. Typically, by nightfall skies are clear again. Volunteers in September can wake up to frozen water bottles.

## **DUTIES AND TRAINING**

### **15. What are the duties of Youth Art Teacher?**

The purpose of the youth art class program is to connect youth to Yosemite through art projects which relate to, focus on, or incorporate Yosemite specific interpretive information. This position includes engaging parents in conversation and sharing Yosemite Conservancy messaging in group situations.

Responsibilities include:

- Preparing for, leading, and cleaning up after daily youth art projects, Monday through Thursday.
- Performing additional duties assigned by art and nature center staff related to the daily operation of the art center.

### **16. What are the skills and abilities required for this position?**

Conservancy volunteers are friendly, approachable, and enjoy engaging with visitors. They are knowledgeable and experienced with Yosemite. They are also committed to promoting Yosemite Conservancy's mission of education and stewardship in the park. They are outgoing, coachable, and professional with the ability to work both independently and as team members. They also are comfortable camping in communal campsites and interested in Yosemite Conservancy's art programs.

The Youth Art Teacher must have some understanding of child development to develop art activities that use appropriate materials for all ages and can be modified to satisfy the curiosity of ages 2-12 within the same art class. The Youth Art Teacher must possess the ability to manage a group of diverse participants in the out of doors. The Youth Art Teacher must have a genuine interest in education, art and connecting youth to Yosemite through art activities.

### **17. Will I determine my own work schedule?**

The Youth Art Teacher's schedule will be managed by the Art Center Coordinator. Generally the schedule will be Monday through Thursday, for the month of August.

### **18. What kind of work will I do?**

The Youth Art Teacher will prepare for and implement the youth art program. This volunteer will be stationed at the Happy Isles Art and Nature Center and teach up to 4 sessions per day, Monday through Thursday. The youth art teacher will be responsible for creating, and implementing age appropriate art classes, for ages 2-12 years. These sessions take place in the outdoors and incorporate Yosemite specific interpretive information. This teacher is expected to learn about Yosemite and incorporate interpretive themes in to the youth art classes.

### **19. Will I receive training?**

Online and onsite training is mandatory for working in the park. We make every effort to provide our volunteers with the resources needed to perform professionally. All participants complete a mandatory, comprehensive orientation and training program. Online training prior to arrival is followed by training and orientation after arrival by Conservancy and NPS staff. Those who do not complete all of the trainings are not eligible to volunteer.

A detailed orientation manual is available for everyone as a resource while in service. Excerpts from the orientation manual are included in the online training. Ongoing assistance and support is available as needed. The Park Service provides current information in convenient flip charts for use at various volunteer stations. Mentors are available to help new volunteers transition as smoothly as possible.

Becoming a volunteer means joining a team of dedicated and conscientious individuals who are committed to providing accurate assistance to park visitors and promoting the work of Yosemite Conservancy.

## CAMPING

### 20. What kind of accommodations will I have?

Participants share group campsites in Yosemite Valley. Most volunteers camp in tents, and everyone brings their own camping gear. Everyone also brings their own food and does their own cooking, storing food and scented items in shared bear-proof food lockers. There are no hookups or showers in campgrounds and restrooms have cold water only. Showers are available nearby. Previous camping experience is recommended and no pets are allowed.



Campground quiet hours for our volunteers are from 10:00 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. Volunteers are expected to be respectful and courteous to teammates as well as to the public camping adjacent to their sites. Music must not be played loudly. Smoking should occur away from the camping area with smoking materials collected to prevent litter and fires. Valuables should not be left in the campground during the day. It's expected that volunteers adhere to a code of conduct that mirrors the stature of the National Park Service and cooperate with team leaders.

Camping in Yosemite includes the possibility of bear activity, which requires diligent adherence to bear-proof food locker regulations. There are occasions when a late night bear patrol may come through camp, which can disrupt sleep. Protective wildlife and tree regulations must be followed. For example, ropes for clotheslines or hammocks cannot be tied directly around trees without placing cardboard or other protective material under ropes.

### 21. Can I bring my RV or camper?

RV and camper space is limited. Prior approval from the Conservancy is required in order to bring these and the maximum length is 25 feet. In Yosemite Valley, it is mandatory that RV tow vehicles and/or a second vehicle are parked in the Half Dome Village parking area rather than in camp.

### 22. Can I use a generator?

The vast majority of Conservancy volunteers are tent campers. A month of frequent generator noise can obstruct the peaceful experience these participants desire and adversely affect morale. Generator owners must be present during operation and run the unit for no more than one hour at a time. It is expected that owners contribute to a peaceful atmosphere by using a generator when it impacts as few team members as possible. Use of solar panels is encouraged.

### 23. How do I know what to bring?

A packing list is provided.

### 24. Can I arrive early or extend my stay in the park?

Yes, but you must make your own camping/lodging arrangements.

### 25. Can I park my car in the campground?

The NPS requirement is two vehicles per campsite in all campground locations. This is strictly regulated by the Conservancy as well as NPS.

Yosemite Valley: Due to the number of volunteers sharing campsites, RV tow vehicles and/or second vehicles must be parked in the Half Dome Village parking area. Tent campers have priority vehicle parking. Everyone takes turns parking their vehicles in Lower Pines Campground and the Half Dome Village parking area.

### 26. How will I store my food and scented items?

Food and all scented items are stored in bear-proof food lockers. Each locker is expected to accommodate two volunteers or one couple and another volunteer. Every effort is made for shared lockers to be adjacent to each volunteer's tent. All volunteers are expected to have equal space in shared lockers. Additionally, stored items should be inside plastic bins with snap on lids to prevent access by small wildlife.

## **27. What bear precautions should I take?**

All items with a scent, including canned goods, drinks, cleaning supplies and toiletries must be stored in bear-proof food lockers. These lockers must be closed and latched at all times, even while at your campsite. Following these regulations and precautions decreases personal injury/property damage, and keeps Yosemite's bears wild. For more information visit:

<http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/bears.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/scarebears.htm>



## **28. What size are the bear-proof food lockers?**

Lockers vary in size with the smallest 47" wide x 22" high x 38" deep. Ice chests must be able to fit in these containers which are shared by two volunteers.

## **29. Can I bring my pet or have my pet visit me?**

Because pets are not allowed at volunteer stations, or to be left in tents, RV/campers, or tied up unattended in camp, we require that pets be left at home at all times.

## **BENEFITS**

### **30. What benefits will I receive as a Conservancy volunteer?**

Participants in the program gain work experience in one of the world's most beautiful places. They receive free park entrance passes, campsites, shower passes, uniform shirts, ball caps, nametags, theater attendance, as well as use of select swimming pools and a Wellness Center. Discounts at Yosemite Conservancy retail locations and select Aramark food concessions are also provided. Big Oak Flat volunteers enjoy the amenities of Rush Creek Lodge just outside the Big Oak Flat entrance gate. These include the pool, hot tub, guest lounge, Wi-Fi, phones, and laundry.

An added benefit is the opportunity to participate in one educational Outdoor Adventure course within a year after volunteer service at no cost. This benefit is based on space availability with the possibility of being bumped by a paying customer. Participation in these classes should not be scheduled while volunteering in the park.

### **31. What are the discounts?**

The Conservancy provides a 30 percent discount at its retail stores at Big Oak Flat, Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, and Wawona Visitor Centers as well as at the museum store adjacent to the Museum Gallery in Yosemite Village. Volunteers also enjoy free admission to the Yosemite Village Theater when space is available. The concessioner, Aramark, provides fifty percent discounts at Yosemite Valley Lodge Food Court, Half Dome Village Pavilion, and the Tuolumne Grill. Rush Creek Lodge provides a 10% locals discount at its restaurant.

## **UNIFORMS, MEALS AND HYGIENE**

### **32. Will I wear a uniform?**

Complimentary uniform shirts, ball caps and nametags are provided. Participants supply their own solid-colored long pants, shorts that reach the knee area, or capris. Professionalism and comfort are the expectation for work attire.

### **33. What are the meal/grocery arrangements?**

Participants are responsible for their own meals. They store their own food in shared bear-proof food lockers. Ice chests must fit in these lockers. Volunteers obtain ice from NPS machines or store their ice packs in a freezer to keep food cold. They enjoy occasional potlucks with each other.



Yosemite Valley: Dining at a fifty percent discount is available at Yosemite Valley Lodge Food Court and the Half Dome Village Pavilion. Groceries are available in the valley as well as Mariposa (1½ hours away) via highway 140.

Big Oak Flat: A 10% locals dining discount is available at Rush Creek Lodge. There are limited groceries at the Crane Flat Gas Station, Rush Creek Lodge and Evergreen Lodge. Groveland's grocery store is 20 miles (30-45 minutes away) via highway 120.

Tuolumne Meadows: A fifty percent discount is available at the Tuolumne Grill. The closest grocery store is in Lee Vining (30 minutes away) via Tioga Pass and highway 395.

#### **34. Are there alcohol restrictions?**

Alcoholic beverages are not allowed for volunteers under 21 years of age. Responsible, polite behavior is expected of everyone where alcohol is consumed anywhere in the park. Drinking is not allowed while in uniform. The Conservancy expects those who drink alcohol to act responsibly, not drink and drive, and be able to do required work each day.

#### **35. Will I be able to do laundry?**

There are coin operated laundry facilities located in Yosemite Valley

#### **36. Will I have access to showers?**

There are no showers in any of Yosemite's campgrounds; however, there are showers nearby for volunteer use, free of charge.

### **TIME OFF**

#### **37. What do volunteers do in the evenings?**

Many volunteers simply relax and enjoy the camping experience. They may spend time together around a campfire or picnic table visiting or playing cards and games. The following free activities are also offered in each park location:

Yosemite Valley: Amphitheater, theater (when seats are available), and Le Conte programs, a Wellness Center with DVD checkout, exercise classes and equipment, the Majestic and Half Dome Village lounges to read and play games.

Tuolumne Meadows: Amphitheater programs, music walks, and occasional cultural events at Parsons Lodge.

#### **38. What do volunteers do on their time off?**

Free time is used to relax, meet friends, catch up on personal chores or make the most of park activities. Activities include hiking, backpacking, fishing, scrambling, rock climbing, rafting, swimming, horseback riding, playing golf, making art, and visiting locations in the park or nearby towns. Many volunteers with the same days off do activities together.

### **FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

#### **39. Can my children accompany me and my family stay with me while I volunteer?**

Volunteer campsites are provided by the National Park Service free of charge. For this reason, the sites are for volunteers only. A spouse or family member must also volunteer in order to live in the campground. A visitor policy provides for family/friends in a very limited basis.

#### **40. How long can family and friends stay with me?**

Volunteering is not a means of providing a campsite for family and friends. Requests for visitors must be submitted to the volunteer team leader in the campground prior to visitor arrival. Volunteers must be present during a visit; they cannot loan their site and leave. Approval is subject to campsite impact.

Violation of this policy results in an immediate vacating of the campsite by visitors and jeopardizes the volunteer's eligibility to participate in the program.

Out of respect and fairness for all our volunteers, additional restrictions apply. Visits are limited to two visits by no more than one visitor or one visit by no more than two visitors per volunteer/volunteer couple during the month of service. Visits are limited to a maximum of four days and three nights. Visitors must place their tent adjacent to their host and share the host's bear-proof food locker space as well. In addition, in Yosemite Valley visitors must park their vehicles in the Half Dome Village parking lot at all times.

## **COMMUNICATION AND BANKING**

### **41. How will my family and friends be able to contact me?**

Mail can be sent to the following general delivery addresses:

Yosemite Valley: General Delivery, Yosemite Valley, CA, 95389  
Tuolumne Meadows: General Delivery, Tuolumne Meadows, CA, 95389

FedEx and UPS delivery: These carriers do not deliver to General Delivery. Packages should be delivered to the following address and management will provide delivery:

Yosemite Conservancy  
5020 El Portal Road, El Portal, CA 95318  
Attn: Volunteer Program

### **42. What is the emergency contact procedure?**

If an emergency situation happens to you, the person you provided as the emergency contact in your online registration form will be contacted if you are unable to do so. Emergency contact information is treated as protected information that is available as needed and maintained by the Conservancy and Park Service.

Depending on your service provider, there is limited cell phone coverage in the park. In case of a serious, life-threatening family emergency, your family can reach you by calling the Park Service dispatch center at (209) 379-1992. Callers should state the emergency, provide your name and campsite location, and request a relay of a message to you. Please use this procedure for emergencies only as dispatch services more than one national park.

### **43. Will I be able to use a cell phone?**

Service is available in and near Yosemite Village for AT&T and Verizon customers. Verizon has limited service in Big Oak Flat, and Tuolumne Meadows.

### **44. Will I be able to charge batteries and my cell phone?**

There are locations in Yosemite Valley, Big Oak Flat, and Tuolumne Meadows where volunteers can charge batteries and cell phones while they work.

### **45. Will I have wireless Internet access?**

Wireless access is available to the Conservancy's volunteers at various locations in Yosemite Valley. There is no access in Tuolumne Meadows and very limited access in Big Oak Flat. Wireless is available at Rush Creek Lodge outside the Big Oak Flat entrance.

### **46. Will I be able to cash a check or withdraw money from my bank account?**

There are ATMs in Yosemite Valley, Evergreen Lodge, Crane Flat, and Tuolumne Meadows.

### **47. How can I reach Yosemite Conservancy's volunteer program?**

Suzy Hasty, Volunteer Program Manager  
209 379-2317, extension 14; fax: 209 379-2486; [shasty@yosemiteconservancy.org](mailto:shasty@yosemiteconservancy.org)

P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318  
FedEx or UPS: 5020 El Portal Road, El Portal, CA 95318

## TRANSPORTATION

### 48. How do I get to Yosemite using public transportation?

For information visit [Yosemite Public Transportation](#).

### 49. What do I do about camping gear if I'm traveling by air?

Gear can be shipped to Yosemite Conservancy's El Portal Office. If delivery is to Wawona, Big Oak Flat, or Tuolumne Meadows, it must arrive two weeks in advance to ensure delivery from the El Portal office to the campground in a timely manner. Send to Yosemite Conservancy, 5020 El Portal Road, El Portal, CA, 95318; Attn: Volunteer Program

### 50. What transportation is available in the park?

In Yosemite Valley bikes or the free shuttle are used. In Wawona volunteers drive their cars to the Wawona store parking area to catch a shuttle to the grove. In Big Oak Flat, they drive their cars to the Big Oak Flat Visitor Center and the groves. In Tuolumne Meadows they drive and use the shuttle.

### 51. How do I get from one part of the park to another using public transportation?

The Tuolumne Meadows hiker bus connects Yosemite Valley to Tuolumne Meadows and stops at various trailheads on Tioga Road.

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) provides service between Yosemite Valley, Wawona, and Tuolumne Meadows for a fee. For more information visit [Yosemite Public Transportation](#).

### 52. How do I get to the park?

From San Francisco/Bay Area

Distance: 195 mi/314 km; time: 4-5 hours

Take I-580 east to I-205 east to Highway 120 east (Manteca) or Highway 140 east (Merced)

From Sacramento Area

Distance: 176 mi/283 km; time: 4 hours

Take Highway 99 south to Highway 120 east (Manteca) or Highway 140 east (Merced)

From Los Angeles

Distance: 313 mi/504 km; time: 6 hours

Take I-5 north (or I-405 north to I-5) to Highway 99 north to Highway 41 north (Fresno)

There can be vehicle restrictions to enter the park.

Please see this NPS website: [Yosemite National Park](#).

