



# Yosemite Guide

Thunderstorms in Yosemite's high country while the sun shines on Half Dome and Yosemite Valley. Photo by Armand Williams



## Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide April 6, 2016 - May 17, 2016

### Yosemite Name Changes

Be aware that the names of the following facilities have been changed, the new names include:

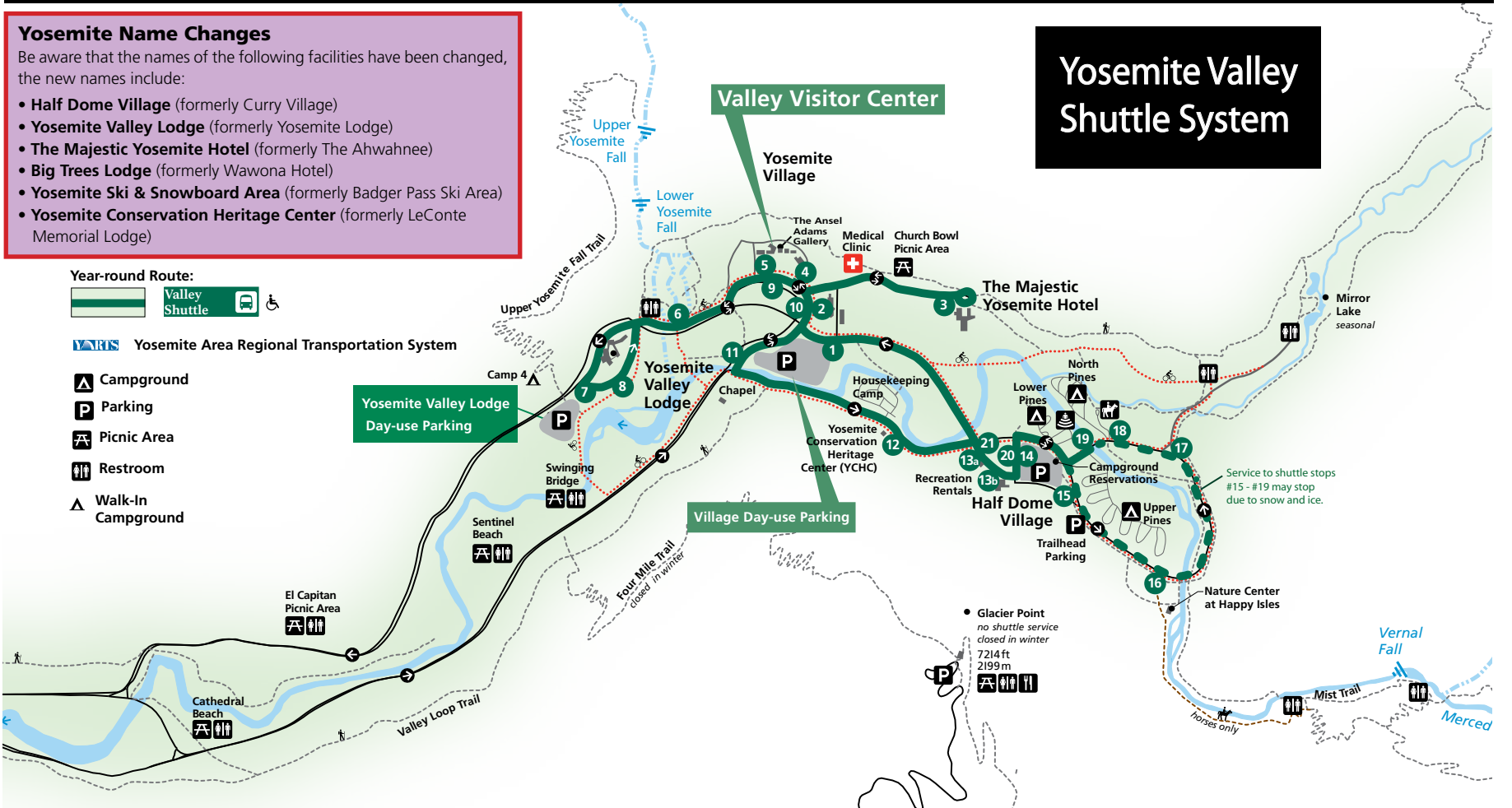
- **Half Dome Village** (formerly Curry Village)
- **Yosemite Valley Lodge** (formerly Yosemite Lodge)
- **The Majestic Yosemite Hotel** (formerly The Ahwahnee)
- **Big Trees Lodge** (formerly Wawona Hotel)
- **Yosemite Ski & Snowboard Area** (formerly Badger Pass Ski Area)
- **Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center** (formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge)

#### Year-round Route:



**YARS** Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

- Campground
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Restroom
- Walk-In Campground



The Yosemite Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7 am to 10 pm and serves stops in numerical order. Shuttles run daily every 10 to 20 minutes, depending on time of day. See schedule posted at shuttle stops. In the event of snow and ice, busses may suspend service to shuttle stops #15 - #19.

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Visitor Parking	8	YARS	16	Happy Isles
2	10	11	Sentinel Bridge	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
3	YARS	12	YCHC / Housekeeping Camp	18	Stable
4	Degnan's Deli	13a	21	19	Pines Campgrounds
5	9	13b	YARS		
6	Lower Yosemite Fall	14	20		
7	Camp 4	15	Upper Pines Campground		





# CENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Yosemite National Park



### Celebrating 100 Years of Service

The National Park Service turns 100-years-old on August 25, 2016! The Centennial will kick off a second century of stewardship of America's national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs. Join the celebration to explore, learn, discover, be inspired, or simply have fun in over 400 national parks. Visit [www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary](http://www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary) or [www.FindYourPark.com](http://www.FindYourPark.com) to find more information about celebration events happening in Yosemite throughout the year.

### NPS Centennial at Yosemite Calendar

#### April 16-24, 2016

##### National Park Week

Free admission to all National Parks. National Park Week is America's largest celebration of national heritage. It's about making great connections, exploring amazing places, discovering open spaces, enjoying affordable vacations and enhancing America's best idea—the national parks!

#### April 23, 2016

##### Yosemite Earth Day and Junior Ranger Day celebration

Enjoy games, interactive activities, volunteer opportunities and demonstrations that allow you to experience how the park and its partners practice sustainability in Yosemite.

#### May 29, 2016

##### 90th Anniversary of the Yosemite Museum

In honor of the 90th anniversary of the museum and the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, there will be a special museum exhibit this summer.

#### June 4, 2016

##### National Trails Day

Join in on the country's largest celebration of trails. More details to come.

#### August 25, 2016

##### NPS 100th Anniversary

Celebrate with us. More details to come.

#### August 25-28, 2016

##### NPS Birthday Weekend

Free admission to all National Parks in honor of the NPS Centennial.

#### September 21-25, 2016

##### Yosemite Facelift

Join the National Park Service and the Yosemite Climbing Association for this official National Public Lands Day event, volunteering to pick up litter and performing special projects to help clean up Yosemite.

#### September 24, 2016

##### National Public Lands Day

Free admission to all National Parks.

#### November 11, 2016

##### Veterans Day

Free admission to all National Parks.



The National Park Service launched into its Centennial year by participating in the 127th Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., on January 1, 2016. NPS Photo



Yosemite Park Ranger Adrienne Freeman, Yosemite Superintendent Don Neubacher, NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis. Yosemite National Park would like to thank the Yosemite Conservancy for their generous support in Yosemite's Rose Parade participation. NPS Photo

The centennial will kick off a second century of stewardship of America's national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs.

## FIND YOUR PARK



### Find Your Park

The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation invite you to Find Your Park and discover the national parks and programs in your own backyard. Visit [www.FindYourPark.com](http://www.FindYourPark.com) to find more information about NPS Centennial events happening in a national park near you, throughout the year, and also to share your pictures and stories once you've found your park.



Visitors declaring they "found their park" at the Centennial Snowshoe Instameet held in Yosemite in late January. NPS Photo

### Every Kid In A Park

Fourth graders, grab your family and go enjoy your national parks for FREE! The Every Kid In A Park initiative was launched to help the next generation of park visitors and supporters create positive attitudes towards public lands and to give every child the chance to explore America's great outdoors and unique history. Visit [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov) for more information.



Satisfied visitors after having "found their park" while snowshoeing at the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area. NPS Photo

### FREE Interagency 4th Grade Pass

A free annual pass for 4th grade students to have free access to any federal land or water during the school year from September 1 to August 30. Present a paper voucher at any park entrance to obtain the pass. Visit [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov) for details.

### Get Outdoors with Yosemite Conservancy

Are you looking for a memorable way to experience Yosemite, tailored to your interests and ability? Our expert naturalist-guides will enhance your understanding of the park as you walk among Yosemite's famous cliffs, trees and waterfalls. Whether you want to explore the park's flora and fauna while taking a gentle saunter along the river or learn about Yosemite's geology during an exhilarating hike, we'll help you create the perfect outdoor experience. Contact us to plan a Custom Adventure for your family or group. Visit [yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures](http://yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures) or 209/379-2317 x10 to find your adventure today.

### Go to the Theater

After a day filled with exploring the park, head to the Yosemite Theater to relax and enjoy a show! Celebrate Yosemite's culture and history as you meet the park's first guardian, Galen Clark; join a ranger to explore nature through a famous work of art; hear true tales from Search and Rescue missions; or discover the Valley's vertical landscape through a rock-climber's eyes. See page 6 for details.

### Yosemite Art Center Workshops

Yosemite Conservancy invites you to participate in one of our enriching artist-led workshops, held Monday-Saturday from 9:45am to 2pm in Yosemite Valley. Meet at the Yosemite Art Center in the morning, then head outside (weather and media permitting) to capture the park's beauty in your art. Registration is \$10 per person per day. Call 209/372-4207 to sign up; walk-ins welcome when space is available. Can't make it for a workshop? Stop by to browse our selection of art supplies, gifts and original artwork! The Art Center is located next to the Village Store, and is open daily from 9am to 4:30pm (closed at noon for lunch). See page 6 for details.

### Take a Photography Class

Learn how to best capture the landscape of Yosemite by joining a photography expert from The Ansel Adams Gallery. Several classes are offered each week. Some require fees. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. See pages 4 and 5.

### Lose Something in Yosemite?

For items lost or found in the park, file a lost/found report by emailing [yose\\_lostandfound@nps.gov](mailto:yose_lostandfound@nps.gov).



# Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

## Entrance Fees

**Non-commercial car, pickup truck, RV, or van with 15 or fewer passenger seats** - Valid for 7 days

(No per-person fee)

\$30/vehicle April through October

\$25/vehicle November through March

**Motorcycle** Valid for 7 days

\$20/motorcycle

**Individual** Valid for 7 days

\$15, (In a bus, on foot, bicycle, or horse)

**Yosemite Park Pass \$60**

Valid for one year in Yosemite.

**Interagency Annual Pass \$80**

Valid for one year at all federal recreation sites.

**Interagency Senior Pass \$10**

(Lifetime) For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.

**Interagency Access Pass (Free)**

(Lifetime) For permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

**Interagency Military Pass (Free)**

(Annual) For active duty U.S. military and dependents

**Interagency 4th Grade Pass (Free)**

(Annual) For fourth graders and their families. Must present paper voucher.

## Reservations

**Campground Reservations**

877/444-6777

[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

**Lodging Reservations**

888/413-8869

[www.travelyosemite.com](http://www.travelyosemite.com)

Group Sales Office: 888/339-3481

## Regional Info

**Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)**  
[www.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com)

**Highway 120 West**

**Yosemite Chamber of Commerce**

800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429

**Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau**

800/446-1333

[www.tcvb.com](http://www.tcvb.com)

**Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau**

559/683-4636

[www.yosemitethisyear.com](http://www.yosemitethisyear.com)

**Highway 132/49**

**Coulterville Visitor Center**

209/878-3329

**Highway 140/49**

**Calif. Welcome Center, Merced**

800/446-5353 or 209/724-8104

[www.yosemite-gateway.org](http://www.yosemite-gateway.org)

**Mariposa County Visitor Center**

866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081

**Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau**

209/742-4567

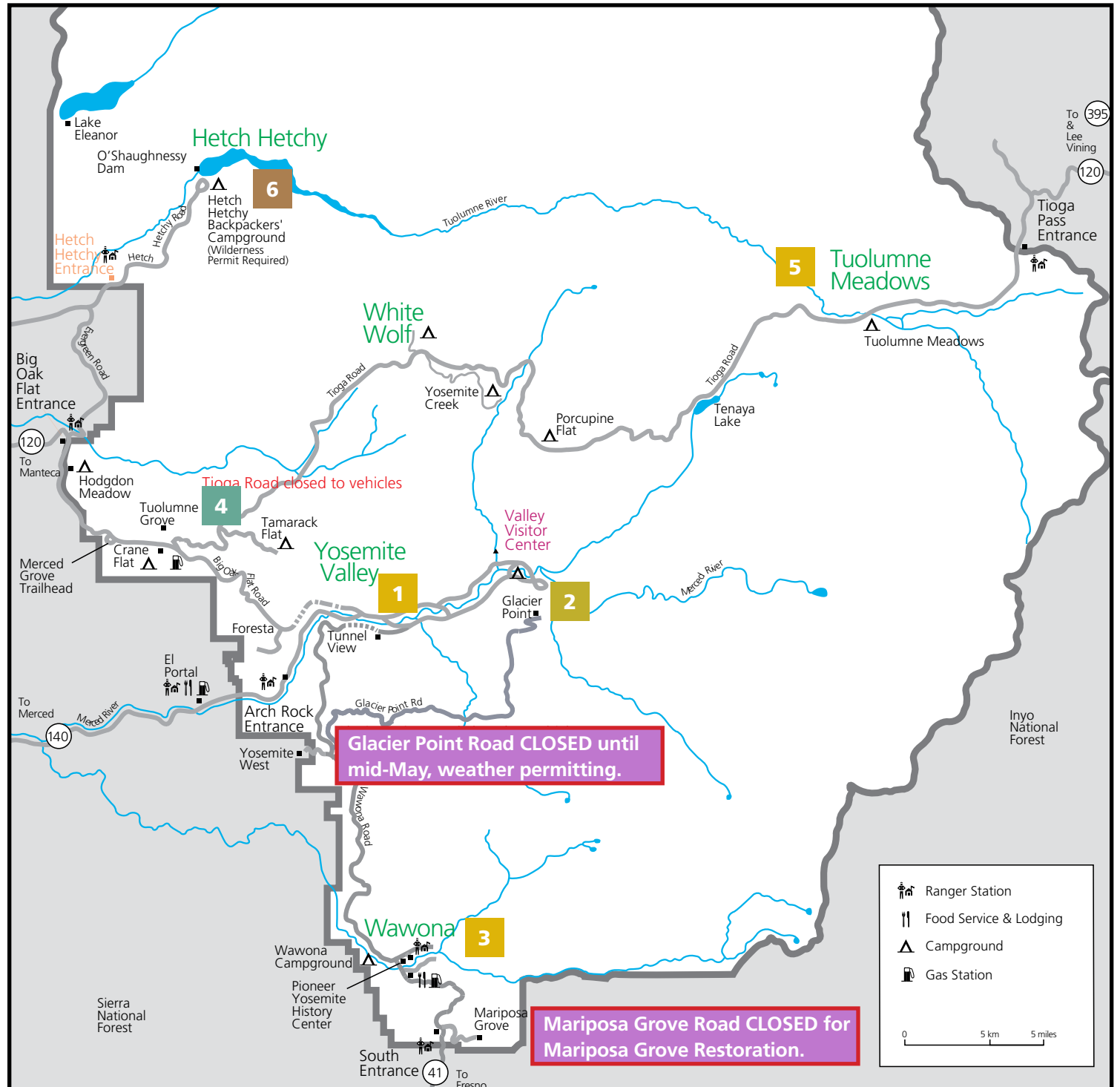
[www.homeofyosemite.com](http://www.homeofyosemite.com)

**Highway 120 East**

**Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake**

**Visitor Center, 760/647-6629**

[www.leevining.com](http://www.leevining.com)



## Yosemite Valley

**1** Yosemite Valley is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 West from Manteca, and via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining. The Valley is known for massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, its plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and its attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow recharge it, a moderate hike will take you to Vernal and Nevada Falls. Yosemite's meadows are great places to see wildlife and to photograph the winter scenery. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the Valley by foot, car or with a tour, the scenery will leave you in awe and eager to see what's around the next corner.



Wildflowers bloom in Yosemite Valley. Photo by Christine Loberg



## Glacier Point Road

**2** Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and Yosemite's high country, is located 30 miles (a one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. The road stays open as weather permits, however, overnight parking along it ends October 15. *Glacier Point Road closes beyond the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area after the first significant snow fall.* When the road is snow-covered and conditions permit, a system of cross-country ski tracks are maintained on it. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), then turn left onto Glacier Point Road. At Glacier Point, when the road is open, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail takes you to an exhilarating view looking down 3,214 feet into Yosemite Valley.

## Wawona and Mariposa Grove

**3** The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park's south entrance station. *As of July 6, 2015, the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is closed for restoration, see page 7 for details.* The nearby Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. For more information about hiking trails in the Wawona area, visit the Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio, adjacent to the Big Trees Lodge. This was once a painting studio for the 19th-century artist Thomas Hill.

## Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

**4** Crane Flat is located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of the Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. A number of hikes through pleasant meadows are available—when snow covers the ground these turn into delightful ski and snowshoe tracks. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk two steep miles down to this small grove. These groves north of Yosemite Valley are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off limits to vehicles. Remember that the walk down is easier than the walk back up.

## Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

**5** The Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. *The road closes after the first big snowfall, and overnight parking ends on October 15.* The road's elevation ranges from 6,200 to just under 10,000 feet. Tuolumne Meadows embodies the high-country of the Sierra Nevada. The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River winds through broad sub-alpine meadows surrounded by granite domes and peaks. It is the jumping off place for countless hikes, whether you venture out for a day or a week. In winter, Tuolumne Meadows is often reached by skiers via the Snow Creek Trail from the Mirror Lake trailhead, a short distance east of Yosemite Valley.

## Hetch Hetchy

**6** Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area's low elevation makes it a good place to hike in autumn and winter. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles (1 hour 15 minutes) from Yosemite Valley via the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120W) and the Evergreen Road. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open from 8am to 7pm through April 30, then 7am to 9pm through September 5. Wilderness permits and bear canisters are available while the road is open. Vehicles and/or trailers over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not permitted on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.

### DID YOU KNOW:

- Visitors to Yosemite leave behind 2,200 tons of garbage per year. That is equal to 3,919 dumpsters filled with trash.
- Yosemite already diverts 60 percent of waste collected in the park from the landfill, which puts it above the average 50-percent diversion rate for the rest of the parks managed by the NPS.
- Proper waste management protects park wildlife. Through the efforts of staff and visitors, Yosemite has reduced the number of bear incidents; things such as bears breaking into cars for human food, and stealing food from campsites went from a peak of about 1,600 in 1989 to just 76 in 2015. Please use proper storage containers and always clip the dumpsters.
- Yosemite's tap water is some of the best water in the State – enjoy it by filling your reusable water bottle!



The view from Glacier Point. NPS Photo



Snow at Wawona's covered bridge. Photo by Christine White Loberg



Tuolumne Meadows deep freeze. Photo by Wendy Malone



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Photo by Erik Skindrud

### Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite

The Tioga, Glacier Point, and Mariposa Grove Roads are closed each year from after the first significant snowfall to late May or early June. Other roads are generally plowed and maintained, but can close or present delays during storms. Motorists are advised to always carry chains and check weather and road conditions before travel. Icy and wet roadways can exist throughout the park! To check road conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7623 or visit [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov) for highways connecting to Yosemite, outside the park.

#### Chain Control Information:

You must have tire chains or cables in your possession when entering a designated chain control area, **even if you're driving a four-wheel drive or rental vehicle.**

AUTOS & PICKUPS  
SNOW TIRES OK  
CARRY CHAINS

**R1** - Chains Required, unless you are driving a car, pickup truck, or SUV weighing less than 6,000 pounds AND your auto or pickup has mud/snow tires installed. (look for "M+S" on the wall of the tire)

4W DRIVE WITH  
SNOW TIRES OK  
CARRY CHAINS

**R2** - Chains Required, unless you are driving a car, pickup truck, or SUV weighing less than 6,500 pounds AND your car has snow tires installed on all four wheels AND has four-wheel drive or all-wheel drive engaged.

NO EXCEPTIONS

**R3** - Chains Required, on ALL vehicles (chains on 2 wheels of a 4-wheel drive).



# Yosemite Valley

Spectacular vistas in the heart of the park



Floy Zittin, White Headed Woodpeckers, watercolor on wood, on display at Yosemite Renaissance 31 Exhibition

## Experience the Incomparable Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley embraces one of the world's most outstanding concentrations of waterfalls, granite walls, meadows, wildflowers, and trees. The Valley also harbors a rich collection of human stories, from American Indian lore to the birth of the National Park movement.

### Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore are open from 9am to 5pm. They are located west of the main post office, near shuttle stops #5 and #9. The facility offers information, maps, and books. Explore the exhibits and learn how Yosemite's landscape formed and how people interact with it.

### YOSEMITE FILMS

Two films are shown daily, every half-hour beginning at 9:30am (except on Sundays when the first showing is at noon). The last film is at 4:30pm. Ken Burns' *Yosemite: A Gathering of Spirit* plays on the hour and *The Spirit of Yosemite* plays on the half-hour in the Theater behind the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

### WILDERNESS CENTER

Beginning April 29, the Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center will be open daily from 8am to 5pm. Wilderness permits, bear canisters, and a variety of maps and books are available. Until April 29th, wilderness permits and bear canisters can be obtained at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center seven days a week from 9am to 5pm.



Golden Mantled Ground Squirrel

### Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center. The museum is open daily from 9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*.

### INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite's Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present. The Indian Cultural Museum is open from 9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*.

### YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

The store offers books and traditional American Indian arts, crafts and jewelry. Open daily from 9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*.

### The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery is open daily from 9am to 5pm, from 9am to 6pm beginning May 18. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other artists. See page 5 for photo walk and other event times. For more information call 209/372-4211 or visit [www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com).

### EXHIBIT

**Charles Cramer: 40 Years of Photography**  
*March 6, 2016 - April 23, 2016*

Charles Cramer is widely regarded as one of the great photographers still actively working today. He's a master printer known for his use of Gelatin Silver and Dye Transfer and his digital printing methods. For 40 years, Mr. Cramer has explored and photographed the iconic milieus of Yosemite, Zion and the new frontiers of Antarctica. In celebration of his momentous career, The Ansel Adams Gallery will be hosting a new exhibition titled, "Charles Cramer: 40 Years in Photography," which will feature works made between 1976 and 2016. The exhibition will open on March 6 and go through April 23. We hope you can stop by and see Mr. Cramer's work in person while in Yosemite.

### NEW EXHIBIT

**James McGrew: The Yosemite Anniversary Paintings**  
*April 24, 2016 - June 4, 2016*

In the tradition and style of early paintings that helped spread awareness for Yosemite and lead to its protection and management as a National Park, James McGrew's solo show features all original oils painted during the Yosemite anniversaries including Yosemite N.P. 125 year (2015); and National Park Service 100 year (2016). Most paintings were produced entirely en plein air (on location in Yosemite).

The exhibition will open on April 24 and run through June 4 at The Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village. We hope you will join us as we continue to celebrate the anniversary of Yosemite National Park and The National Park Service.

### Yosemite Renaissance 31 Art Exhibition

Yosemite Renaissance is an annual exhibit, now in its thirty-first year, which encourages diverse artistic interpretations of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. Its goal is to bring together the works of serious contemporary artists that do not simply duplicate traditional representations but establish a continuum with past generations of Yosemite artists. For this year's competitive exhibit there were 973 entries, resulting in an exhibition of 55 paintings, photographs and three-dimensional works by artists throughout the country. Yosemite Renaissance 31 opens on February 27 at the Yosemite Museum Gallery and continues through May 1, 2016. The Museum Gallery is open from 10am to Noon and 1pm to 4pm daily.

### POST OFFICE

Yosemite Village  
**Main Office**  
Monday - Friday, 8:30am to 5pm  
Saturday, 10am to noon  
Yosemite Valley Lodge  
**Post Office**  
Monday - Friday, 12:30pm to 2:45pm  
El Portal  
**Post Office**  
Monday - Friday, 8:30am to 5pm  
*closed for lunch from 12:30pm to 1:30pm*  
Wawona Post Office  
Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm  
Saturday, 9am to noon

### BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

Yosemite Village  
**The Ansel Adams Gallery**  
9am to 5pm, 9am to 6pm beginning May 18  
**Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore**  
**Inside Yosemite Valley Visitor Center**  
9am to 5pm  
**Yosemite Museum Store**  
9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*  
**Yosemite Art Center**  
9am to 4:30pm  
**Village Store**  
8am to 8pm  
The Majestic Yosemite Hotel  
**Gift Shop**  
8am to 8pm  
**Sweet Shop**  
7am to 10pm  
Yosemite Valley Lodge  
**Gift/Grocery**  
8am to 8pm  
Housekeeping Camp  
**Gift/Grocery**  
8am to 8pm, *beginning April 15*  
Half Dome Village  
**Yosemite Mountain Shop**  
8am to 8pm  
**Gift/Grocery**  
8am to 8pm  
Wawona Area  
**Big Trees Lodge Store and Pioneer Gift Shop**  
8am to 6pm

### SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

**Half Dome Village Showers**  
Open 24 hours  
**Housekeeping Camp Showers**  
7am to 10pm, *beginning April 15*  
**Housekeeping Camp Laundromat**  
8am to 10pm



# Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

YOSEMITE VALLEY	
<b>Sunday</b>	<p>9:30am <b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS)</p> <p>10:00am <b>Ranger Walk – Bears</b> (April 10, 17 and 24 Only) 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>Ask A Climber</b> (May 15 Only) 4 hrs. Join a ranger at the El Capitan Bridge for this informal program. Use telescopes to observe climbers on El Capitan and learn about climbing in Yosemite. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>1:30pm <b>Beginner Art Workshop</b> 2.5 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. (YC) \$</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind The Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Sign up at the Majestic Concierge. (YH)</p> <p>8:00pm <b>John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt in Yosemite: 1903</b> (May 8 Only) 1 hr. Tom Bopp, John Muir Historian, Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge), limited to 50 guests. Shuttle Stop #12. (SC)</p> <p>9:00pm <b>Night Prowl</b> 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! For tickets and information please call or visit any tour desk. (YH) \$</p> <p>9:00pm <b>Starry Night Skies Over Yosemite</b> 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! For tickets and information please call or visit any tour desk. (YH) \$</p>
<b>Monday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1.5hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at The Majestic Yosemite Hotel. (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>9:45am <b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. See page 6 for more information. (YC) \$</p> <p>10:00am <b>Ranger Walk – Yosemite's First People</b> (May 2, 9 and 16 Only) 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>Ask A Climber</b> (May 16 Only) 4 hrs. Join a ranger at the El Capitan Bridge for this informal program. Use telescopes to observe climbers on El Capitan and learn about climbing in Yosemite. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Ansel Adams' Legacy and Your Digital Camera Photography Class</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind The Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Sign up at the Majestic Concierge. (YH)</p> <p>9:00pm <b>Night Prowl</b> 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! For tickets and information please call or visit any tour desk. (YH) \$</p> <p>9:00pm <b>Starry Night Skies Over Yosemite</b> 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! For tickets and information please call or visit any tour desk. (YH) \$</p>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<p>8:30am <b>Yosemite Bird Walk</b> 2 hrs. Meet at Yosemite Art Center for an easy stroll to discover the Valley's springtime birds. (YC) \$</p> <p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>9:45am <b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. See page 6 for more information. (YC) \$</p> <p>10:00am <b>Ranger Walk – Generations</b> 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>Ask A Climber</b> (May 17 Only) 4 hrs. Join a ranger at the El Capitan Bridge for this informal program. Use telescopes to observe climbers on El Capitan and learn about climbing in Yosemite. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Yosemite Plant Walk</b> 2 hrs. Meet at Yosemite Art Center for an easy stroll to discover the Valley's springtime plants and flowers (YC) \$</p> <p>1:00pm <b>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Photography Class</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Bears</b> (May 3, 10 and 17 Only) 1.5 hrs. Lower Pines Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind The Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Sign up at the Majestic Concierge. (YH)</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Yosemite Theater - Yosemite Search and Rescue</b> 90 mins. Presentation by Ranger Alan Hageman. Purchase tickets at the Valley Visitor Center Bookstore. (YC) \$</p> <p>9:00pm <b>Starry Night Skies Over Yosemite</b> 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! For tickets and information please call or visit any tour desk. (YH) \$</p>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<p>9:45am <b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. See page 6 for more information. (YC) \$</p> <p>10:00am <b>Ranger Walk – Geology</b> (April 6, 13, 20 and 27 Only) 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS)</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Ansel Adams' Legacy and Your Digital Camera Photography Class</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Bears</b> (May 4 and 11 Only) 1.5 hrs. Lower Pines Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Yosemite Theater - Exploring Nature with Ranger Erik</b> 90 mins. Interactive family-friendly show with Ranger Erik Westerlund. Purchase tickets at Valley Visitor Center Bookstore. (YC) \$</p>
<b>Thursday</b>	<p>8:30am <b>Yosemite Bird Walk</b> 2 hrs. Meet at Yosemite Art Center for an easy stroll to discover the Valley's springtime birds. (YC) \$</p> <p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>9:45am <b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. See page 6 for more information. (YC) \$</p> <p>10:00am <b>Ranger Walk – Trees</b> (April 7, 14, 21 and 28 Only) 1.5 hrs. The Majestic Yosemite Hotel, shuttle stop #3. (NPS)</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Using Your Digital Camera</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Yosemite Plant Walk</b> 2 hrs. Meet at Yosemite Art Center for an easy stroll to discover the Valley's springtime plants and flowers (YC) \$</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Bears</b> (May 5 and 12 Only) 1.5 hrs. Lower Pines Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind The Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Sign up at the Majestic Concierge. (YH)</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Yosemite Theater - Meet Galen Clark, Yosemite's First Guardian.</b> 90 mins. Live performance by Naturalist Pete Devine. Purchase tickets at Valley Visitor Center Bookstore. (YC) \$</p> <p>9:00pm <b>Starry Night Skies Over Yosemite</b> 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! For tickets and information please call or visit any tour desk. (YH) \$</p>
<b>Friday</b>	<p>9:45am <b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. See page 6 for more information. (YC) \$</p> <p>10:00am <b>Ranger Walk – Wildlife</b> (April 8, 15, 22 and 29 Only) 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS)</p> <p>1:30pm <b>FAMILY CRAFTS PROGRAM</b> 2 hrs. Drop-in session at Yosemite Art Center. (YC) \$</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Bears</b> (May 6 and 13 Only) 1.5 hrs. Lower Pines Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind The Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Sign up at the Majestic Concierge. (YH)</p> <p>5:00pm <b>Hors d'Oeuvres and Owls</b> (April 29 Only) 4 hrs. Learn about Yosemite's owls with a wildlife expert in Foresta. Requires advanced reservation, please call 209/379-2317 x10. (YC) \$</p> <p>5:00pm <b>Naturalist Stroll</b> 1hr. Uncover Yosemite's natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on The Majestic Yosemite Hotel's back lawn. (YH)</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Yosemite Theater - Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey</b> 90 mins. Film and presentation by Climber Ron Kauk. Purchase tickets at Valley Visitor Center Bookstore. (YC) \$</p> <p>7:30pm <b>Film - Ansel Adams</b> 1hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge, check local listing for venue. (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>8:00pm <b>American Indian Storytelling &amp; Flute Playing</b> (May 13 Only) 1 hr. Ben Cunningham-Summerfield, California Tribal Member, Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge), limited to 50 guests. Shuttle Stop #12. (SC)</p> <p>9:00pm <b>Night Prowl</b> 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! For tickets and information please call or visit any tour desk. (YH) \$</p> <p>9:00pm <b>Starry Night Skies Over Yosemite</b> 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! For tickets and information please call or visit any tour desk. (YH) \$</p>
<b>Saturday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Yosemite Day Hike: World-Famous Waterfalls and Hidden Gems</b> (April 23 Only) 8 hrs. Explore the Valley with a naturalist. Requires advanced reservation, please call 209/379-2317 x10. (YC) \$</p> <p>9:00am <b>Learning to Listen: Birding by Ear</b> (May 7 Only) 8 hrs. Birders of all backgrounds welcome! Requires advanced reservation, please call 209/379-2317 x10. (YC) \$</p> <p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>9:30am <b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> (Except April 23) 1 hr. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS)</p> <p>9:45am <b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. See page 6 for more information. (YC) \$</p> <p>10:00am <b>Ranger Walk – Ahwahneechee Stories and Games</b> 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS)</p> <p>1:00pm <b>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Photography Class</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$</p> <p>1:30pm <b>FAMILY CRAFTS PROGRAM</b> 2 hrs. Drop-in session at Yosemite Art Center. (YC) \$</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind The Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Sign up at the Majestic Concierge. (YH)</p> <p>5:00pm <b>Naturalist Stroll</b> 1hr. Uncover Yosemite's natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on The Majestic Yosemite Hotel's back lawn. (YH)</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Yosemite Theater - Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey</b> 90 min. Film and presentation by climber Ron Kauk. Purchase tickets at Valley Visitor Center Bookstore. (YC) \$</p> <p>8:00pm <b>Hiking the John Muir Trail: Three Weeks of Stories, Photographs &amp; Short Films</b> (May 7 Only) 1 hr. Jeremy Evans, Nature Photographer, Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge), limited to 50 guests. Shuttle Stop #12. (SC)</p> <p>8:00pm <b>Everything 1 Photograph: Yosemite, Muir Woods, Vasco Caves, Mt. Diablo</b> (May 14 Only) 1 hr. Stephen Joseph, Landscape Photographer, Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge), limited to 50 guests. Shuttle Stop #12. (SC)</p> <p>9:00pm <b>Night Prowl</b> 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! For tickets and information please call or visit any tour desk. (YH) \$</p> <p>9:00pm <b>Starry Night Skies Over Yosemite</b> 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! For tickets and information please call or visit any tour desk. (YH) \$</p>

Programs printed in ALL CAPS AND COLOR are especially for children and their families.

## Access for People with Disabilities



Accessible parking, lodging, tours, and activities are available throughout the park.

For a complete list of accessible services, recreational opportunities, and exhibits, pick up an updated Yosemite Accessibility Guide which is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at [www.nps.gov/yose/playourvisit/accessibility.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/playourvisit/accessibility.htm), or call a park Accessibility Coordinator at 209/379-1035 for more information.

Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue and white signs.



Sign Language interpreting is available upon request. Contact Deaf Services at 209/379-5250 (v/txt). Two weeks advance notice is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request, inquire at a visitor center.



Audio tours are available for the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. Refer to the Accessibility Guide, or contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.

- NPS** National Park Service
- YH** Yosemite Hospitality LLC
- TAAG** The Ansel Adams Gallery
- YC** Yosemite Conservancy
- SC** Sierra Club
- \$** Programs offered for a fee



# Things to Do

## Yosemite Valley and Beyond



Spring is just around the corner in Yosemite Valley. Photo by Faith Moore

### Yosemite in Winter

#### NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Naturalists give walks and talks about Yosemite's natural and cultural history, every day. See page 5 for scheduled walks, talks, and evening programs.

#### RANGER PROGRAM—YOSEMITE INSIDE

Join a ranger in an indoor venue for an in-depth look into a Yosemite topic. Topics will vary from Yosemite wildlife, to climbing, to Yosemite artists. See page 5 for schedule and visit the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center for specific topics.

#### WALKING AND HIKING

Yosemite Valley has a wide range of walking and hiking possibilities. Stop by a visitor center for trail maps and current trail conditions, or see page 9 for a list of popular Valley day hikes.

#### SIGHTSEEING

Some of the famous landmarks in Yosemite Valley include:

- **Lower Yosemite Fall** is an easy 30-minute loop trail starting from shuttle stop #6. (Both Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow return.) This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired.
- **Bridalveil Fall** is a year-round waterfall that can be visited on your way into or out of the Valley. Winds, swirling about the cliff, blow the wispy water into a delicate free-fall.
- **El Capitan** is a massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan. *Please stay on foot paths to avoid damaging delicate meadows.*

- **Half Dome**, Yosemite's most distinctive monument dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this iconic feature into what we see today. Cook's Meadow, Sentinel Bridge and Glacier Point all provide stunning views of Half Dome.

- **Happy Isles** is easily reached by the free shuttle bus at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite's geologic story. *Shuttle busses may not go to stop #16 when road is snow-covered or icy.*

- **Tunnel View**, along the Wawona Road (Hwy 41), provides a view that showcases Yosemite Valley. Capture breathtaking views of El Capitan, Bridalveil Fall and Half Dome. It is particularly spectacular at sunset or after the clearing of a storm.

#### TOURS

Tours listed depart from Yosemite Valley Lodge, weather permitting. Check the Tour and Activity Desk for times.

**The Valley Floor Tour** is a 26-mile, two-hour, guided tour of Yosemite Valley. It departs several times daily. The four-hour Glacier Point Tour begins May 13, weather permitting. Call 209/372/1240 or inquire at the Tour and Activity Desk in the Yosemite Valley Lodge between 7:30 am to 7pm.

#### Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy is passionate about sharing the wonders of Yosemite through our year-round Outdoor Adventures. From backpacking to botany and birding, our wide range of programs offers something for every Yosemite adventurer.

- April 15-17 Learning to Lead and "Leave No Trace" Trainer Backpack
- April 23 Yosemite Day Hike: World-Famous Waterfalls and Hidden Gems
- April 29 Hors d'Oeuvres and Owls
- April 30-May 1 Yosemite Day Hikes: Spring Birds & Blooms
- May 7 Learning to Listen: Birding by Ear

Find detailed information and register for your adventure at [yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures](http://yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures) or call 209/379-2317 x10. Camping and park entry are included; additional lodging options are available. Custom Adventures can also be arranged for individuals, families and groups. Proceeds support Yosemite Conservancy's work in the park; preserving and protecting Yosemite for generations to come.

#### Yosemite Conservancy Art Center Workshops (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy invites you to join one of our celebrated artists for a hands-on art experience in Yosemite Valley. Art workshops are offered Monday through Saturday, starting at 9:45am and ending at 2pm.

- April 4-9 Dramatic Watercolor with Thor Ericson
- April 11-16 Catch Yosemite's Light in Watercolor with Steve Curl
- April 18-23 Charcoal Landscape with Jeff Hemming
- April 25-30 Impressions of Yosemite in Acrylic with Marcy Wheeler
- May 2-7 Plein Air Treasure: Yosemite in Watercolor with Geri Medway
- May 9-14 Sketching Nature with Floy Zittin
- May 16-21 Painting Spring in Watercolor with Sonja Hamilton

All workshops meet at the Yosemite Art Center, located next to the Village Store in Yosemite Village. The registration fee is \$10 per

participant per day, and art supplies are available for purchase. Workshops are typically held outside (weather and media permitting). Find detailed information at [yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-art-center](http://yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-art-center).

#### Yosemite Theater (YC)

Yosemite Theater offers entertainment and inspiration through a variety of live theater performances, educational presentations and beautiful films. Revel as actors, rock-climbers and rangers bring the park's adventures, culture, nature and history to life! Tickets: \$10 (FREE admission for children under age 12), available at the Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore in the Valley Visitor Center or at any Yosemite Tour & Activity Desk. All shows start at 7pm at the Yosemite Theater (shuttle bus stops #5/#9, Valley Visitor Center).

#### Tuesdays (April 12 - October 25)

##### *Yosemite Search and Rescue*

Join Yosemite Search and Rescue ranger Alan Hageman to hear true stories from rescue missions and learn about the park's highly skilled emergency response team.

#### Wednesdays (April 6 - May 18)

##### *Exploring Nature with Ranger Erik*

Enjoy a family-friendly show with ranger Erik Westerlund, who uses art, music and games to explore Sierra Nevada plants, animals, geology and more.

#### Thursdays (April 7 - May 18)

##### *Meet Galen Clark: Yosemite's First Guardian*

Celebrate the National Park Service Centennial with naturalist and historian Pete Devine, who brings history to life through his portrayal of Galen Clark, Yosemite's first appointed guardian.

#### Fridays & Saturdays (April 8 - October 29)

##### *Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey*

See Yosemite's year-round beauty in this stirring film, which is followed by a discussion with renowned rock-climber Ron Kauk.



Hours listed are core hours for facilities and may be extended during periods of peak visitation.

**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

**Yosemite Village**

**Degnan's Delicatessen**

7am to 5pm

**Village Grill**

11am to 6pm

**The Majestic Yosemite Hotel**

**Dining Room**

Breakfast: 7am to 10:30am

Lunch: 11:30am to 2:30pm

Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm

Sunday Brunch: 7am to 3pm

*Appropriate attire required for dinner.*

*Reservations recommended for dinner*

*and Sunday Brunch, 209/372-1489.*

**Great Lounge Beverage Service**

11am to 10pm

**Yosemite Valley Lodge**

**Food Court**

Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am

Lunch: 11am to 4:30pm

Dinner: 4:30pm to 8pm

**Mountain Room Lounge**

4:30pm to 10pm

**Mountain Room Restaurant**

Dinner: 5pm to 8pm,

*Reservations taken for 8 or more.*

*209/372-1281*

**Half Dome Village**

**Pavillion**

Breakfast: 7am to 10am

Dinner: 5:30pm to 8pm

**Grill**

11am to 5pm, *beginning April 22*

**Pizza Deck**

Monday - Friday, 5pm to 9pm

Saturday & Sunday, 12pm to 9pm

*Beginning April 16, 12pm to 9pm daily*

**Coffee Corner**

7am to 11am

**Half Dome Village Bar**

Monday - Friday, 5pm to 10pm

Saturday - Sunday, 12pm to 10pm

*Beginning May 7, 12pm to 10pm daily*

**Big Trees Lodge**

Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am

Lunch: 11am to 1:30pm

Dinner: 5pm to 9pm

*Call 209/375-1425 for dinner reservations*

Lounge Service: 5pm to 9:30pm

**GROCERIES**

**Yosemite Valley Lodge**

**Gift/Grocery**

8am to 8pm

**Yosemite Village**

**Village Store**

8am to 8pm

**Half Dome Village**

**Gift/Grocery**

8am to 8pm

**Glacier Point**

**Gift Shop**

9am to 7pm, *beginning May 13,*

*weather and conditions permitting*

**Snack Stand**

9am to 7pm, *beginning May 13,*

*weather and conditions permitting*

**Wawona**

**Big Trees Lodge Store and**

**Pioneer Gift Shop**

8am to 6pm

**Golf Shop and Snack Stand**

8am to 6pm, *beginning mid-May,*

*weather permitting*

**Golf Course**

8am to 6pm, *beginning mid-May,*

*weather permitting*

**Crane Flat**

**Gift/Grocery**

8am to 5pm

**GAS STATIONS**

**NO gas in Yosemite Valley**

**El Portal**

8am to 5pm, Diesel available

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

**Big Trees Lodge Service Station**

8am to 5pm. Diesel & propane.

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

**Crane Flat**

8am to 5pm, Diesel available.

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

# Visitor Services

## Beyond Yosemite Valley



Although the Mariposa Grove is closed for restoration, the Tuolumne and Merced Groves remain open and are considered park highlights. NPS Photo

## Wawona & Mariposa Grove

### Visitor Center at Hill's Studio

Beginning May 4, the Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore (only) will be open daily from 9am to 5pm, may close for lunch. The Visitor Center offers general information and a variety of books and maps. Wilderness permits for Wawona trailheads can be obtained by self-registration on the front porch of Hill's Studio. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

### Evening Program

Join Pianist/Singer Tom Bopp in the Big Trees Lodge lobby (formerly the Wawona Hotel) from 5:30pm to 9:30pm, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and tells stories from Yosemite's past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano early in the evening when Tom's performing.

### Pioneer Yosemite History Center

Go back to a time of horse-drawn wagons, a covered bridge, and log cabins. A visit to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center explores Yosemite's history and explains how

Yosemite was the inspiration for national parks across America and around the world. The center is open throughout the year.

### Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite's South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park's largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees.

#### GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE MARIPOSA GROVE

The Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project is now underway! On July 6, 2015, a temporary closure of the grove for up to 24 months began. The restoration project will improve the habitat and restore the hydrology of the Mariposa Grove and improve visitors' experience and enjoyment of the grove. Trails will be improved providing universal access along with improved restrooms.

*The Mariposa Grove Road is closed to all public access, including bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Hiking trails within the grove are also closed.*

### Big Oak Flat

#### BIG OAK FLAT INFORMATION STATION

Beginning May 4, the Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore (only) will be open daily from 9am to 5pm, may close for lunch. The Information Station offers general information and a variety of books and maps. Wilderness

permits for the Big Oak Flat Road and Tioga Road trailheads are by self-registration on the front porch of the Information Station. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

### Merced Grove

Yosemite's quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of approximately 20 big trees accessible only on foot. It's a three-mile round-trip hike, ski, or snowshoe into the grove. The trail drops down 1.5 miles, making this a moderately strenuous hike on the uphill portion. There is no potable water in the area so be sure to bring drinking water with you. The grove is located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trail is marked by a sign and a post labeled B-10.

### Tuolumne Grove

The trailhead for this grove of approximately 25 sequoias is near the intersection of the Big Oak Flat and Tioga roads at Crane Flat. The moderately strenuous trail leads downhill from the parking area into the grove and drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail. There is no potable water in the area so be sure to bring drinking water with you.

**GENERAL SERVICES**

**YOSEMITE VILLAGE GARAGE**

8am to 5pm, Towing 24 hours. Propane available until 4:30pm.

**MEDICAL CLINIC** (Yosemite Valley)

Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm  
*Closed weekends and federal holidays.*  
For emergency care after 5pm, call 9-1-1.  
For more information call 209/372-4637.

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

**CHURCH OF CHRIST** (NONDENOMINATIONAL)

El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am  
Info: 209/379-2100

**YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Pastor Brent Moore - Resident Minister  
209/372-4831 • [www.YosemiteValleyChapel.org](http://www.YosemiteValleyChapel.org)  
[www.YosemiteValleyChapelWeddings.org](http://www.YosemiteValleyChapelWeddings.org)

**SUNDAY SERVICES IN THE YOSEMITE CHAPEL:**

9:15am - Sunday School and Nursery Available  
6:30pm - Evening Service/Bible Study in chapel

ANNUAL WEDDING RENEWAL SUNDAY  
Sunday, May 1, 2016 at 9:15am and 11am

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY  
7pm, Call for location

WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK SERVICE  
7pm, at the Chapel

VARIOUS BIBLE STUDIES IN THE PARK  
Call for locations

**ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS**

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS  
Sunday, 10am, Theater behind Yosemite Valley  
Visitor Center, shuttle stops #5/#9.  
Rectory Phone: 209/372-4729

**SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

7:30pm - Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday  
YH General Office Building, Yosemite Village

**LIONS CLUB**

Meets the first and third Thursday of each month at noon, The Majestic Yosemite Hotel.



# Protecting yourself...



A couple descending steps on the Mist Trail. NPS Photo

## Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

There are many ways to experience the wildness of Yosemite. While the forces of nature can create unexpected hazardous conditions, with a little common sense and some pre-planning, you can minimize the risks associated with many activities.

### ENJOYING SPRING IN YOSEMITE

Every season in Yosemite presents us with unique beauty but for many visitors the heart of spring is a particularly special time to visit the Park. Every living thing seems to be awakening following a winter's slumber. The high Sierra snowpack is rapidly melting creating full waterfalls and raging streams and rivers. The sound of running water can be as enchanting as its sight and reminds us of the life it brings to Yosemite and California's rich farmlands below.

Yosemite's streams are also a temptation for the curious, the photographer, and the weary hiker simply wanting to cool tired feet. However, Yosemite's water can be deceptively dangerous and unforgiving. Yosemite's visitors are strongly urged to enjoy any flowing or falling water from a safe distance. Please: ENJOY THE WATER FROM THE SAFETY OF THE TRAIL OR IN DEVELOPED AREAS ONLY.

### WEATHER

Spring weather is some of our finest for enjoying outdoor activities. Nevertheless, cold fronts can bring snow as low as the Valley floor well into May. The higher country is noticeably cooler. In summary, while you are likely to enjoy pleasant weather, check the latest forecast and be prepared for cold and wet conditions and always be ready to add layers of clothing to stay warm and dry.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS

This is important enough to mention again; rain and melting snow fill our rivers and streams to their greatest volume and flow velocity in spring creating beautiful accents in sight and sound to Yosemite's landscape. Do not be fooled. Currents are too forceful for the strongest swimmers to survive even a shallow water plunge. Waters that appear still and green can have powerful unseen currents. The granite rocks in and near the water are slippery. In short, stay away from streambanks where a simple slip can have disastrous consequences and never attempt a water crossing except in safe and designated areas.

### YOSEMITE ROADS

Snow and ice, while less frequent than late winter, remain a possibility. Plan for all potential road conditions; call ahead to our recorded number (209) 372-0200 +1 for current road conditions and restrictions. See page 3 for chain

control information. Also, rock fall occurs throughout the year and wildlife, including deer and bears, can all create driving hazards. There are many sites to distract drivers. If you cannot devote 100% of your attention to your driving, please pull completely off the road into designated pull-offs and parking areas.

### FOR ALL SEASONS

- Stay on established trails – do not take shortcuts.
- Rock scrambling – leave this to the critters.
- Water and food – Carry more water than you need; stay hydrated and snack frequently – make sure you have plenty of food and water. If you are sweating, replace lost salts with salty, easy-to-digest snacks.
- "10 hiking essentials" – including a flashlight or headlamp, sunglasses, sunscreen, navigation, and a signaling method (mirror and whistle)
- Let someone know – *always* leave your travel and hiking plan, including your intended route and estimated time of return, with a trusted person. If no one knows you are missing, no one is going to be looking for you.

### WILDERNESS PERMIT DETAILS

Wilderness permits are required year round for all overnight trips into Yosemite's Wilderness. Permits are issued and bear canisters are available for rent in Yosemite Valley (see page 4) and at the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station during hours of operation. Wilderness permits are also available at Hill's Studio in Wawona and at the Big Oak Flat Information Station (see page 7). Call the park's main phone line at 209/372-0200, or check the web at [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm), for additional information. For summer trips, reservations are taken from 24 weeks to two days in advance of the start of your trip. A processing fee of \$5 per permit plus \$5 per person is charged to each confirmed reservation. Check the park's website for trailhead availability and call 209/372-0740.

### HALF DOME PERMIT INFORMATION

Permits to hike to the top of Half Dome are required seven days a week when the cables are up for 2016, May 27 through October 10, conditions permitting. A daily total of 225 pre-season lottery permits have already been issued for 2016. In addition, approximately 50 permits will be released by daily lottery

throughout the season based on estimated under-use and cancellation rates (exact number may change throughout the summer). Applications for daily lotteries will be accepted 2 days prior to the desired hiking date between midnight and 1 pm. To apply, visit Recreation.gov or call 877/444-6777. A non-refundable application fee applies to all submissions and a use fee applies to winning applicants. Finally, a daily quota of 75 Half Dome permits will be available to overnight users with an appropriate wilderness permit (use fee applies). These permits may be acquired through early reservations (50 per day) or day before walk-up (25 per day). Rock climbers who reach the top of Half Dome without entering the subdome area may descend on the Half Dome Trail without a permit. More information is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm>. For backpackers more information is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdwildpermits.htm>.

### HANTAVIRUS INFORMATION

Mice are an important part of the ecosystem, but can carry diseases that are harmful to humans. Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a rare but serious disease spread to humans via the droppings, urine, or saliva of infected rodents. Not all rodents are infected with hantavirus, but infected rodents have been found throughout the US. In California, deer mice are the primary carrier of the virus that causes HPS.

You may come into close proximity to rodents during your visit, so it is important you take steps to protect yourself from HPS. HPS risk is greater inside of buildings or other enclosures where deer mice are present. If staying in guest lodging, please tell the housekeeping staff if you see evidence of mice in your accommodations. Do not clean up the area yourself. Keep doors to guest lodging shut and do not bring food into your cabin that is not in a sealed container. If you are camping and backpacking, do not pitch tents near rodent burrows or droppings.

HPS often begins with flu-like symptoms such as aches, fever, and chills one to seven weeks after exposure, progressing to cough and difficulty in breathing. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience these symptoms, and mention any potential rodent exposures to your physician. For more information on

hantavirus and other environmental safety hazards visit: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm>.

### PLAGUE

Plague is an infectious bacterial disease that is carried by squirrels, chipmunks and other wild rodents and their fleas. When an infected rodent becomes sick and dies, its fleas can carry the infection to other warm-blooded animals including humans.

To protect yourself from plague, never feed wildlife, avoid dropping food scraps that attract rodents when eating outside, avoid pitching a tent near or disturbing rodent burrows, wear insect repellent with DEET, and tell a park ranger immediately if you see a dead animal.

Early symptoms of plague may include high fever, chills, nausea, weakness, painful swelling at the site of an insect bite or lymph node, and other flu-like symptoms. If you develop any of these symptoms within 6 days of visiting an area at risk for plague in the park, see your doctor and inform them you may have been exposed. Plague is treatable with antibiotics if given in time.

### AVOID CONTACT WITH WILDLIFE AND KEEP FOOD AND TRASH STORED PROPERLY.

Wild animals in Yosemite can transmit numerous diseases, including plague, rabies, and hantavirus. Keeping your distance and your food from wildlife not only protects them, it also protects you from injury and exposure to diseases.

If you encounter a mammal, particularly a raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote, or bat, that is behaving erratically, don't touch the animal. Instead, report the sick animal to a park employee. In addition to keeping bears away, storing your food properly also reduces your exposure to rodents and their fleas, which may carry plague.





# ...and Yosemite



Black bears in a Yosemite meadow. NPS Photo

## Keeping Bears Wild

Yosemite bears may still be active during the winter months. Please, keep Yosemite’s black bears wild and alive, while protecting yourself and your property.

### Store Your Food Properly.

The typical daily diet of most bears may consist of 4,000 to 20,000 calories worth of grasses, berries, acorns, and grubs. It’s a lot easier for a bear to eat the thousands of calories of food in an ice chest than it is to spend all day nibbling at grasses. Their incredible sense of smell allows them to detect things we can’t, which helps them find food—a black bear can smell a dead deer three miles away. To top it off, bears have excellent vision and can see in color, so they recognize ice chests, grocery bags, and other food containers as potential food sources.

### If you see a bear, scare it away or keep your distance.

You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away: Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there are more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will be helping

the bear become used to being around people. Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed.

### Drive the speed limit.

The most common human-related cause of death for a black bear in Yosemite is being hit by a car. Slow down! Driving too fast is almost always the cause of these accidental deaths.

**Please report bear sightings by calling 209/372-0322.**

## Yosemite Guardians

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park’s most important guardians. With nearly 4 million people watching over its special plants, animals, historic, and archeological sites, imagine how well-protected these park resources could be!

During your visit to Yosemite be aware that there are people who either unknowingly or intentionally harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:

- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Collecting plants
- Hunting animals
- Collecting reptiles and butterflies
- Picking up archeological items, such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Biking off of paved roads
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds
- Possession of weapons inside federal facilities
- Possessing or using marijuana, including medical marijuana
- Operating an unmanned aircraft system (“drone”)

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and call the park dispatch office at 209/379-1992.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm) and find a copy of the Superintendent’s Compendium. This document is a compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements, and other restrictions made by the superintendent, in addition to what is contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7 and 34), and other applicable federal statutes and regulations.

## How to Store Food

“Food” includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This may include items that you do not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals.

LOCATION	FOOD STORAGE	WHY?
<b>Your Vehicle</b>	You may store food in your car (with windows closed) only during daylight hours. Do not store food in your car after dark: use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats.	Bears can smell food, even if it’s sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles!
<b>Your Campsite or Tent Cabin</b>	You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs with windows closed.	Bears may enter campsites when people are present, and some will even check food lockers to see if they’re secured. Keep food lockers closed and latched at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin.
<b>Picnic Areas &amp; on the Trails</b>	Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within arm’s reach. Don’t turn your back to your food.	Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.
<b>Backpacking in the Wilderness</b>	Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite.	In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food.

## Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

TRAIL / DESTINATION	STARTING POINT	DISTANCE / TIME	DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION
Bridalveil Fall	Bridalveil Fall Parking Area	0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes	Easy
Lower Yosemite Fall	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes	Easy
Upper Yosemite Fall <b>Trail to Columbia Rock</b>	Camp 4 Near Shuttle Stop #7	2 miles round-trip, 2–3 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Upper Yosemite Fall	Same as above	7.2 miles round-trip, 6–8 hours	Very Strenuous 2,700-foot gain
Mirror Lake (A seasonal lake)	Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17	2 miles round-trip, 1 hour	Easy
Vernal Fall Footbridge	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	1.4 miles round-trip, 1–2 hours	Moderate, 400-foot gain
Top of Vernal Fall	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	3 miles round-trip, 2–4 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Nevada Fall	same as above	5 miles round-trip, 5–6 hours	Strenuous 1,900-foot gain
Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point (Closed in winter)	Southside Drive	4.8 miles one-way, 3–4 hours one-way	Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain
Valley Floor Loop	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	13 miles full loop, 5–7 hours full loop	Moderate



# Zero Landfill Initiative

Story by Jodi Bailey



In partnership with Subaru of America and the National Park Conservation Association, Yosemite will help launch the Zero Landfill Initiative to reduce waste in the park and continue protecting Yosemite. *NPS Photo*

A little over four million visitors come to Yosemite National Park each year. Combined with staff from the National Park Service (NPS) and the concessioner, about 2,200 tons of garbage are left in the park as a result. This is not the legacy any of us intends to leave behind. This year, Yosemite National Park is launching an exciting new program to do something about it.

Subaru of America (SOA), a Centennial partner of the National Park Service, was approached by the National Park Conservation Association (NPCA) to see if the corporation's expertise in waste management could be used to help the national parks. Subaru of Indiana led the auto industry in reducing waste by becoming the first zero landfill auto assembly plant in the United States in 2004. Since that time, Subaru has been consulted by many businesses for advice on how to follow in its footsteps. Over the next three years, in partnership with NPCA, Subaru will bring its expertise to three national parks in a pilot program to help Yosemite, Denali, and Grand Teton National Parks reach a zero landfill target.

Recycling and reducing waste are not new to Yosemite. The park began a recycling program in 1975, although it only collected aluminum, glass, and paper. In the years since then, Yosemite and its concessioners built a strong program that currently diverts about 60 percent of the total waste stream from the Mariposa County landfill. In addition to recycling, the overall amount of Yosemite's garbage heading to the landfill was reduced through eliminating unnecessary waste and re-use of materials. These efforts also helped protect wildlife, especially bears, by keeping them from eating trash. In 2015, this resulted in the lowest number of bear incidents – 76 total – since the park started tracking these cases.

The Zero Landfill Initiative at Yosemite will build on these achievements and the work of our active Sustainability Team, which addresses a wider range of sustainability efforts. Initially, we will upgrade many of the trash and recycling cans seen around the park, which were among the first wildlife-proof containers used in a national park setting. More water bottle refilling stations are in the plans, too. We also hope to eventually expand collection of compostable food waste for both park employees and

visitors. In addition, with help from Subaru, we are working with other community partners and tour companies to provide more information about what and how to recycle in the park as well as how to reduce the amount of waste visitors bring with them on trips to the park.

To get to Zero landfill, we will all need to work together, employees and visitors alike; there are many things you can do to help.

When planning your visit to the park, think of what you can do to reduce your environmental footprint. Bring as many reusable items as possible, such as water bottles, coffee cups, silverware, food containers, cooking gas canisters, and reusable bags. Choose gear and food with the least amount of packaging. Do your best to avoid buying single use products.

While in the park find the proper place to dispose of your recycling and trash. In places managed directly by park staff, such as campgrounds, the visitor center, museum, bus stops, and day use picnic areas, Yosemite has "co-mingled recycling." This means it all goes in just one bin unless

otherwise labeled. Glass, aluminum, tin, paper, cardboard, and recyclable plastics can all go in these recycle bins. (Styrofoam is not recyclable in our system.) At our hotels and eating establishments operated by the concessioner, there are separate recycling containers for each type of material collected (paper, glass, aluminum, and plastic). However, at these facilities, you can go even further by using the "organic waste" cans at the food establishments to reroute the compostable organic material. (This includes the biodegradable tableware like paper napkins and biodegradable silverware.)

In celebration of Earth Day and the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service, become a "Yosemite Zero Hero" and reduce, reuse, and recycle.



Over the next few months, many of the "Half-Dome" lidded, round trash and recycling containers designed in the 1960's will be replaced with newer models that are easier to use and more effective at keeping wildlife from getting inside. *Photo by Jodi Bailey*



Reusable water bottles and travel mugs often become prized possessions with decorative stickers from different destinations and the scars of many years of use. *Photo by Jodi Bailey*



Some busy areas in Yosemite Valley have trash containers, but nothing to collect recyclable items. The Zero Landfill Initiative will allow the park to add new, wildlife-proof recycling containers in these areas. *Photo by Jodi Bailey*



Propane gas canisters can also be recycled in Yosemite National Park in specially marked collection containers found in most campgrounds. *Photo by Jodi Bailey*



# Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's Future

## Enhance the Visitor Experience

It takes a legion of people working together to protect this special park for you and future generations of visitors. You too can extend your connection to Yosemite well after you return home by getting involved with the organizations that partner to preserve Yosemite.

This publication was made possible by the Yosemite Park Partners listed on this page. Read more below or visit [www.yosemitepartners.org](http://www.yosemitepartners.org) to learn more about helping these organizations provide for the future of Yosemite National Park.



Half Dome, Christine White Loberg

## The Ansel Adams Gallery Yosemite Hospitality LLC NatureBridge



The Ansel Adams Gallery, owned by the family of photographer Ansel Adams since 1902, is a center that celebrates the arts and the natural grandeur of our environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world by offering visitors a unique variety of literature and art, as well as programs that inspire creativity. Visit online at: [www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com).



Yosemite Hospitality, a division of Aramark, operates lodging, food and beverage, retail, recreational activities, tours, interpretive programs, transportation, and service stations under contract with the U.S. Department of Interior with a focus on delivering authentic and memorable guest experiences. Yosemite Hospitality encourages employees to immerse themselves in the Park and all of the experiences offered.

For more information on employment opportunities with Yosemite Hospitality at Yosemite National Park visit [www.yosemitehospitalityjobs.com](http://www.yosemitehospitalityjobs.com).



NatureBridge provides residential field science programs for youth in the world's most spectacular classroom—Yosemite National Park. Through active student engagement, our faculty teaches science, history, and the arts and gives these subjects context through personal experience. A NatureBridge learning adventure strives to foster a life-long connection to the natural world and responsible actions to sustain it. Find out more about our year-round programs for schools and summer programs for individual teens at [www.naturebridge.org/yosemite](http://www.naturebridge.org/yosemite)

## Yosemite Conservancy



Through the support of donors, Yosemite Conservancy provides grants and support to Yosemite National Park to help preserve and protect Yosemite today and for future generations. Work funded by the Conservancy is visible throughout the park, in trail rehabilitation, wildlife protection and habitat restoration. The Conservancy is also dedicated to enhancing the visitor experience and providing a deeper connection to the park through outdoor programs, volunteering, wilderness services and its bookstores. Thanks to dedicated supporters, the Conservancy has provided more than \$100 million in grants to Yosemite National Park. Learn more at [www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org) or call 415/434-1782.

## Contact Us

**Yosemite National Park**  
PO Box 577  
9039 Village Drive  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
209/372-0200  
<http://www.nps.gov/yose/contacts.htm>

**The Ansel Adams Gallery**  
PO Box 455  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
209/372-4413  
209/372-4714 fax  
[www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com)

**Yosemite Hospitality L.L.C.**  
PO Box 307  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
888/304-8993  
[www.aramarkleisure.com](http://www.aramarkleisure.com)

**Yosemite Conservancy**  
101 Montgomery Street,  
Suite 1700  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
415/434-1782  
415/434-0745 fax  
[www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org)

**NatureBridge**  
PO Box 487  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
209/379-9511  
209/379-9510 fax  
[www.yni.org](http://www.yni.org)

## Yosemite Volunteers: Serving Yosemite

Over 10,400 volunteers donated more than 163,000 hours of service to Yosemite last year, restoring native habitat, working in visitor centers, serving as camp hosts, studying wildlife, cleaning up litter and more. Would you like to serve? We have group and individual volunteer opportunities, both short term and long term. Learn more at: [www.nps.gov/yose/getinvolved/volunteer.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/getinvolved/volunteer.htm) or call the volunteer office at 209/379- 1850.



Like us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/YosemiteNPS](https://facebook.com/YosemiteNPS)



Follow us on Twitter  
[twitter.com/YosemiteNPS](https://twitter.com/YosemiteNPS)



Follow us on Instagram  
[instagram.com/YosemiteNPS](https://instagram.com/YosemiteNPS)



Subscribe to us on YouTube  
[youtube.com/yosemitenationalpark](https://youtube.com/yosemitenationalpark)



Raven, Karen Kroner Amstutz



# Special Events Calendar



Spring showers bringing moisture to Indian Paintbrush above Yosemite Valley. Photo by Christine Loberg

## NATIONAL PARK WEEK RANGER PROGRAMS

Yosemite Valley Lodge - Cliff Room  
(topics subject to change)

**Sunday, April 17th**

8pm to 9pm

### **This is America**

Join Ranger Shelton Johnson for this special showing of Ken Burns' movie "This is America." Explore the story of the National Park Service through many varied perspectives, and then meet with Ranger Shelton afterwards for a question and answer time.

**Tuesday, April 19**

8pm to 9pm

### **The National Parks: America's Best Idea Episode 1, The Scripture of Nature**

Join Claire Finn for an abbreviated showing of Ken Burn's documentary highlighting the history of national parks in the United States. Episode 1 features Yosemite's key role in the beginnings of America's Best Idea.

**Wednesday, April 20**

8pm to 9pm

### **First come, First Served**

Join Ranger Ben Cunningham-Summerfield, for a program of the visitor's choosing. Ranger Ben has been working in the park for many years, in many capacities, most recently as the lead at the Indian Cultural Museum.

**Thursday, April 21**

8pm to 9pm

### **Creative Fusion-Exploring the Nature of the Sierra Nevada**

Join Ranger Erik Westerlund to explore the confluence of art and Yosemite, highlighting the work of Charley Harper. Find out more about the legacy of wildlife in the National Parks

**Saturday, April 23**

8pm to 9pm

### **The Call: Lessons from the Wall**

Join Ranger Brandon Adams for an inside look at the world from a climber's perspective. Learn what geologic forces created the Valley that is now so special to climbers around the world, as well as the different ecosystems that call vertical cliffs home.

## National Park Week

National Park Week, April 16 to 24, 2016, is America's largest celebration of national heritage. It's about making great connections, exploring amazing places, discovering open spaces, enjoying affordable vacations, and enhancing America's best idea—the national parks! It's all happening in your national parks. Here are some highlights during National Park Week:

### **April 16–24: Visit for free!**

Throughout National Park Week in 2016, every national park will give you free admission!

### **April 23: National Junior Ranger Day at Yosemite**

Explore, Learn, Protect! Kids can take part in fun programs and earn a junior ranger badge or become a Centennial Junior Ranger.

### **April 23: Celebrate Earth Day at Yosemite**

On Earth Day, if you want to roll up your sleeves and pitch in with a project, look for a park where you can help out.

### **Share Your Yosemite Experience on Social Media**

During National Park Week we encourage you to share your love of the parks on social media. Be sure to use the hashtags #FindYourPark, #NPS100, and #YosemiteAmbassador when you share your photos!"





# Special Events Calendar

**Friday, April 22, 2016**

8:30pm to 10pm.

**Full Moon Photography Hike, 1.5hrs.**

Join NPS Centennial partner REI for a photography hike where you can Find Your Park under the full moon. Experience the magic of a Full Moon in the valley. REI's Professional Photographer will take you on a short hike and will teach you tips on taking amazing photos of the Valley. Space is limited to 25 participants, first come first served. No pre-registration required. Meet in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

**Saturday, April 23, 2016**

10am to 3pm

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK EARTH DAY FESTIVAL AND JR. RANGER DAY!**

Wander around Yosemite Village where interactive, kid-friendly activities and demonstrations allow you to experience how the park and its partners are implementing sustainability practices. Explore booths and activities presented by the National Park Service, Yosemite Conservancy, Nature Bridge, Yosemite Hospitality, Balanced Rock Yoga, and more. There will be abundant earth-friendly crafts, music, games, and fun. Visit the Earth Day Stage in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center to find out the detailed schedule of presentations and activities throughout the day. Don't forget to become a Jr. Ranger!

10am to 2pm

**Drop-in Earth Day Litter Pick Up**

Come to the Volunteer Program booth on the mall to register as an official Earth Day hero! We will give you the equipment you need to pick up litter and care for your Yosemite. All abilities and ages 3 and up welcome.

10am to 3pm

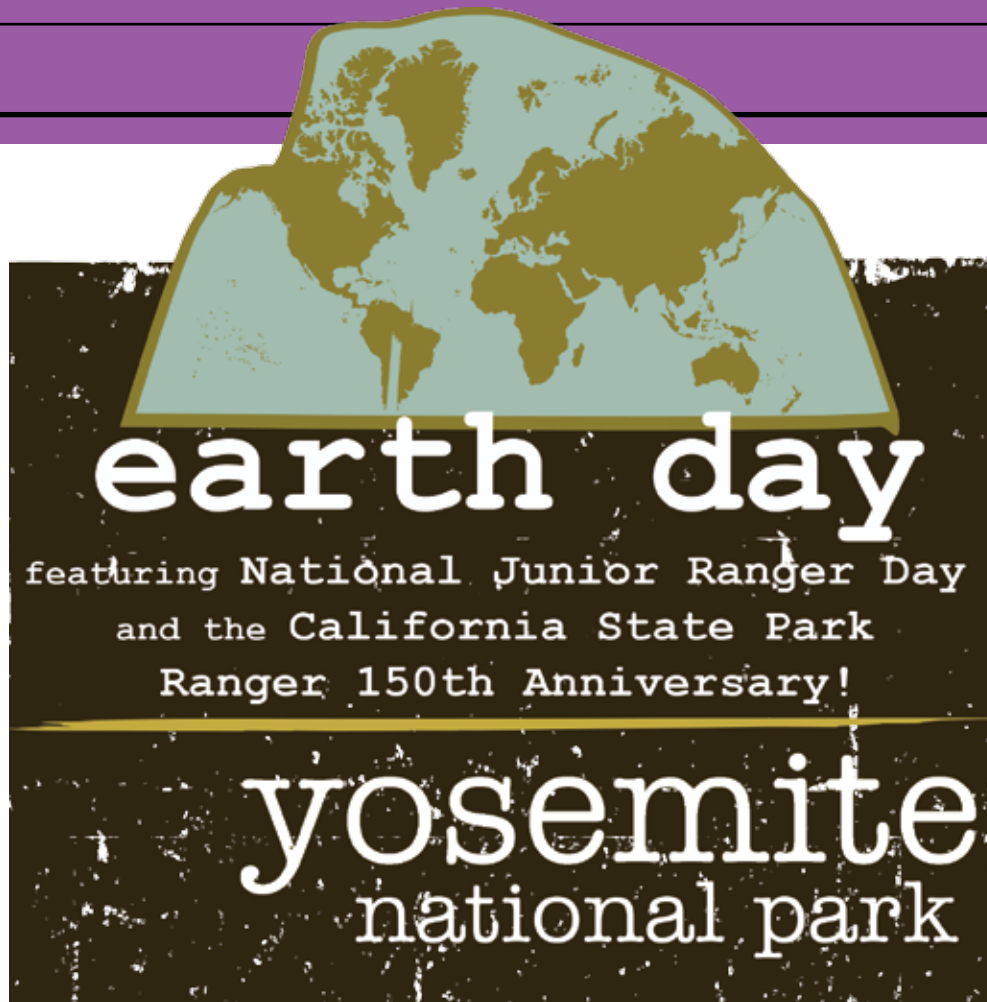
**Propane Canister Trade-in**

Get a Refillable Canister! Come to the Zero Landfill Booth on the mall to trade in your one-time use propane canister for a refillable canister. Why throw away when you can reuse – it's cheaper, too!

12pm to 4pm

**Universal Waste Collection at the Yosemite Village Recycling Center.**

Doing a spring cleaning? Bring your universal and electronic wastes to the Village Recycling Center. Items accepted at the Recycling Center include TV sets, computers and monitors, small electronics, spent fluorescent bulbs, spent batteries, and ink cartridges. Please make sure to wipe your personal data from these items before turning them in for recycling. Household hazardous waste will not be accepted (e.g. paints, solvents, pesticides).



10am to 3pm

## Earth Day and Junior Ranger Day Celebration

Wander around Yosemite Village where interactive, kid-friendly activities and demonstrations allow you to experience how the park and its partners are implementing sustainability practices. Explore booths and activities presented by the National Park Service, Yosemite Conservancy, Nature Bridge, Yosemite Hospitality, Balanced Rock Yoga, and more. There will be abundant earth-friendly crafts, music, games, and fun. Visit the Earth Day Stage in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center to find out the detailed schedule of presentations and activities throughout the day. This year we are celebrating the NPS Centennial as our theme, and we are honored to have Centennial partner REI join us for activities. Don't forget to become a Jr. Ranger!

10am to 11am

**JR RANGER WALK**

Meet at the Earth Day Stage, in front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Come join a ranger for an interpretive talk about Yosemite's rocks, trees, and wildlife. Have fun looking for tracks, scat, and animals in Yosemite. Children that complete the one-hour walk will receive a junior ranger badge. Adult supervision and accompaniment is requested. All ages welcome!

10:30am to 11:30am

**Earth Day: You Can Make a Difference!**

Meet at Earth Day Stage in front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Join Yosemite Conservancy naturalist Pete Devine for a walk about individual empowerment and information surrounding Earth Day.

11:15am

**JR RANGER Swear-in Ceremony**

Meet on Earth Day Stage, in front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Come be sworn in by a ranger as an official Jr. Ranger and receive your Jr. Ranger badge.

11am to 12pm

**RANGER WALK**

Meet at Earth Day Stage, in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Join Ranger Chris Raines for a special Earth Day themed nature walk.

12pm to 1pm

**JR RANGER WALK**

Meet at Earth Day Stage, in front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Come join a ranger for an interpretive talk about

### The Yosemite Earth Day Festival will be a Zero Landfill Event!

This means we will consciously try to create less waste and divert created waste away from the landfill. So, bring your refillable water bottle, leave food packaging at home, and take informational pictures instead of pamphlets. Learn more about the Zero Landfill initiative in this guide's feature article on page 10.

Yosemite's rocks, trees, and wildlife. Have fun looking for tracks, scat, and animals in Yosemite. Children that complete the one-hour walk will receive a junior ranger badge. Adult supervision and accompaniment is requested. All ages welcome!

1:15pm

**JR RANGER Swear-in Ceremony**

Meet on the Earth Day Stage, in front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Come be sworn in by a ranger as an official Jr. Ranger and receive your Jr. Ranger badge.

2:00pm

**Ceremony commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the California State Park Ranger**

2016 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first California State Park Ranger (Yosemite's very own Galen Clark!). Join park staff at the Earth Day stage for a special commemoration.

2:30pm

**Earth Day Cupcakes**

Enjoy an Earth Day cupcake at the Earth Day Stage in front of the Valley Visitor Center.

8pm to 9:30pm

**Camp Fire Dessert: S'mores' and Beyond**

Meet at campfire in front of Museum. There is more to campfire desserts than the classic S'more. Join REI around the campfire and cook up some different desert ideas or invent a new kind of s'more. Food provided while supplies last. No pre-registration, first come first served. Join NPS Centennial partner REI for a special treat!

### **How to Become a Centennial Jr. Ranger at the Yosemite Earth Day Festival**

Step 1: Attend a Jr. Ranger Walk from 10 am to 11am or 12pm to 1pm. Meet in front of Earth Day Stage.

Step 2: Get sworn-in as a Jr. Ranger and receive your badge on the Earth Day Stage at 11:15 or 1:15.

AND/OR

Step 1: Get a Jr. Ranger packet at the Earth Day Festival's Jr. Ranger booth.

Step 2: Learn something from a ranger at one of the booths.

Step 3: Go to the volunteer booth to pick up litter and be an Earth Day hero.

Step 4: Complete the Jr. Ranger packet and have a ranger sign it.

Step 5: Get sworn-in as a Jr. Ranger and receive your badge on the Earth Day Stage at either 11:15am or 1:15pm.

\*Are you a fourth grader? If so, don't miss out on getting your Every Kid in a Park Pass! This pass lets you and your family enjoy all of your public lands for free. Learn more and get your pass at the Anniversary booth on the mall, between 10am and 3pm.



# Every Kid In A Park



Yosemite Park Ranger Moses Chun teaches fourth grade students from Merced Public Schools a little bit about Yosemite's wonders. NPS Photo

## Yosemite Launches “Open the Gateway to Yosemite” for all Program

In March, three buses full of excited 4th grade students (and chaperones) arrived at Yosemite National Park. This event starts the beginning of a month long program to have all 4th graders (1,300 students, most of them having never been to Yosemite) from Merced City Schools come free to the park for a day long educational trip. Yosemite is quite spectacular right now, with recent snow gracing the high granite cliffs and the waterfalls cascading at full throttle. The awe-inspiring scenery is incredible. Highlighting the program is the energetic organization provided by talented Pathways student rangers of the UC Merced Wilderness Education Center. These exceptional students wrote the grant for the program, designed curriculum and are leading the 4th graders around the park. The goal of the program is to “Open the Gateway to Yosemite” for all.

A lot of hard work created this student centric program. The rangers first visited all 13 Merced-area schools to introduce the students to the National Park System and Yosemite. Next, during the nine field days in the park, the students will rotate

through three different ranger programs focusing on Ecology, Geology and Cultural History. Each school will also have their EKIP vouchers exchanged for the authentic passes on the day of their field trips. The final components are class assemblies that will focus on the ideas of protecting national parks and preserving them for the future. Discussion was centered on different threats to national parks and all of the different ways that 4th grade students can protect public spaces, both when visiting parks and when at home.

Both the school district and the rangers are hoping to make this opportunity an integral part of the 4th grade curriculum and continue to provide opportunities for every kid in a park. The National Park Foundation provided the grant to cover costs for transportation. The Yosemite Conservancy helps fund the UC Merced Wilderness Program. Thank you to the National Park Foundation and the Yosemite Conservancy.



## Every Kid In A Park

Fourth grade students, grab your family and go enjoy your national parks for FREE! The Every Kid In A Park initiative was launched to help the next generation of park visitors and supporters create positive attitudes towards public lands and to give every child the chance to explore America's great outdoors and unique history. Visit [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov) for more information.

## FREE Interagency 4th Grade Pass

A free annual pass for 4th grade students and their family, to have free access to any federal land or water during the school year from September 1 to August 30. Present a paper voucher at any park entrance to obtain the pass. Visit [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov) for details.

*“Because no matter who you are, no matter where you live, our parks, our monuments, our lands, our waters — these places are your birthright as Americans”* - PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA



Fourth graders from Merced Public Schools explore the park with Park Ranger Aricia Martinez during their visit to Yosemite in March as part of the NPS's Every Kid in a Park Program. NPS Photo



# Become a Junior Ranger

Yosemite National Park offers a wide variety of programs and activities for kids of all ages! To find kid-friendly programs, see pages 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the Guide for program descriptions:

Programs printed in **ALL CAPS & COLOR** are especially for Children and their Families

**Be a naturalist.** Look for these common Yosemite wild animals. If you see one, make a note by the animal's picture below. If you don't see any of these wild animals during your visit, choose one you did see and draw it in the box on this page. Where did you see it? What was it doing? Also, remember never to feed or approach an animal.



Coyote



Black bear



Golden-mantled ground squirrel

## Follow these steps to earn your Junior Ranger badge.\*

Did you already finish this page and earn your Jr. Ranger badge? Are you ready for more Jr. Ranger activities? Drop by a visitor center desk and pick up the free PSAR Junior Ranger booklet or Legacy Jr. Ranger page to earn special patches!

1. With an adult, pick a trail to walk. See page 17 of this Guide or stop by a visitor center to choose your trail. As you go, walk quietly, watch, listen, and think.

Write the name of the trail you walked. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Explore with your senses! Record the following.

I see: \_\_\_\_\_

I hear: \_\_\_\_\_

I smell: \_\_\_\_\_

I touch: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Leave no Trace! If you see trash or rubbish, pick it up. Junior Rangers learn to be good park stewards by bringing in a bag of trash. Recycle any recyclable materials you pick up or bring along.

4. Ask a Ranger! What President signed the Yosemite Grant Act on June 30, 1864, setting aside Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove for special protection? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Learn more. Go to a ranger-led program or visit with an Indian Cultural Demonstrator. What program did you attend? Have the ranger or demonstrator sign below.

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Write down something you learned from a ranger or Indian Cultural Demonstrator.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Think about this. Why do people work to protect national parks?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. When you complete this page, take it to a visitor center. There you will take your oath and receive your Junior Ranger badge.

\*Expanded Junior Ranger and Little Cub programs (and the chance to earn a patch) are available in the Junior Ranger or Little Cub Handbooks, which can be purchased at any Yosemite Conservancy bookstore.