

Yosemite National Park Employee Welcome Guide



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Welcome to Yosemite!

We are excited that you are joining the team at Yosemite! This handbook is intended to introduce you to the National Park Service (NPS) and Yosemite National Park, as well as to life in the area. This information is supplemental to the information found on the Yosemite National Park website: www.nps.gov/yose, in the *Yosemite Guide*, in the Yosemite Park Map, and in the FAQs available on the park's SharePoint intranet.

As part of the National Park System, Yosemite contains many resources that serve a variety of interests. Within the park's boundaries are historical, scientific, scenic, and recreational resources which invite pondering and exploring. Recreational opportunities include backpacking, hiking, world-class climbing, fishing, camping, sight-seeing, along with cross-country and downhill skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing during the winter season. We are quite certain that you will not run out of things to do and enjoy!

The park's free *Yosemite Guide* is a helpful resource describing the park, as well as useful information for people new to the area.

Additionally, you are encouraged to visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose for more park-specific information. There are many communities outside the park, where you will find additional businesses ready to meet your needs, including auto repair facilities, clothing stores, dry cleaners, theaters, recreation, specialty restaurants, and more.

Operations in Yosemite change frequently; we update this handbook from time to time, but some information may be out of date. Check with your supervisor for most current information.

Notice:

This Welcome Guide is for informational purposes only; it is not a policy document. Information contained herein is presumed to be current and correct. Because information frequently changes, every effort is made to ensure its accuracy. This guide is not intended to and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.



Giant Sequoia
(*Sequoiadendron giganteum*).

The Purpose & Significance of the Park

The purpose of Yosemite National Park has been articulated by a series of legislative actions. On June 30, 1864, Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias were granted to the State of California to... “be held for public use, resort, and recreation” to be... “Inalienable for all time.”

On October 1, 1890, Congress established Yosemite National Park as a “forest reservation” to preserve and protect “from injury all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders” within the park area, and to retain them in their “natural condition.” The Act specifically excluded Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Giant Sequoia Grove, leaving them under the jurisdiction of the State of California as provided for in the Act of 1864. A Joint Resolution of Congress on June 11, 1906, placed Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove within the park.

Although promotion of visitor use was not specified in the Act of 1890, Yosemite National Park as a unit of the National Park System is administered according to the Act of 1916, namely to “conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

Additional legislation has established the Tuolumne and Merced Wild and Scenic Rivers, the Yosemite Wilderness Area, and protection through the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, Historic Preservation Act, and similar laws.

Yosemite National Park has become world famous for its combination of high peaks, sheer cliffs, massive granite domes and monoliths, magnificent waterfalls, hundreds of

lakes, clear streams, open meadows, giant sequoia trees, and varied plants and wildlife. The Park is an icon of American history for many reasons, including:

- Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias were the first scenic natural areas to be set aside by a national government for public benefit and appreciation. Yosemite became the third national park on October 1, 1890.
- The foundation of the Sierra Club and the conservation movement that this organization represents are part of the park’s rich legacy.
- The giant sequoias are the largest living things on earth. The Grizzly Giant, located in Yosemite’s Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, is one of the largest trees in the world, by volume.
- Yosemite Falls is the world’s fifth tallest waterfall, El Capitan is one of the largest exposed monoliths of granite in the world, and the granite face of Half Dome has become a scenic icon recognized around the world.
- The park contains over 1,500 species of plants including 26 locally rare, 18 rare, and one candidate threatened or endangered species.
- Yosemite’s wildlife includes endangered and threatened birds (peregrine falcon and bald eagle) and the great grey owl, which is an endangered species in California. The Park is also home to the endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, and the wolverine and the Sierra Nevada red fox are threatened populations in the state.
- It has been estimated that people have lived in this region for at least the past 8,000 years, and the known prehistoric trade routes through the area are among the most significant found in the Sierra Nevada.



Upper and lower Yosemite Falls.



*Spring Opening on
Tioga Road*

Tips for New Hires

Welcome to the NPS!

If you are brand new to federal service or to the National Park Service in particular, the hiring and on-boarding process can seem daunting. Patience and communication are keys to successfully navigating the process. You may receive e-mails and other communications from several different sources: the servicing human resources office, your park's administrative staff, and your new supervisor, to name a few. Read each piece of correspondence carefully, and respond to any information requests as promptly as possible. If you have any questions, reach out to your assigned supervisor or on-boarding liaison.

PIV Cards

If you are brand new to the National Park Service, look for an email about your USAccess Card or PIV (Personal Identity Verification) Card. Once you receive the email, you will need to make an appointment at a credentialing center as soon as possible. The email will give you all the details on how to find one in your area and how to make an appointment. You will need to bring 2 valid forms of ID to this appointment (<http://fedidcard.gov/viewdoc.aspx?id=109>).

As a new Department of the Interior employee, you will be sponsored through the USAccess system so that you can enroll and complete electronic fingerprinting at a GSA Credentialing Station. This not only functions as a federal background check, but enrolls you to receive a Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card through the Department of the Interior.

Expect to receive an email asking you to make an appointment at a GSA location, which could be a federal building, national park or designated credentialing center. Depending on where you live, the closest

center could be a substantial distance away, so plan accordingly.

NPS New Hire Resources

The New Employee Toolkit, located at <https://home.nps.gov/aboutus/neo.htm> will provide you a link to the New Employee Handbook, a new employee checklist, and further resources and information about the NPS. The New Employee Checklist, in particular, will give you information on what you can expect during your first several days as a new park service employee.

On-Boarding at Yosemite

The on-boarding and orientation process will vary depending on your position, the time of year, and your supervisor's preferences, but in general your supervisor will provide you with the information on where and when to report for your first day on duty, what you should bring, and what constitutes appropriate clothing choices. Your first day may include filling out a variety of paperwork, completing necessary training modules, and introductions to your new colleagues and tours of your place of work. You may have to report to the Administrative Office in Mariposa to complete forms and, or if you onboard in the spring, there may be a one or two-day group orientation. If you are in park housing, and arrived outside of normal work hours, your first day may also include checking-in to your residence with the Housing Office or Buildings & Grounds.

Packing List

Below are suggestions and recommendations of what to bring during your time in the park. You may want to bring other items not listed here, but this is a good place to start.

- Sheets, pillows, and bedding for a twin size mattress.
- Cookware (i.e. pots, pans, silverware, etc). Nothing will be provided, so if you

need it to cook or eat you will need to bring it yourself.

- Towels and toiletries
- Personal computer
- Clothing for all types of weather (Yosemite ranges in elevation from around 2000 ft. to above 13,000 ft., and conditions can be as varied as this would suggest).
- Climbing, hiking, and backpacking gear if you're into that.
- Cleaning supplies (your house might have a broom, but don't count on it).
- Cooler (For transporting frozen/heat sensitive items from grocery store to home).
- Flashlight or headlamp (Yosemite nights are dark and power outages may be possible).

Firearms

Guns are allowed into National Parks in accordance with the laws of the state in which the park is located. Firearms are not allowed into all Federal buildings. For more information see the link below.

<https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/weapons.htm>

Uniforms

The iconic park ranger uniform is what will distinguish you to visitors, and is a privilege to wear. Most NPS employees wear a uniform, although some who work in office settings may not. Uniforms can change based on weather and your role, so ask your supervisor for more information about what you should get for your particular job and be cognizant of the season you'll be working.

If this is your first NPS position, you are provided with a budget of \$400 on the federal uniform website, currently

VFI Imagewear. If you have worked with the NPS before, you will receive \$160 for April—September work, and another \$160 if you work between October and March. While choosing what to purchase, take care in ordering because the return process can take time. Some women choose to order men's pants for their uniforms since they find that they fit better, so use the size charts to see what works best for you.





Living in Yosemite

Living in a National Park is an incredible experience and a privilege. The following principles and practices depend more on attitude and awareness, although they are enforced as rules and regulations. Please respect and appreciate Yosemite's wild places and their inhabitants by doing the following:

- Store food properly to prevent bears and other wildlife from obtaining unnatural food.
- Do not feed wildlife (including birds) or disturb wildlife by approaching too closely (typically 50 yards). Avoid damaging live trees and plants; do not pick wildflowers.
- Do not plant or transport the seeds of non-native plants in Yosemite. The Division of Resources Management and Science is actively trying to control or eradicate non-native invasive plant species from Yosemite.
- Minimize use and impact from fires.
- Do not bring firewood from outside the area into the park. This is to protect Yosemite from pathogens, such as Sudden Oak Death, and from the introduction of insect infestations. Leave natural objects and cultural artifacts for others to enjoy.
- Drive the speed limit and pay attention while driving on park roads to reduce the chances of injuring wildlife.
- Use Leave No Trace ethics.

Sustainability and Recycling

Yosemite National Park has an ambitious goal. Yosemite would like to be the first national park in the country to be a zero landfill site and you can be part of the team that gets us there. The program designed to

help us reach this goal, the Zero Landfill Initiative, was launched in 2016 with financial and technical support from Subaru, the National Parks Conservation Association, and the Yosemite Conservancy.

You can help by making sure you recycle common items, like paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, and aluminum. It's easy. All NPS- managed facilities including park housing, campgrounds, trailheads, and visitor centers have mixed recycling. Everything that the park collects – glass, aluminum and other small metal objects, paper, cardboard, and most plastics (no plastic film, plastic bags, bubblewrap or Styrofoam) goes in the same container, including in office and shop areas. (Note: the park's concessioner has separated recycling, so at the hotels, stores, and in concessioner employee housing, check containers to make sure you are putting your recyclables in the right container. Some concessioner facilities also collect compostable waste.)

Other ways to help:

- Use a refillable water bottle
- Use a refillable "to go" mug for hot drinks
- Use stoves and lanterns that operate on refillable fuel sources
- Spread the word among colleagues and visitors
- Post about the effort on social media at #dontfeedthelandfills and #yosemitezerohero

For more information go to <https://www.nps.gov/yose/getinvolved/zlf.htm>

Wildlife

Mosquitoes

These pesky insects are quite present in the park. As the summer goes on they tend to move up in altitude, but they'll be a problem for you at some point for sure. Bug spray and long sleeves will become your friends. Try to stay away from stagnant water as well.

Ticks

Ticks are present in the El Portal area and at other lower elevation areas of the park.

However, they are usually not present at higher elevations. If you find a tick on you remove it asap with proper removal technique and monitor the bite area for any unusual signs of tick born diseases.

Snakes

Rattlesnakes are not an uncommon site in the park. They are most common at lower elevations, however they can be found all the way above 9,000 ft. Always be aware of where you are stepping and be cautious that loud rivers may drowned out any rattling sounds. If you are bitten by a rattlesnake it is important to remain calm and seek immediate medical attention.

Mountain Lions

Mountain lions—also called cougars, pumas, catamounts, mountain screamers, or panthers—roam Yosemite's mountains and valleys. Because they are shy, solitary creatures, they elude visitors and are typically unconcerned by human presence even in close proximity. They have been known to kill pets that are left outside.

However, they are generally not a threat to humans unless provoked through infringement from development. If confronted by a mountain lion act big, make noise, throw rocks, and never turn your back or run away. It is estimated that there is 1 mountain lion for every 25 square miles of the park, which equates to about 46, however, this is considered a low estimate. Information about mountain lion safety can

be found here:

https://www.nps.gov/yose/learn/nature/upload/Mtn%20Lion_9-07.pdf

Marmots

These tubby little creatures might look cute, but watch out. The second your back is turned they'll be in your backpack, and by the time you turn around they'll have absconded with half your lunch. Marmots are typically found at higher elevations, and emerge from hibernation in May or June.

Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep

Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep are once again at home in Yosemite National Park's supremely beautiful Cathedral Range after an absence of over 100 years. Keep an eye out for them when you're hiking in the Tuolumne area, and you might get a chance to see what John Muir described as the "bravest of all Sierra Mountaineers".

Deer

In Yosemite Valley, mule deer are especially common, seen browsing on leaves and tender twigs from trees, grass, and herbs. Although they seem disinterested in humans, deer should be treated as any other wild animal. More injuries in Yosemite are inflicted by deer, with one documented death, than those caused by black bear or any other park animal. Maybe think twice before you try to get close enough for a selfie!





*Top and Middle: Black bears in Yosemite.
Bottom: Road signs are placed where bears have been killed by cars, reminding drivers to slow down—remember: “A red bear is a dead bear.”*

Bears

The history of interactions between humans and bears in Yosemite is a long one, marked by some periods that we now look upon as shameful. Early in the Park’s history, little was done to keep bears from becoming conditioned to human food. Garbage was readily available in developed areas, and not much was done to discourage visitors from feeding bears. The NPS maintained several “bear pits” in the park where bears were fed garbage in an attempt to keep them out of park campgrounds and lodging areas, and to provide visitor entertainment. Human injuries were common, and many bears were killed in the name of public safety.

Thankfully, times have changed, and the emphasis is now on managing the

behavior of humans to improve the behavior of bears. All outdoor garbage cans and dumpsters are bear-resistant. All campsites, parking lots, and major trailheads are equipped with bear-proof food lockers that allow visitors to remove food from their vehicles and store it safely. In recent years, increased staffing has enabled more patrols to detect and correct food storage problems and to provide visitor education. All park employees, partners, and volunteers have accepted larger roles in protecting bears, with diligence in emptying trash cans, dispensing information to visitors, and enforcing food storage regulations. As a result, human-bear incidents and property damage have been reduced by close to 90 percent since 1998.

As a resident of the park, there are a number of things that you must do to assist in protecting bears:

- Store all food and scented items in your home or in a food storage locker.
- Keep all windows and doors closed and latched when you are gone.
- Always check your vehicle to make sure there are no food, trash, or scented items inside.
- Remove attractants from around your living area. Unwashed recycling, BBQs, bird feeders, pet food, and compost piles that contain kitchen scraps are all attractants that will draw a bear (and other wildlife) into the area.
- Put all food trash and recycling in animal-resistant dumpsters or recycling containers and remember to clip the dumpster so bears cannot get inside. Only yard clipping and non-food trash items should be placed in the open-top dumpsters.
- Scare bears from developed areas. Yelling, water from garden hoses, small marble-sized stones tossed near the bears, and banging together empty tin cans all work well in scaring bears away. If a bear perceives you as a dominant bear, it is more likely to avoid your residence. This works best if all bear attractants are removed.
- When out enjoying the park, make sure to always keep your food within arm’s reach. Do not leave packs with food unattended, or leave food anywhere that wildlife can easily access it.
- Inspire others to keep a clean park.
- Drive the speed limit and pay attention on park roads to minimize the risk of hitting a bear. In a typical year, a dozen or more bears are killed or injured by vehicles. “Speeding Kills Bears” signs are placed in locations where collisions have occurred.
- Use the Save-a-Bear hotline (209-372-0322) to report bear sightings, overflowing trash containers, improperly stored food, or other information about bears.



El Capitan, or “El Cap”, looms over the valley with its 3000 ft. sheer granite face, attracting climbers from around the world.

Medical Care

Yosemite Medical Clinic

Always call 911 if you are having an emergency. Emergency Medical Services are available throughout the park 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The clinic is only an Urgent Care facility, not an Emergency Room, so life-threatening conditions and critical medical cases will be transported or referred to regional hospitals outside the park. The clinic is operated by an outstanding staff from the US Public Health Service.

The clinic is located at 9000 Ahwahnee Drive in Yosemite Valley, between Yosemite Village and The Majestic Yosemite Hotel (formerly The Ahwahnee).

Summer: Daily, 9 am to 7 pm. (Mid-May through mid-September)

Fall, Winter, and Spring: Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. (Mid-September to mid-May)

Services

Primary Care

- Physical exams
- Well child exams
- Chronic disease management
- Immunizations

Urgent Care

- Illness evaluation and treatment (colds, flu, and infections)
- Injury care (fractures, sprains, strains, cuts, abrasions)

Employee Health

- Workers' compensation
- Employment physical exams
- Employer-ordered testing
- Commercial driver license physicals

Radiology services (X-ray)

- Basic X-ray services are available onsite.
- Referral is made for radiology services that are not performed onsite. Contact

Information 209/372-4637 (phone)
209/372-4330 (fax)

Laboratory Services

- A limited array of lab tests can be performed onsite. Other lab tests are sent to an offsite lab.

Dental care is available in surrounding communities. Major hospitals and specialists are found within a 2-hour drive of the park. Mariposa, Oakhurst, and Mammoth Lakes have medical clinics and some specialists. Sonora is fully established with a full range of medical services. Merced and Fresno offer full hospital services.

Housing

When You Arrive

Once you have been hired, discuss with your supervisor when you will arrive, your work schedule, and where you will be living. If you have been assigned to National Park Service housing, you must arrange to check into your housing (Housing Office is 209-379-1879). You will sign your Housing Agreement, as well as the General Terms and Conditions form. An inspection of the housing unit will be required of the tenant. A National Park Service representative will assess the general condition of the quarters, get you acquainted with your new home, and issue keys.

Remember, you are responsible for the condition of the housing unit when you leave, and will receive a bill for excessive damage or if the unit needs cleaning. If you have been assigned a campsite, please check with your supervisor so you know to which campsite you are assigned, and make sure you understand the campground rules.

Full-time seasonal employees may receive housing in the form of an apartment, house, trailer pad, or campsite. Houses and apartments are generally furnished, but do not include sheets or towels. Due to a shortage of housing in the park, houses or apartments are usually shared. There are

cases in which seasonal housing cannot be provided due to lack of funds or lack of availability – it will be the potential employee’s decision as to whether or not to take the position if there is no housing provided. Each supervisor must arrange housing for his or her own employees and all issues concerning housing are handled by the supervisor.

- **Overnight guests are not allowed.** Units are to house assigned employees and volunteers only.
- **Quiet hours** are from 10 pm. to 7 am. Always keep in mind that you may be rooming with someone who works nights and sleeps during the day. Loud music, conversations, outdoor games and noise in general are to be curtailed by 10 p.m.
- **Smoking.** In order to promote a safer environment and to prevent smoke damage to government property, smoking is not permitted in government housing. Smoking is not permitted within 25 feet from government buildings as well.
- **Pets** are not permitted in any temporary/seasonal housing unit per the “Yosemite Pet Policy.”
- **Satellite dishes and slack lines** are not permitted in seasonal housing, except with the permission of the superintendent.
- **Housing forms / check-in.** Occupants must sign a Form 10-380, Housing Assignment Agreement, and complete a Housing Inspection Form with an NPS representative at the time of occupancy. If lead paint is present in the assigned unit, a Lead-Based Paint Disclosure Form must also be signed and on file in the Housing Office.
- **Vacating housing / check-out.** Persons must vacate housing within two (2) days of the end of their appointment or termination date. Please notify the Housing Office 10 days in advance to



schedule the check-out inspection of your assigned housing unit.

Wildflowers blooming behind the Rancheria employee housing area.

- **Government property.** Occupants are accountable for keys, furniture, and other property assigned to each unit. All furnishings, appliances and utensils must remain in the unit. Do not remove or loan out. A bill will be issued for lost keys, damage to the unit, or other government property.
- **Service calls.** Occupants should promptly report service calls to the Facilities Management Customer Service Center. For after-hour emergencies, please contact Park Dispatch or the Facility Management Customer Service Center: 209-379-1058 o Park Dispatch: 209-379-1992.

Residential Areas

With the large size of Yosemite, there are many different communities in and around the park each with their own character. Below are most of the communities with a description of each written by a ranger who has lived there for at least a season.

Some general constants across the park are that utilities are included in your rent but Wi-Fi and phone service are not. Also no kitchenware is provided, laundry machines around the park are quarter-operated, and



Homes in the Rancheria Flat area of El Portal.

residences come furnished with beds, dressers, and other living room furniture.

El Portal

(pronounced “El Pour-tal.”)

Employees working in the NPS Warehouse, as well as those working elsewhere, may live in the town of El Portal. El Portal, which is strung along the Merced River just a few miles downriver of the Arch Rock Entrance Station, is largely home to other NPS employees.

The town consists of a few separate areas tucked into relatively flat parts of the steep river canyon. The maintenance complex and wastewater treatment plant flank the town to the west, with the Rancheria Flat residential area just upriver. These houses and apartments are newer, and house a mix of permanent and seasonal employees. Heading further east and upriver, there is a trailer court on the other side of the river, and then the town center is located to the far east end. Here, there is a small grocery store, gas station, community hall, U.S. Post Office, and some NPS and partner offices. A third housing area, Old El Portal is located uphill and is home to mainly permanent residents.

As an El Portal resident, you can take advantage of recreation facilities in Rancheria Flat, including a pool, sports fields at the local school, and the local branch of the Mariposa County library. Of all carriers,

only Verizon gets service in town, and it is typically spotty. Both the community hall and the library have free wifi. A hiking trail winds up from the top of Rancheria Flat, but be aware of rattlesnakes and mountain lions, which are commonly spotted near town.

Residents can shop at the El Portal Market for grocery basics, which due to its location tends to be pricey, or drive down Mariposa for a full grocery store, 30 miles from El Portal. The El Portal Market offers a 10% discount to locals/NPS employees, which does not apply to alcoholic beverages. Local hotels Yosemite View Lodge and Cedar Lodge both have restaurants as well and offer local discounts. UPS or Fedex deliver to homes in El Portal, but the USPS does not do rural mail delivery. At the post office, you can rent one free P.O. Box per house/apartment (with a small refundable deposit for each key). Just bring your housing agreement showing that you are a resident.

El Portal, while being located outside the park, has its own community, is centrally located between adventures in Wawona and on Tioga Road, and stays quiet during busy weekends in the Valley. While you are here, be sure to explore El Portal’s creeks and the Merced River.

Yosemite Valley

The Valley is basically its own city. You could be living in one of dozens of types of residences, including a shared single family home and dorm style in the historic ranger club. Yosemite Valley has the most food options with a few grill and pizza style restaurants around in Yosemite and Half Dome Villages. The Valley also has The Village Store, which is its own grocery store in Yosemite Village. Residents also enjoy heading to Oakhurst and Mariposa to stock up on groceries.

Also, working in the valley is no guarantee of Valley housing, as it is quite limited, and there is a chance you will have to commute from elsewhere into the Valley if housing is



The community hall in El Portal, on Foresta Road between the post office and gas station.

full. The traffic here can also get bad during summer, so try to come and go at off-hours. This is the heart of the park and you have unreal access to hiking, climbing, the river, and world class views.

Wawona

Located in the southern end of Yosemite, Wawona is home to the South Fork Merced River, a lovely meadow, wooded cabins, and the historic Big Trees Lodge. All housing here is in single family cabin-style homes on either side of the river. If you live on Chilnualna Falls Road (pronounced Chill-new-all-na) (abbreviated here as C Falls Rd), you will be on the north side of the river and if you live on Forest Drive you will be on the south side. Expect to live in a cabin style house with housemates and possibly a shared bedroom. Most homes have heating but few have AC. The Library on C Falls Road has free Wifi. Verizon has some spotty service, AT&T has basically none.

For groceries, there is the Pine Tree Market a few miles up C Falls Rd and the Big Trees Lodge General Store at the start of Forest Drive, both of which are convenience store-esque. For larger selections, make your way to Oakhurst which is approximately 40 minutes away by car on SR 41 and offers 3 large grocery stores and numerous restaurants. Fresno is approximately 80 minutes away by car down SR 41 and offers even more selection if you are willing to make the drive.

If you're looking for a spot to cool off you can find some great swimming holes along the South Fork Merced River once it is swimmable. Definitely check out the Swinging Bridge trail at the end of both C Falls Rd and Forest Drive for a nice hike, some bouldering, and good swimming. The Wawona Meadow Loop is a wonderful but longer walk around the meadow that can also be biked. The Chilnualna Falls trailhead is located towards the end of the eponymous road and is a popular moderately strenuous hike and backpacking spot. Check out the visitor center at Hill's Studio for exact

distances, other hikes, and some local history of famed painter Thomas Hill.

As for local going on's, there are nightly campfire talks during the summer at the Wawona Campground further up SR 41 given by interpretive ranger. The Pioneer Yosemite History Center is a great way to spend an afternoon learning about park history. Barn dances happen starting on the 4th of July and then every other Saturday through the summer and early fall. The Wawona golf course adjacent to the meadow is also worth enjoying if you're a golfer. The Big Trees Lodge itself is worth walking through for its history and interpretive talks are given on it occasionally. There is also the golf shop which serves hot dogs, nachos, and the like. The Mariposa Grove near the south park entrance is amazing as well and honestly the main attraction for the area. Residents have also been known to play volleyball weekly near the school and community center on C Falls Rd. Bass lake near the town of Oakhurst is another great place to swim and fish.

For mail, USPS doesn't deliver to the Wawona houses, although FedEx and UPS might, ask around. We recommend having packages shipped to Wawona in your name - General Delivery and picking them up at the post office. Welcome to Wawona; not as busy as the valley yet fun and beautiful--a hidden gem!

Tuolumne Meadows

(Pronounced "Too-wall-uh-me.")

Despite its typically short operating season (approximately June/July-October), Tuolumne is one of the most celebrated places in the park. Housing here is in tent cabins, so expect a somewhat more primitive (and yet in some ways more refined) way of living than in some of the more developed areas of the park. You can buy groceries in the town of Lee Vining, about 30 minutes away, which also contains gas stations (expensive), and some other amenities. There's also a small general store in



Top: The Big Trees Lodge (formerly the Wawona Hotel).

Employee cabin in Tuolumne Meadows



When the high country opens, the east side is connected to the west and some of the most beautiful areas of the park become accessible.

Tuolumne, though as usual it can be a bit pricey, and also can take a while to open after a big snow year. Tuolumne can be a bit buggier than other areas of the park due to its relative wetness (one of the housing areas is named “Bug Camp”!).

Follow me to Tuolumne! During the summertime the livin’s easy. The housing in Tuolumne is somewhat minimal. Employees are housed in a tent cabin with limited utilities. Ranger Camp cabins come with a refrigerator, table, pellet stove and bed then you provide the rest. There is one communal bathroom stocked with three shower stalls and three toilets. There is also a coin operated washing machine and dryer. This housing structure provides a genuinely immersed and shared experience between the occupants, it can feel like a tight-knit community. Very supportive and quite mountainous. Almost every night, residents come together around a fire ring or hike to a nearby dome to share wheat juice, jams and unwind after a long day. This place is a dime plus 99 and often feels like a slice of paradise in the midst of Yosemite summer wildness.

There are several places outside of the park to purchase and fulfill your grocery needs. The closest location is Lee Vining as mentioned above, though some rangers will take off to Mammoth for a wider selection of stores. After living in TM though, the big city life of Mammoth can feel fast. Just outside of the park is the most wonderful little pie shop to satisfy a sweet tooth like no other. There are countless restaurants on the east side

beginning at the pass itself and into Lee Vining.

Flowers and domes and springs oh my! Tuolumne is home to an array of diverse vegetation, animal species, flora and fauna. There is tons to learn and tons of resources to keep you informed. That said, you should take advantage of some of the best and free interpretive programs in the park delivered by expert rangers. Every week, Interpretive rangers provide various interactive programs both in and outside of the park.

There are a variety of things to check out just across the pass as well. Just 30 minutes east of Tioga Pass is the beautiful Mono Lake which is home to the limestone wonders known as the Tufa Towers. Rangers lead walks and star talks out of Mono Lake a few times over the summer and they are worth checking out. The East Side is home to some really great hot springs as well. There are several located in Mono county including the Travertine hot springs in Bridgeport and the Benton Hot Springs. June Lake is a city not too far and is home to some wonderful spas, cafes, and restaurants. So there you have it friends, even if you’re not living in Tuolumne you should take the time to check out the East side. You won’t regret it!

Foresta

A small community located off of Big Oak Flat Road, Foresta is a quiet area of the park tucked away off of Highway 120. The community is made up of mostly privately

owned homes with only a few being NPS housing. There have been multiple fires there in the recent past that have destroyed many homes, resulting in the town being much smaller than in the past. Folks typically drive to the Village Store in the Valley or Mariposa for groceries.

Hodgdon Meadow

Hodgdon Meadow (pronounced Hodge-den) is the largest employee housing area for the Crane District of Yosemite, which includes Big Oak Flat and Crane Flat. Big Oak Flat, often referred to as BOF (pronounced bawf) is the main entrance to the park on Highway 120 for visitors from the Bay Area. This area receives significant amounts of vehicle traffic heading to the Valley and Tuolumne, but is not generally considered to be one of the busier areas of the park because there are not many hiking options.

Hodgdon Meadow is nestled away in the dense pine-covered hills above the South Fork of the Tuolumne River. Employee housing is reached by continuing down the hill past the Hodgdon Meadow Campground. Park Visitors generally do not come down to the housing area as there is a “Do Not Enter: Authorized Vehicles Only” sign, and the housing is out of sight from the campground- which keeps the place comfortably quiet after long days of public service.

Housing here is a split of permanent cabins, houses, and (allegedly) temporary trailers. Hodgdon has multiple coin-operated washing and drying machines, employee showers (if your building does not already have one), and a sand volleyball court! Cell phones will not work out here. There is a campfire ring near the trailers, and many nights folks gather for a fire around sunset time. While many park divisions are represented in the resident community, most of the buildings are home to protection division employees. Several park affiliated groups such as volunteers and researchers are given sites in the local campground,

adding them to the summer community as well. The campground closes for the winter, but a handful of employees live here year-round.

The closest town is Groveland, 30 minutes away. Groveland has a library, post office, several restaurants, bar, gas stations, automobile repair facilities, and a grocery store. The grocery store can be expensive though, and so many folks opt instead to make the drive to Sonora, which is an hour away from Hodgdon. On the edge of the Central Valley at the start of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, Sonora is the capital of Tuolumne County. It is a large enough city to accommodate most all your city needs. For example, Sonora has a bigger library with more hours, a movie theater, many restaurants, chain stores, and the regional hospital.

Some under-the-radar-for-your-average-visitors-but-known-to-employees spots: Carlon Falls is a small cascade on the south fork of the Tuolumne river, which is a great walking / running area reachable from employee housing. Rush Creek is a new hotel (opened 2016) that is practically under a minute’s drive outside of the park entrance. They have a pool, restaurant, bar, and free WiFi- so far their management has been totally chill with non-guests hanging around their lounge areas. The same company also owns Evergreen Lodge, another hotel in the region that we also hang out at a fair amount.



The meadow and surrounding forest near the employee housing area.

Dammed to provide water to millions of people in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Tuolumne River fills the Hetch Hetchy Valley, forming a pristine reservoir.



Rush Creek's proximity seems to be supplanting Evergreen as the after-work beer since it's only a few minutes away from Hodgdon. But hey, they're both great, if pricey! Another local favorite hangout spot in Groveland is the Mountain Sage, a quaint coffeehouse with free WiFi that is the venue of some stellar shows over the summer.

Because many of the NPS structures here were only intended to be temporary, yet have seen decades of service, there can be issues and complications with them. We say it with love though, since Hodgdon has an exceptional balance of in-the-woods, quiet-nature feel while at the same time lots of visitors and work. That balance is something you really don't find anywhere else in Yosemite. Come and visit!

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy is an incredibly beautiful yet less visited part of the park. It is also notable for its lower elevation leading to higher temperatures in the summer yet longer hiking season in the off-season.

The closest town for groceries and other amenities would be Groveland, approximately an hour away. The road to Hetch Hetchy (Evergreen Road) joins up with Highway 120 near the Big Oak Flat entrance, and employees in Hodgdon Meadow / Big Oak Flat thus mingle with those of Hetch Hetchy more frequently.

Activities

Outdoor Recreation

Hiking

Hiking is one of the main activities visitors and employees enjoy in Yosemite. Whether you are doing a day hike or thru-hiking the John Muir Trail it is important to consider some important information before going on your trip. Before starting your trip, make sure you inform other people on where you

plan to go and when you plan to return from your trip.

Most trails in the park are marked with blazes on trees in either a diamond or T-shape. Additionally, trail junctions have signs showing the mileage to points further down the trail. That being said it is very important to have a good map and compass along and to have confidence in your orienteering skills. It is also important to consider trail conditions while planning your hike.

Inquire about trail conditions at a wilderness center and be aware that snow can remain in the high country until late summer and can make navigation difficult and dramatically slow down the pace of travel. Make sure to take this into account in your planning. Also, river crossings can be treacherous, especially in the spring. If you ever are in a situation where you don't feel comfortable continuing then turn around.

In the park you are free to hike almost anywhere, and you do not have to stay on trails, however it is recommended that you do so as much as possible to decrease your environmental impact. Campfires are not allowed above 9,600 ft and you are not allowed to camp near highly developed areas within the park.

A backpacking checklist, easily found online, is a good idea to make sure you have all of your gear before you start a hike. Also, the Yosemite website is a good resource to check out.

Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits are required for all overnight stays in the Yosemite Wilderness. There are two options for getting a wilderness permit. Reservations can be made online or on the phone ahead of time to guarantee yourself a spot on the trail but these fill up quickly and earlier in the year. Walk-up permits become available at 11am the day before you plan on beginning your trip and often a line will form early in the morning (especially at the Tuolumne



With over 800 miles of hiking trails, Yosemite offers ample opportunities for hiking and backpacking.

Meadows and Yosemite Valley Wilderness Centers). Also, each wilderness center has priority for trails in their region. For example, if you plan to get a permit for something in Tuolumne and plan to wait in the 11 o'clock line, it would be best to go to the Tuolumne wilderness center since you would be given a lower priority in the valley wilderness center. All permits are required to be picked up from a wilderness center in person by the trip leader before embarking on your backcountry trip. Some trails are more popular than others and permits fill up quickly, so try to have a few backup trip options. Stop in to any wilderness center--there is one in Yosemite Valley, Wawona, Tuolumne Meadows and at the Big Oak Flat entrance station--sometime to chat up your peers in Wilderness Division--if they're not super busy they'd be more than happy to help you find some great backcountry trips!

Climbing

Yosemite is one of the premier climbing areas in the world and the birthplace of much of climbing culture and ethics that still live on today. One can walk around the valley and watch climbers on El Capitan from El Capitan Meadow and Swan Slab near the Yosemite Valley Lodge. If you want to climb yourself, the Yosemite Mountaineering School and Guide Service offers classes and led climbs, while you can also ask coworkers and friends who are climbers to take you climbing or bouldering. Just be sure they know what they're doing and are following all the correct safe climbing techniques. You are in one of the most classic climbing areas in the world, give it a try if you get the chance!

Swimming

Wherever you are in the park, there are probably some good swimming holes nearby. Make friends and try to find out where the good ones are, and as always make sure to clean up trash and be respectful of some of these hidden gems. Don't swim in the rivers in the spring; the current can be deceptively strong and is responsible for loss of life every year. Respect the power of water



and if you are unsure about the safety of a swimming area, don't swim there.

Birding

There are lots of birds here! Check out this document for all of the birds in the park: www.nps.gov/yose/learn/nature/upload/yose_birdchecklist.pdf

Fishing

Fishing regulations for Yosemite National Park follow those set by the State of California, including the requirement that people 16 or older have a valid California fishing license. The season for stream and river fishing begins on the last Saturday in April and continues through November 15. All lakes and reservoirs are open to fishing year-round.

There are some special regulations that apply within the park:

- No live or dead minnows or other bait fish, amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs, or roe may be used or possessed.
- Fishing from bridges and docks is prohibited.

In Yosemite Valley and El Portal (Happy Isles to Foresta Bridge):

- Rainbow trout are catch-and-release only.
- Brown trout limit is five per day or ten in possession.





Top: 4th of July Celebration and Barn Dance in Wawona

Biking is a great way to get around in Yosemite Valley

- Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used; bait fishing is prohibited.
- Mirror Lake is considered a stream and is only open during stream fishing season.

In the Tuolumne River from the O'Shaughnessy Dam downstream to Early Intake Diversion Dam:

- Maximum size limit of 12 inches in total length.
- Trout limit is two per day or two in possession.

Community and Recreation Activities

Barn Dancing

Wawona hosts barn dances on July 4th and every other Saturday after at the "Grey Barn" on Forest Drive. It's a great place to meet members of the community. If you don't know how to polka or square dance, don't worry! At the start of each dance, instructions are announced step by step, so you can learn as you go.

Sal's Night

Every other Thursday Sal's Taco Truck braves the road to El Portal and the Yosemite Employee Association (YEA) sets up a bar at the community hall. Often there's some entertainment, be it a band, a DJ, or one of your coworkers hula-hooping the night away. Don't forget to bring your own cup.

Sports

There are several organized sports played by employees in the park. These include baseball, softball, and volleyball. To find out information about them you should ask your roommates/coworkers, or check out the Yosemite Employee Recreation Facebook page.

Gyms

In the El Portal warehouse (commonly known as the Death Star), there is a small exercise room with limited equipment. There are also showers and lockers available. The Valley also has a gym, the Wellness Center, as does Wawona and Hodgdon Meadow. Wawona gym requires a key to be accessed, which is only held by park rangers in the area.

Getting Around

Many employees arrive in the park with their own personal transportation, while others rely on public transportation to get themselves in and around the park. Please check with your supervisor to see whether or not a personal vehicle is required for your position. Since Yosemite is so large, many employees enjoy the freedom of having their own personal vehicle with them for the duration of their stay so that they may enjoy exploring remote locations of the park at their leisure. Others have luck meeting new friends and catching rides with others on their days off. Whether you have a car with you or not, this section will give you an idea of how you can get around the park and the area using various modes of transportation.

Personal Vehicles

If you have decided to bring your personal vehicle to the park, you will receive a vehicle sticker, which will get you into Yosemite for free for the duration of your stay. Once you have your car pass or vehicle sticker, you can use the employee lane (if available) at park entrances/exits. Please be sure to stop at the stop signs and wave at the ranger at the gate. This gives time to see your sticker / pass and wave you through.

Park roads may close during the year due to snow, rock-fall, traffic accidents, etc. Tioga Road and Glacier Point Road are closed in winter months. All roads are subject to closure at any time. For road and weather information, call (209) 372-0200, then press 1, and 1 again.

Bicycles

Yosemite encourages people to bike or walk to work. You are more than welcome to bring your personal bike with you for the duration of your position. Note that off-trail riding, mountain biking, and use of motorized bicycles or scooters on bike paths are not permitted in Yosemite National Park.

Ride-Sharing

Ride-sharing is a great way to get around in the park, and a good way to get to know your co-workers! Talk to your co-workers and/or neighbors about sharing a ride to work, hike, grocery shop, or anywhere else you might need to go!

Public Transit

YARTS

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) serves communities in Mariposa, Merced, and Tuolumne, Fresno, Madera, and Mono counties; all routes travel to or through Yosemite Valley. Visit the YARTS website at www.yarts.com or call (877) 989-2787 between 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. Pacific Time. Employees can also purchase commuter passes for YARTS, and receive partial or full reimbursement through the Transit Subsidy Program.

Yosemite Valley Shuttle and Tuolumne Shuttle

Once inside Yosemite Valley, there is a free shuttle that serves most of the popular locations, restaurants and trailheads in the Valley. We encourage you to park your car and ride the free shuttle! In summer months there are also backpacker shuttles (for a fee) to the various trailheads on Tioga Road leaving from Yosemite Valley. In summer months, a shuttle also runs from Tioga Pass to Olmstead Point in Tuolumne Meadows. Check the latest version of The Guide for schedules and fares.

Amtrak

Amtrak serves Yosemite via a connection to YARTS at the Merced Amtrak station. Call 800/872-7245 for reservations.

Airports

The closest airport to Yosemite Valley is the Fresno-Yosemite International Airport (“FAT”, approximately 2- 2.5 hours from Yosemite Valley) and there is a small airport in Merced as well. Modesto, Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area airports are all within 3.5-4 hours from the park.

Road and Vehicle Information

Gas Stations

Due to the remote location of Yosemite, gas is usually a bit more expensive inside the park than in the outlying towns. It’s always a good idea to have plenty of gas in your car when you enter the park since you might have a long drive between gas stations.

Yosemite Valley – Employee- and resident-only gas pumps are located near the Emergency Services Complex (just north of the Administrative Building and cemetery). In order to pump gas there, you must get a pin number at the Valley Garage. Gas is usually cheaper here than in other locations in the park. This station is not open to the public, and typically only to valley residents.

Wawona – The Wawona gas station is located near the market and hotel. It accepts credit cards and is a 24 hour self-serve station.





Winter brings snow, smaller crowds, skiing, snowshoeing and the closing of high country roads.

Tuolumne Meadows – No gas in Tuolumne Meadows as of 2017.

Crane Flat – This station is located at the junction of 140 and 120.

El Portal – 24 hour self-serve station is located near the market on 140 in El Portal.

Valley Garage

There is one mechanic shop in the park. It is located behind the Village Store. You can contact the garage at: 209-372-8320.

Road Closure Information

Occasionally roads close in the park due to various reasons: fire, flood, rockfall and downed trees. For up-to date road closure information, please call 209-372-0200, then 1, 1. For road conditions outside the park, you can call CalTrans at: 800-427-7623.

Mountain Driving Tips

- Obey posted speed limits, as wildlife crosses the roads frequently. Slow down when road conditions warrant. Be alert to rocks on the road and wildlife crossings.
- Stay on your side of the road, especially on tight curves; do not pass unless it is safe and legal to do so.
- Be courteous. Pull into turnouts to allow less patient vehicles to pass.
- Shift into lower gear when roads are steep and slippery. Pump your brakes to stop (unless you have anti-lock brakes). Avoid excessive slowing on curves or your vehicle may slide.
- Keep an eye out for rocks on roads – at any time of the year, but especially during and after rain storms.

Winter Driving Tips and Chain Requirements

Winter road conditions may change suddenly. Wet asphalt may be slippery or icy, especially in shady spots and on bridges.

Carry tire chains in your vehicle in winter; they could be mandatory at any time. This includes chains for 4-wheel drive vehicles.

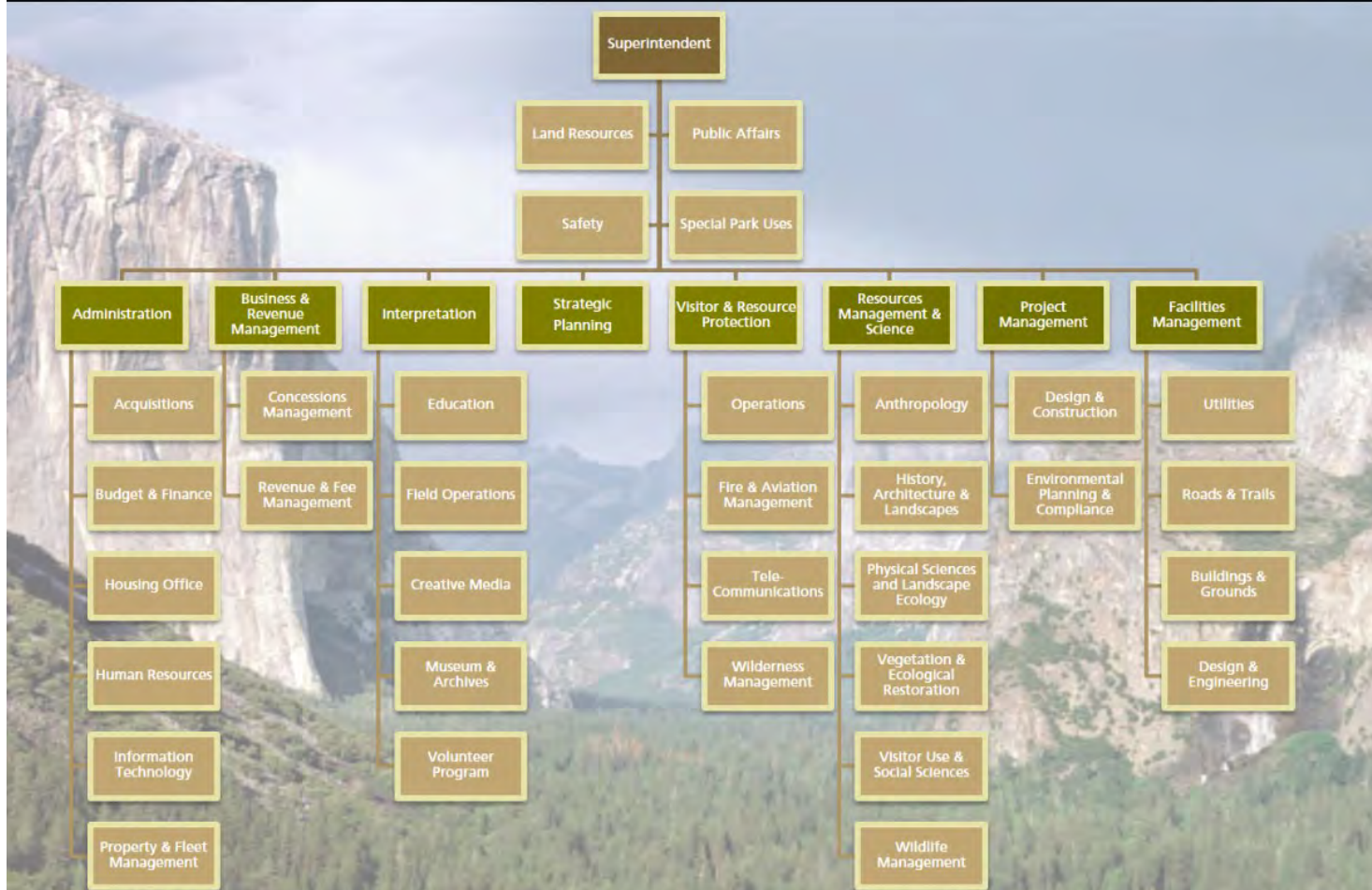
Anticipate snowplows, as they may be working just around the next curve. Wait for a signal from the plow driver before passing.

Melting water from roadside snow banks often freezes on road curves during early evening hours, creating treacherous “black ice.” This can occur when the weather appears dry and fair.

Chain Requirements:

R1	Snow tires okay. All 2-wheel and 4-wheel drive vehicles must use chains unless the vehicle has snow tires on the drive axle. Snow tires must have a manufacturer’s M&S designation on the tire, indicating they are mud and snow tires. Upon entering an activated chain control area, state law requires all vehicles to carry chains.
R2	4-wheel drive with snow tires excepted. All 2-wheel drive vehicles must use chains, even if equipped with M&S rated tires. Only 4-wheel drive vehicles with designated M&S snow tires on all drive axles are excepted. These excepted vehicles must carry chains when entering a chain control area.
R3	No exceptions, all vehicles must use chains. Local residents – please note: 4-wheel drive vehicles must carry chains while in R1, R2, and R3. The speed limit when chain control is in effect is 25 mph (Once park roads are classified as R3, they are often closed).

Yosemite National Park Organizational Structure



The Organizational Structure of Yosemite

Office of the Superintendent

The Office of the Superintendent is the executive office of the Park and includes the Superintendent, the Chief of Staff, Public and Legislative Affairs, the parkwide Safety Program, Hetch Hetchy Program Management, and the executive office staff. The Superintendent's Office and the Park Executive Leadership Team (ELT) are responsible for overall park leadership, internal management directives and strategic direction, relationships with park cooperating associations and other

partnerships, and relationships with a wide range of constituents such as Native American tribal governments, gateway communities, state and local governments, other government agencies, Congress and the Senate.

Safety Office

The Safety Office provides training, guidance, advice and best practices to ensure park compliance with all appropriate laws, regulations, and policies for employee safety and health. Its primary goal is to minimize the number of accidents and injuries. This office also houses a Public Health Service (PHS) representative who conducts inspections of food and grocery facilities in the park, and serves as a consultant on water-borne, zoonotic, and vector-borne diseases and their transmission.



The Office of Public and Legislative Affairs

The Office of Public & Legislative Affairs is responsible for responding to all press inquiries regarding Yosemite National Park from representatives of local, regional, national, and international print and broadcast media outlets. The staff serve as the park spokespeople and conduct interviews on park policy, planning efforts, park conditions, fires, floods, wildlife issues, and other events happening in the park. The office issues news releases and media advisories to the working press. It also provides public affairs counsel to the Superintendent and other members of the Park Management Team. Other duties include working with elected officials and their staffs on pending and current legislation and other legislative issues affecting the park and the National Park Service. They also work closely with the Regional and Washington Offices of Legislative Affairs. The office regularly hosts international delegations interested in Yosemite National Park management and other dignitaries visiting the park. They also produce special events which include visiting dignitary announcements, completed projects, naturalization ceremonies, and work completed by the Yosemite Conservancy. Before speaking to any member of the media or press, always consult first with the Public Affairs staff.

Hetch Hetchy

In 1913, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Raker Act into law, permitting the building of the O’Shaughnessy Dam, and flooding the Hetch Hetchy Valley within the confines of Yosemite National Park. So began the relationship between Yosemite National Park and the City of San Francisco. Yosemite National Park, in partnership with the City of San Francisco, works to preserve and protect the Tuolumne River and Eleanor Creek watersheds. Under the auspices of Five-Year Agreements, the City of San Francisco provides funding for the park to maintain these pristine watersheds through a

variety of operational projects, environmental studies, and visitor education efforts.

Land Resources Office

The Land Resources Program is responsible for the management of utility and land-use permitting, maintaining the park’s land records, boundary line management, land acquisition and disposal, private inholdings, and external adjacent lands. It also oversees non-commercial special use permits, including weddings, cremation scattering, and filming.

Planning Division

The Planning Division is responsible for creating management plans for park resources as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Wilderness Act, and similar legislation. Part of their responsibility is ensuring that the public is involved in these planning processes.

Division of Project Management

The Division of Project Management (aka “PMD”) is responsible for environmental planning and compliance and the design and construction of projects in excess of \$500,000. This office was established following the 1997 flood as a short-term organization responsible for repair and rehabilitation of Yosemite’s flood-damaged facilities, and was originally known as the Office of Flood Recovery. While recovery was underway, the park’s design and construction project workload increased significantly through various fund sources. To avoid excessive collateral duties for other Divisions, and to provide consistent and efficient project management procedures, accountability for these projects was consolidated into what is now the Division of Project Management. The Division is comprised of two Branches.

- Environmental Planning and Compliance

- Design & Construction Management

Division of Administrative Services

The Administration Division enables all park employees to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources of Yosemite National Park through collaborative and professional relationships, by providing guidance, expertise, and tools needed to fulfill responsibilities efficiently and ethically. Most Administration staff work out of the park’s offices in Mariposa. The Division of Administration is comprised of six branches.

- Budget and Finance
- Housing Management
- Human Resources (HR)
- Information Technology (IT)
- Contracting and Procurement
- Supply and Property Management

Division of Business and Revenue Management

The Division of Business and Revenue Management (aka “BRM”) combines the functions of concessions management, fee revenue management (including operations of campgrounds and entrance stations), and authorizing commercial park uses.

Concessions Management

The Concessions Management Branch oversees the operations of private businesses operating in the park under concession contracts. The primary contract, held by Aramark, operates lodging, retail, food service, and recreation programs. The Ansel Adams Gallery is the NPS’ oldest family-owned concessionaire, providing photography and arts education. The El Portal Market provides basic groceries for local residents and visitors. Concessions Management primarily concerns itself with regulatory duties of these private businesses so as to ensure the best possible experiences for guests.

Fee Management

For many of the millions of visitors that come to Yosemite each year a Fees Branch ranger is the only ranger that they will meet. While their transactions may last less than a minute, entrance station rangers make that moment the starting place for a visitors to connect to the park. Campground rangers have one of the best opportunities to educate and inspire visitors by roving and protecting the place that many call home, even if it’s just for a short time. The money that Fees collects is used to improve the visitor experience. The support for these operations comes from the Fee Office.

Commercial Uses

The Commercial Uses program oversees commercial operators within the park who are not under concession contracts, including bus companies, guiding services, stock packers, etc.

Division of Facilities Management

Yosemite’s Division of Facilities Management (aka “FMD”) is responsible for the operation and maintenance of roads, trails, buildings, housing units, grounds, and utility systems. The division is also responsible for managing and maintaining the park’s vehicle and equipment fleets. Beyond the routine operation and maintenance functions, engineering support, facilities inventories, energy use monitoring, mapping, surveying, and historic preservation are also Facilities Management Division responsibilities.

Buildings and Grounds

“B&G” is responsible for the facilities which employees and visitors use every day – the buildings we work in, the lawns and pathways, the restrooms and picnic areas, and campgrounds. They do everything from cleaning bathrooms and picking up trash to mowing lawns, repairing structures, installing new facilities, and making sure the park is safe for all. The program also includes the park’s Historic Preservation shop.



Entrance Station Rangers at Arch Rock take a break to pose for a photo



Buildings & Grounds Historic Preservation crew hard at work



Design & Engineering Branch in the field



Junior Rangers!



Basket collection at the Valley Museum

Utilities

The Utilities Branch is responsible for the park’s water, sewer, electrical, phone, and other utility systems, both in the front-country and in back-country areas. They provide the critical service of opening up utilities in high country locations each spring, then shutting them down carefully to ensure they aren’t damaged during winter.

Design & Engineering

“D&E” performs the planning and design work necessary to ensure park facilities comply with all applicable laws and are constructed safely and efficiently. They work on both large scale projects such as replacement of Valley-wide sewer lines and smaller projects, such as installation of a new vault toilet.

Roads and Trails

Yosemite has 214 miles of paved roads, 20 miles of surfaced bicycle trails, 800 miles of hiking trails, and countless parking areas. “R&T” is responsible for the design, construction, and maintenance of these facilities.

Division of Interpretation and Education

Interpretation is the means through which the NPS helps visitors to make emotional and intellectual connections to the meanings inherent in park resources. Good interpretation is a bridge leading people into new and fascinating worlds, inspiring new understanding, new insights, new enthusiasm, and new interests.

Interpretation facilitates vital components of the NPS mission—enjoyment, education, and inspiration.

Field Operations

The Field Operations Branch manages the services that most visitors associate with the “naturalist” ranger. They operate visitor centers, present formal and informal visitor programs, give special tours, rove trails, and generally help visitors to the park to connect to park resources.

Education and Youth Services

The Education program provides curriculum-based educational activities, both at Yosemite and beyond park boundaries, for youth (usually age 5 to 25). The program also facilitates several youth programs where young adults volunteers or experience the park, including the Yosemite Leadership Program (in partnership with UC Merced), Parks in Focus, Adventure Risk Challenge, and others.

Creative Media

The Creative Media staff creates the exhibits, brochures, park newspapers, web pages, videos, social media, and other items which help connect visitors to the park before, during, and after their visit.

Museum Services

The Museum Services branch manages the park’s museum, its extensive collections of natural and historic artifacts, the park research library, and the park’s archives, where the park’s history is maintained.

Volunteer Program

The Volunteer Programs Office is responsible for management of volunteers in all divisions in the park, establishing volunteer management policies, providing support for supervisors, and recruiting both individual and group volunteers. The program also manages Yellow Pine Administrative Campground.

Division of Resource Management and Science

RMS provides the understanding, technical support, and scientific expertise to sustain the resources in a healthy, unimpaired condition for the benefit of present and future generations. RMS personnel accomplish these goals by developing the framework for sciencebased decision-making that aids in identifying issues and research needs, and mitigating threats that endanger animals, plants, air, water, soil, historic landscapes, historic structures, archeology and ethnographic resources. In

addition RMS views its outreach role as critical in linking the public with park resources through science.

History, Architecture and Landscapes

“HAL” is responsible for researching and preserving the historic structures and landscapes of Yosemite, including several national historic structures and districts.

Anthropology and Archeology

“A&A” is responsible for researching and protecting the cultural ethnography of Yosemite through both historic research and preservation and cooperation with associated Native American peoples.

Vegetation and Ecological Restoration

“VER” is responsible for the plant life and the ecological landscapes on which they depend. The branch monitors and removes invasive plants, performs ecological restoration work to remove human impacts on the landscape, fosters the growth of native plants, and researches and monitors the ecological health of park landscapes.

Physical Sciences and Landscape Ecology

(PSLE) The park’s geologist, hydrologist, Geographic Information Specialist, Air Quality Specialist, and other staff monitor the park’s physical sciences.

Wildlife Management

(WILD) Wildlife staff work to understand and protect the park’s wildlife through research, monitoring, public education, and intervention. The Bear Management program works cooperatively across park divisions to ensure wildlife protection.

Visitor Use and Social Sciences

(VUSS) This program helps understand how visitors to the park interact with park resources, and gives the park the information necessary to balance quality visitor experiences with the protection of park resources.

Division of Visitor and Resource Protection

This Division manages the Park’s law enforcement, jail and paralegal services, resources education and stewardship, emergency communications, and fire and fire prevention. The Protection Division is divided into four branches:

Wilderness

Yosemite’s designated wilderness makes up 94% of the park’s acreage. The Wilderness Branch is responsible for the management of this area. Its activities include wilderness planning, wilderness patrols, backcountry employee travel management, Wilderness permits (and the Wilderness Centers), Half Dome permits, Wilderness education, the UC Merced Wilderness Information Center, and the park climbing programs.

Field Operations

The Field Operations Branch, often referred to as Law enforcement or LE, is responsible for enforcing park rules and regulations. The branch oversees all LE operations, including LE patrols (frontcountry and backcountry), the Yosemite Jail, the park legal office, and criminal investigators. The branch also includes park emergency medical services, including search and rescue, ambulance, and the Yosemite Medical Clinic, operated in cooperation with the US Public Health Service.



VER kicks off the Ackerson Meadow restoration project





Yosemite Search and Rescue, YOSAR, is the emergency response team for Yosemite National Park



A prescribed fire burns near the Mariposa Grove

Communications

The Communications Branch provides emergency communications as well as overseeing park communications operations, including maintenance of phone and radio systems.

Fire and Aviation Management

Fire management staff respond to fires within and outside the park and also work to maintain forest health and fire prevention through prescribed fires, fuel reduction efforts, and research into the ecological role of fire. The branch manages park aviation activities, including those to support both fire and SAR operations.

Park Partners

The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout the United States and the world. An important avenue for achieving the National Park Service mission within Yosemite National Park depends on productive relationships among the National Park Service and Yosemite’s Primary Park Partner organizations. These include:

NatureBridge

This nonprofit organization provides experiential field science programs for children and adults. Programs strive to inspire a personal connection to the natural world and responsible actions to sustain it. NatureBridge provides one-day to week-long residential programs, primarily housing its participants in concessioner facilities in Yosemite Valley and at the Nature Bridge campus at Crane Flat (near the Tuolumne Grove). The organization is currently constructing a new environmental education campus at Henness Ridge (near Yosemite West).

The Yosemite Conservancy

The Yosemite Conservancy (aka “YC”) was formed when the Yosemite Association and the Yosemite Fund merged into one organization in 2011. The Conservancy is dedicated to the support of Yosemite National Park through visitor services, publications, and donor activities. It is authorized by the NPS to solicit contributions for projects and programs to enhance the visitor experience and to protect, preserve, and restore Yosemite National Park. YC staff and volunteers assist Yosemite’s interpretive efforts at throughout the Park, and YC operates the Yosemite Outdoor Adventures program, offering the public courses on a wide range of topics such as natural history, birding, photography, botany, painting, literature, and backpacking. YC staff operate park bookstores throughout the park. The Conservancy also manages the Yosemite Theater Live program and the Art Center. The Conservancy offers many benefits to park volunteers, including free attendance at Theater, Outdoor Adventures, and art classes on a space-available basis.

Aramark at Yosemite

As of March 2016, Aramark (operating as Yosemite Hospitality Services, LLC) serves as the park’s primary concessioner, providing lodging, food, guest recreation, interpretation, and retail services throughout Yosemite National Park. Yosemite Hospitality offers guided bus and tram tours, interpretive walks and demonstrations, programs for children and families, evening programs, photo walks, rafting, and guided hiking and climbing excursions.

The Ansel Adams Gallery

The oldest family-operated concessioner in the National Parks, The Ansel Adams Gallery cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for the natural world by offering visitors a unique variety of books, handcrafts, fine arts, and access to the collection of Ansel Adams’ original

photographs. The Gallery also leads photography walks and workshops in the field, as well as provides visitors with tours of its fine print room.

Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center

The Sierra Club manages the historic Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly known as the LeConte Memorial Lodge), providing a library, children's corner, exhibits, and guided interpretive walks and evening programs. During the summer, the Center is host to special weekend interpretive presentations.

Ethical and Professional Behavior

In the context of your employment with the National Park Service, ethical behavior refers to avoidance of conflicts of interest between public duties and responsibilities and private activities. A few rules of ethical behavior include:

- Do not use Government property for personal purposes (i.e. you may not use a government-owned GIS device to map the land around your personal property).
- Do protect and conserve Federal property and obey all rules and regulations regarding its use.
- Do not use Government-owned, leased or rented vehicles for non-official purposes. The mandatory penalty specified for violation is termination.
- Do not sell commercial products in a government building, (items approved for sale by government are the exception).
- You may not operate a business within the park without a business permit.



- Do not solicit or accept anything of monetary value including gifts, gratuities, favors, entertainment or loans.
- Do not give preferential treatment to commercial businesses aside from park partners (i.e. you shouldn't recommend a specific restaurant or hotel in Mariposa) Be respectful when discussing park partners; the public is always listening.

Sexual Harassment Policy

It is the policy of Yosemite National Park to adhere to Federal guidelines and Bureau policy relating to sexual harassment. We as Federal employees and volunteers have a responsibility for maintaining high standards of conduct in the workplace; therefore, sexual harassment has no place and will not be tolerated or condoned. Every effort should be made by managers, supervisors, employees and volunteers to ensure that all of us work in an environment free from sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is verbal comments, (i.e. calling people honey, darling, etc. or commenting of physical appearance) gestures, and physical contact of a sexual nature that are deliberate or repeated and unsolicited. Sexual harassment is also defined as sexual advances and requests for sexual favors, which are unwelcome.

If you feel that you have been sexually harassed, please contact your supervisor or the Regional EEO Officer.

Communicating with Employees

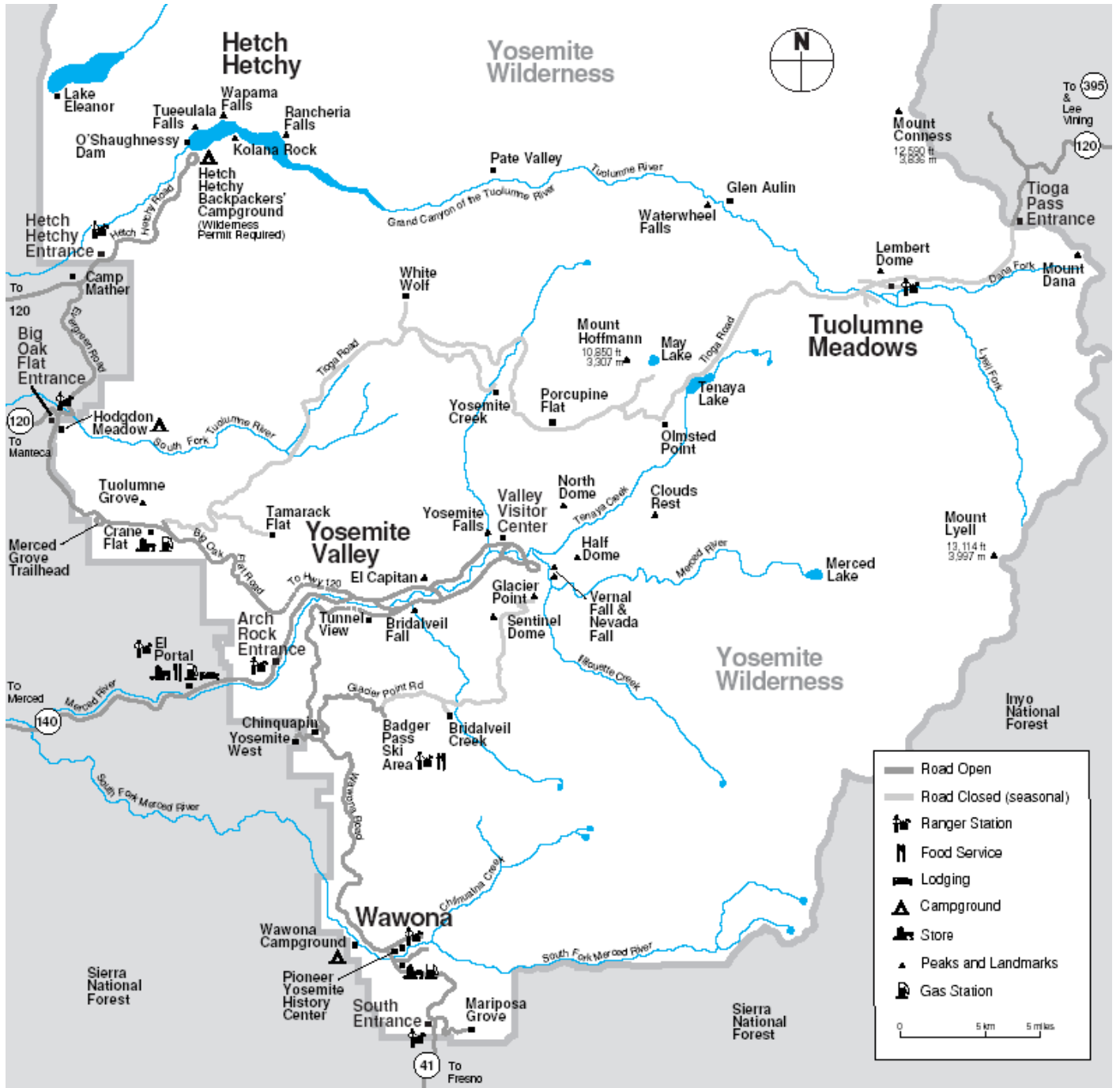
Yosemite has adopted numerous ways to communicate with employees in an effort to make information as readily as possible in such a dynamic environment. In addition to phone and e-mail for direct communication, Yosemite sends out a Daily Report to all employees every weekday morning that includes information about the day's happenings in the park, traffic and construction updates and upcoming training opportunities. Your name will be added to the all employee mailing list as soon as your NPS e-mail account is activated. The Superintendent, Division Chiefs, and employees will also use the all employee mailing list to send out important park or program updates. Once you arrive, you can also sign up for "Rapid Notify" alerts that will text or e-mail emergency alerts straight to your phone or e-mail address. Additionally, the park maintains an internal sharepoint site, and employee Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ynpemployees/>).

We're Happy You're Joining the Team!

Above all, Yosemite National Park Leadership is dedicated to providing staff with a positive and safe work environment, where diversity, integrity, accountability, communication, humility, collaboration, courage, and investing in ourselves and others are our top priorities. We very much look forward to having you join our amazing staff, and sharing experiences that will last a lifetime. See you soon!



Park Map



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Frequently Used NPS Phone Numbers (area code 209)

Emergencies	911	Housing Office	379-1879
Park Dispatch	379-1992	Employee Emergency Hotline	379-1186
Volunteer Office	379-1850	Human Resources	379-1878
RMS Volunteer Office	379-3294	Bear Hotline	372-0322
IT Help Desk	379-1123	Public Information Office	372-0356
Campground availability	372-0266	Road Conditions	372-0200. Then 1, 1
El Portal B&G	379-1076	Mather B&G	379-1931
Valley B&G	372-0545	Wawona B&G	375-9508

Community Listings (area code 209)

Ansel Adams Gallery	372-4413	U.S. Geological Survey	379-1306
Campground Reservations	800-436-7275/ (877) 444-6777	U.S. Magistrate	372-0320
Credit Union	372-4750	U.S. Post Office (El Portal)	379-2311
Day Care - El Portal	379-2860	U.S. Post Office (Yosemite-Main)	372-4475
Day Care - Yosemite	372-4819	Valley Visitor Center	372-0299
Degnan's Deli	372-8454	Wawona School	375-6383
El Portal Elementary School	379-2382	YARTS	877-98-YARTS
Yosemite Chapel	372-4831	Yosemite Elementary School	372-4791
Library (Public)	372-4552	Yosemite Haircare	372-1206
Lost and Found (NPS)	379-1001	Yosemite Medical Clinic	372-4637
Lost and Found (concession)	372-4357	Yosemite Park High School	372-2414
El Portal Library	379-2401		
Mariposa County High School	742-0260	Park Partners	
Mariposa County Library	966-2140	Aramark	372-1000
Public Information Office	372-0356/0269	Yosemite Conservancy	379-2376
Road Conditions (Cal-Trans)	800-427-7623	NatureBridge	379-9511

See you soon!



Yosemite National Park

June 2017