
NATUREBRIDGE IN YOSEMITE

APRIL 7 – 12, 2019

STUDENT INFORMATION PACKET

Welcome! You will soon embark on an exciting adventure in Yosemite National Park. This packet contains important information about the trip. Students and parents should read through the packet right away, then again as you prepare for the week in Yosemite.

CONTACTS:

- For information or cancellation before the trip:
Ana Bachman, Program Coordinator. e-mail: ana@mccconnellfoundation.org
. work phone: 530-226-6235
. cell phone: 530-515-7845
- For special transportation arrangements or special issues before the trip:
Dan Voorhees, Lead Chaperone e-mail: dvoorhees@suhdsd.net
. work phone: 530-243-1880
. cell phone: 530-209-0683
- For questions or issues during the trip:
Dan Voorhees, Lead Chaperone. cell phone: 530-243-1880
- Emergency phone numbers during the trip See page 5

PREPARATION:

Two or three weeks prior to the trip complete any forms required by your school for your upcoming absence, such as teacher permission(s), field trip release, etc. (if you're not sure what is required, ask your Yosemite Advisor). Also obtain any assignments you will miss during your absence.

Equipment: Carefully pack the items noted on the enclosed Clothing and Equipment List. You could be miserable if you forget items on the list. The weather in Yosemite is transitional during the month of April. The day may start out sunny/warm and end rainy/cold. Groups go out into the field rain or shine. While you may choose to buy necessary items, you can probably borrow what you need from friends, neighbors, etc. Be sure to write your name and school on all your belongings. *Pack COMPACTLY – you will carry all your gear from the bus to your cabin.*

TRANSPORTATION:

Students and chaperones will be transported to/from Yosemite National Park by chartered bus. The bus schedule is listed on page 2. The buses run on time, with the exception of unforeseen delays. **Students:** If you are running late on Sunday, April 7, call Mr. Voorhees and let him know (530-209-0683). **Parents:** If you would like an update on the return times, call your student after 5:00 pm on Friday, April 12. The bus will make one meal stop on the way to Yosemite, and one on the way back. Students should bring money for these two meal stops.

BUS SCHEDULE:

When you arrive at your pickup location, a name tag will be there for you. Be sure to find it and put it on before taking a seat on the bus. This is how roll call is taken.

If you attend	Your pick-up location is*
Anderson High School Burney High School Central Valley High School Enterprise High School Foothill High School Pioneer High School Shasta High School Shasta Charter Academy U-Prep West Valley High School	Enterprise High School - in front of Manitowa Gym 3411 Churn Creek Rd. Redding
Etna High School Golden Eagle Charter School - Yreka	Yreka High School - in front of school 400 Preece Way Yreka
Mt. Shasta High School Golden Eagle Charter School - Mt. Shasta	Mt. Shasta High School 710 Everitt Memorial Hwy Mt. Shasta
Corning High School Los Molinos High School Red Bluff High School Tehama e-Learning Academy	Red Bluff High School - in front, near the office 1260 Union Street Red Bluff

*To change pick-up locations, email ana@mcconnellfoundation.org

Pick-up location April 7

Pick-up time

Enterprise High School (Manitowa Gym)	6:45 a.m.
Yreka High School (in front of school)	4:45 a.m.
Mt. Shasta High School	5:45 a.m.
Red Bluff High School (in front of school)	7:30 a.m.

Drop-off location April 12

Drop-off time

Enterprise High School (Manitowa Gym)	6:45 p.m.
Yreka High School (in front of school)	8:15 p.m.
Mt. Shasta High School	7:45 p.m.
Red Bluff High School (in front of school)	6:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019 - OPTIONAL ORIENTATION.** For those who can attend, an orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, at 6:00 p.m. at The McConnell Foundation, 800 Shasta View Drive, Redding. This informational meeting brings the week to life, provides an opportunity to hear about the program first-hand, and ask questions. Space is limited to NatureBridge participants and their parent(s)/guardian(s). If you cannot attend, all the information you need is in this Student Information Packet.

- **SUNDAY, APRIL 7** - EARLY MORNING DEPARTURE FOR YOSEMITE. Bring money for meal stop in Lodi.
- **FRIDAY, APRIL 12** - RETURN HOME FROM YOSEMITE. Bring money for meal stop in Lodi.

WHILE IN YOSEMITE

Cell phone use and service: School rules apply while students are “in class” with NatureBridge educators during the day. No talking or texting, however, phones may be used to take pictures. Students may not use cell phones at any time in NatureBridge dorms, dining halls, or bathrooms. During free time, students may use their phones. Keep in mind that availability of cell phone service is spotty in Yosemite because of the mountainous terrain, but it may be available depending on your location. You will likely find connectivity at Crane Flat if you have Verizon Wireless or Sprint. AT&T does not have service at Crane Flat.

Teaching Sites/Rotations: Students and chaperones will be divided into two rotations: Rotation A and Rotation B. When we arrive in Yosemite Valley on Sunday, Rotation B will unload the busses and settle in to Half Dome Village for two nights, while Rotation A will continue to the Crane Flat teaching site (45 minutes from Half Dome Village) for two nights. On Tuesday, the rotations will reverse: Rotation A will return to Half Dome Village and Rotation B will go to Crane Flat. On Thursday morning Rotation B returns to Half Dome Village where everyone will be together for the final night. The benefit of the rotations is students are exposed to sites with unique teaching opportunities.

Daily Schedule: Students are expected to be on time, prepared (have suitable clothing and equipment), and to be an active participant in NatureBridge programming.

6:00-6:30 a.m.	Wake-up and get ready for the day
6:45-7:45 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Meet NatureBridge Educators
8:45 a.m.	Hit the trail for the day!
3:30-4:30 p.m.	Arrive back from trail
4:30-5:00 p.m.	Supervised free time
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 or 8:00 p.m.	Evening Program
9:00-9:30 p.m.	Quiet time, everyone in their own rooms
9:30 p.m.	Lights out

Lodging: Students and chaperones stay in heated tent cabins at Half Dome Village in Yosemite Valley and in dorm-style lodging in NatureBridge’s own facility at Crane Flat located off on HWY 120 on the north side of the park. Crane Flat is a picturesque example of an upper montane environment, including shady red fir forests, beautiful meadows, and a nearby giant sequoia forest. Crane Flat is peaceful and quiet, away from the stores, large numbers of visitors, and other distractions of Yosemite Valley.

Students of the same gender will be assigned to cabins and dorms. Students are prohibited from visiting cabins/dorms assigned to students of the opposite gender unless an adult chaperone is present in the room at all times. Chaperone cabins are interspersed among student cabins.

Dining: In the Half Dome Village Dining Pavilion breakfast and dinner are served to students as they go through a line and make choices. Lunch is provided by NatureBridge and is served out on the trail. Lunch food is carried by students on daily hikes, and consists of simple, light, and nutritional foods. NatureBridge’s Food Service is

made aware of all food allergies and dietary restrictions as noted on students' Registration Forms. Most dietary restrictions, including vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and dairy-free can be accommodated.

At Crane Flat the meals are served family style with a small buffet of side dishes. Any participant who requires a special meal substitution has their meal individually prepared by NatureBridge staff. If a family wishes to provide their own meals, the family must work out the details with NatureBridge's Director of Food Service at least two weeks before arrival.

Weather and Elevation: Half Dome Village is at 4,000 feet. Crane Flat is at 6,200 feet. In April, the weather is very transitional. It can be sunny in the morning and snowing by mid-day, so be prepared for anything. Trail groups go out in all weather conditions.

Expectations: While in Yosemite students will live and study closely together in an unfamiliar setting, away from their homes and families. Each student is expected to:

- *Not discriminate against people because of their race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender, language, talents, or special needs* – there is ZERO tolerance for this type of behavior. The Code of Conduct signed by each student is strictly enforced.
- *Be prepared for the day* – wear and pack appropriate gear in your backpack including a pencil or pen to write with, a warm jacket, hat, gloves, rain gear, and leak-proof water bottle.
- *Respect and care for yourself and others* – stay with your group and follow all safety directions. When not on the trail, your chaperone must know where you are at all times.
- *Respect each other, respect each person's privacy, and respect each person's property* – students are prohibited from visiting cabins assigned to students of the opposite gender unless an adult chaperone is present in the cabin at all times.
- *Behave in a safe and responsible manner* – an accident or injury can ruin your trip or someone else's. If you or someone you are with becomes sick or injured, contact your chaperone or NatureBridge staff member immediately.
- *Dress appropriately at all times* – dressing appropriately in Yosemite is no different than dressing appropriately for school. Flip flops, tank tops, spaghetti straps, jeans which expose underwear, short shorts, etc., are examples of what not to wear.
- *Respect silence* -- be quiet and respectful especially in the mornings and evenings so that everyone can get enough sleep to participate and stay healthy.
- *Respect wildlife* – though it can be tempting to approach, feed, or follow wild animals, please do not. Animals can be stressed when people approach or make loud noises near them. Human food is unhealthy for wild creatures and feeding animals can lead to their deaths. Animals can injure you and may carry serious diseases. Antagonistic human behavior may force animals into taking aggressive actions as a means of self-defense.
- *Respect the environment* – take good care of the natural world around you that will be your home for the week. Your actions can either harm or help Yosemite, so please behave appropriately.

AREAS OF STUDY

Yosemite National Park offers a rich learning environment for supporting classroom curricula. NatureBridge programs are multidisciplinary, including science, history, arts, literature, math, and more. Activities feature active learning targeted to multiple intelligences and reflect NatureBridge's Core Educational Framework themes: Sense of Place, Interconnections, and Stewardship. In nature's classroom, students have the unique opportunity to observe, experience, and personally connect with the knowledge and concepts outlined in the California Content Standards. NatureBridge works in partnership with school groups to choose academic emphases that most effectively transfer to and from the home classroom. Core academic emphases include:

Life Science & Ecology: Practice the skills of an ecologist, discover the organisms that call this landscape home and learn how they interact and adapt to their changing environment.

Watershed Studies: Yosemite Valley offers an incredible laboratory to learn about watersheds as students hike to waterfalls, assess water quality above and below confluences and learn about how this watershed impacts the health of California's agriculture.

Earth Science & Geology: Investigate how Yosemite's picturesque rock formations came to be, how erosion changed them over time and what could happen next.

Cultural History: Explore the rich cultural history of American Indians, settlers and conservationists of the region and their ongoing legacy in Yosemite National Park.

Current Environmental Issues: Natural processes are constantly at work in Yosemite. Learn about climate change, what it is, how it affects Yosemite and how science helps us understand its impact on our environment.

Fire Ecology: Our Fire Ecology Project offers the background, investigations and NGSS-based curriculum to help students better understand fire's role in the landscape and the forces that influence it.

OUTCOMES

Connect to SCIENCE + NATURE + SELF AND OTHERS: Students experience personal growth, build interpersonal skills, gain science knowledge, strengthen critical thinking skills and learn to act as environmental stewards. NatureBridge strives to create an impactful and lasting educational program for every student.

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NATURAL COMMUNITIES STUDIED IN YOSEMITE

MIXED CONIFEROUS FOREST

Yosemite Valley's dominant community. The Sierran mixed coniferous forest contains more than a dozen species of conifers and more than two dozen broadleaf trees and shrubs. In depth studies look at the diversity of animal life that inhabits this zone, the unique adaptations of each plant species and the human and natural alterations to these forests.

GRANITE CLIFFS, ROCK OUTCROPS AND TALUS SLOPES

Yosemite's steep sided canyon walls have been scoured by glaciers and create a delicate micro-ecosystem. The invasion of a rock crevice by wind blown dust and eventually plants is an excellent example of primary plant succession. Rocks falling down from the Valley walls pile up at the base of the walls forming a unique assemblage of boulders (talus) laced with caves.

MERCED RIVER

Flowing through Yosemite Valley, the crystal Merced River, with its seasonal flow and regular floods, creates a wide variety of habitats. Riparian vegetation lines its banks, pond and marshes remain from abandoned ox-bow lakes and the turbulent water hosts a myriad of organisms. Testing water chemistry and studying streamside plants, birds and aquatic insects gives students an understanding that water forms a continuous web that unites all life.

RED FIR FOREST

The "Snow Forest" begins at 6,000 feet, near the Crane Flat Campus. This life zone receives the greatest snowfall in the Sierra and offers a community to compare with the lower elevation mixed coniferous forest. Chickarees, grouse and martens are uniquely adapted to spending the winter months in this environment.

TUOLUMNE AND MERCED GROVES OF GIANT SEQUOIAS

Towering above its neighbors, the world's largest trees persist despite numerous challenges. Drought, fire, insects, competition and glaciers have restricted the Sequoias' growth to the west slope of the Sierra. Since their "discovery" in 1833, the big trees have been a source of inspiration for writers, artists, and scientists.

MONTANE CHAPARRAL

On south facing slopes, dense brush thickets are scattered throughout Yosemite's mid-elevations. Plants such as manzanita and chinquapin have adaptations to heat and drought. This community is characterized as one of the most fire prone vegetation types in the world.

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SPECIES STUDIED IN YOSEMITE

This checklist is not intended to be comprehensive; it merely provides a sampling of what you might see during your stay in Yosemite. Two suggestions for use of the list are:

1. As a comparison between the fauna and flora of your area and the Yosemite region.
2. As a checklist to be used during your stay in Yosemite.

COMMON TREES	Black Cottonwood California Gay Laurel Canyon Live Oak Giant Sequoia Jeffrey Pine Pacific Dogwood Quaking Aspen Red Fir White Alder White Fir	Bigleaf Maple California Black Oak Douglas Fir Incense Cedar Lodgepole Pine Ponderosa Pine Sierra Juniper Sugar Pine
COMMON MAMMALS	Beechy Ground Squirrel Chickaree Mule Deer Raccoon	Black Bear Coyote Pocket Gopher Western Gray Squirrel
COMMON BIRDS	Acorn Woodpecker American Robin Belted Kingfisher Brown Creeper Dark-eyed Junco Great Horned Owl Red-tailed Hawk Red-breasted Nuthatch	American Dipper Band-tailed Pigeon Brewer's Blackbird Common Flicker Great Grey Owl Mountain Chickadee Red-winged Blackbird Steller's Jay
FISH	Brook Trout Rainbow Trout	German Brown Trout Sucker
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS	California Newt Northern Alligator Lizard Rubber Boa Western Garter Snake	Common Garter Snake Pacific Tree Frog Western Fence Lizard Western Rattlesnake
OTHER PLANTS	Bracken Fern Hazel Nut Lupine Milkweed Sierra Gooseberry	Chinquapin Horsetail Manzanita Mistletoe Willow

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