



Yosemite National Park

Wilderness Permit Reservation Application Instructions



Providing For Yosemite's Future

Step 1: Fill out the application form.

Please complete the form on your computer and then print out to fax or mail it. If you must handwrite your responses, please write clearly. Fill out form completely. Provide a day time telephone number that we can reach you if we have any questions. In case your first choice is not available, list alternative dates and/or trailheads, in order of preference to which you can commit. For trailheads and trip planning information please visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm

Entry Date: Please list the entry date of your trip. We accept reservations up to 24 weeks (168 days) in advance. To view a table that indicates the earliest date to make a reservation, please visit: www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermitdates.htm. Any choice with an entry date more than 24 weeks in advance will not be considered. If your second and/or third choices are more than 24 weeks in advance, you will have to reapply on the appropriate date if you are unsuccessful in obtaining your first choice.

Entry Trailhead: Please select your entry trailhead from the drop down menu. To view a map of Trailheads, please visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/trailheads.htm. Note, entries with "--" in front of them are not trailheads, just group names.

Exit Date: Please list the last planned day of your trip. You may change your exit date when you pick up your permit without penalty. If you plan on exiting outside of Yosemite, list the date you plan finish your trip, do not put the date you are exiting Yosemite.

Exit Trailhead: Please list the trailhead that you plan to exit on. If you plan on exiting outside of Yosemite, the most common exit trailheads outside Yosemite are listed at the bottom of the drop down menu. Unfortunately, we are not able to list every trailhead in the Sierra, so if your exit trailhead is not listed, please either type in the trailhead name or select "Unspecified". Quotas are not based on exit trailheads, so you may change your exit trailhead when you pick up your permit.

First Night's Camp Location: So we may verify that your route matches your trailhead selection, list your anticipated first night's camp location in Wilderness. For example, list a nearby lake, stream, mountain, trail junction or other feature you plan to camp near. The Backpacker's Campgrounds located in Tuolumne Meadows, Hetch Hetchy and Yosemite Valley are not valid options as they are not in the wilderness. You do not need to give a precise location, but please try to be as clear as possible. You are not necessarily required to camp in the location listed as your first night's camp location.

Number in Party: Maximum group size is 15, however not all trailhead quotas will allow for a group this large. For more information about large groups please visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpackinggroups.htm

Minimum Number of People Acceptable: If you are willing to accept a smaller group size if space isn't available for your preferred group size, please indicate that in the minimum number of people field.

Half Dome Permits: Half Dome permits for backpackers are limited. Check the Yes box if want to reserve Half Dome Cables permits with your wilderness permit. Otherwise select the No box. If no boxes are selected for Half Dome permits, no Half Dome Cable permits will be reserved for you. If you select yes to Half Dome Permits and do not complete the "Number of Half Dome Permits" field, we will assume you want permits for your full group size. If you do not select an option for "If Half Dome Cable permits are not available for my trip", we will assume that you do not want us to process your reservation. These permits CANNOT be used for day hikes.

Donohue Pass: Permits for hikers going over Donohue Pass are limited via an exit quota. Donohue Pass is located on the border of Yosemite National Park and Inyo National Forest, at far southern end of Lyell Canyon. This exit quota only affects hikers wishing to exit Yosemite over Donohue Pass, mostly John Muir Trail hikers. Select the yes box if you want to hike over Donohue Pass. Select no if you do not want to hike over Donohue Pass. This is the most likely answer for most visitors. If you are exiting Yosemite during your trip, list the pass that you will be using to exit Yosemite.

Step 2: Submit your application form.

You can mail or fax your application form to the address or fax number provided on the form. Applications are accepted no earlier than 24 weeks (168 days) in advance of your trip. You may fax your request beginning at 5 pm Pacific time a day prior to the first date to apply. If you fax your request by 7:30 am on the first day to apply, your request will be included in the daily random lottery. For example, if the first day you can apply is tomorrow, you can fax in your reservation any time after 5 pm today. If your request is less than 2 weeks in advance please make a reservation via the phone. Submit only one application per group. Duplicate applications will be charged a non-refundable, non-transferable processing fee for both reservations.

Step 3: Response

You will receive an email regarding the status of your application within one to two business days or via the mail within 2 weeks if email not provided. Please do not call prior to this time to inquire about the status of your application.

Step 4: Pick up your permit.

Your confirmation is not your permit. You must pick up your permit at one of the five Wilderness Centers located within in Yosemite before you begin your hike. You, or another member of your hiking group, must pick up the wilderness permit at any permit station during business hours the day of, or the day before, your hike. Reserved permits are held until 10 am on the day of your trip. If you will arrive later than 10 am on the day of your trip, please call us to hold your permit for a late arrival: 209/372-0308 (this number is for cancellations and late arrivals only). If you do not call or pick up your permit by 10:00am, your permit reservation will be canceled. Permits held for late arrival still must be picked up at a permit station during business hours. (For locations and hours please visit: www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/permitstations.htm)