

Caltech Y-Hike 2024 Packing List

Much of our time in Yosemite will be in the valley (4,000 ft.) but hikes and backpacking routes will take us much higher (possibly up to 10,000 ft.). Weather conditions – could include sun, rain, and even snow – and temperatures will fluctuate significantly. Average low / high temperatures for mid-September are: upper 40's to low 80's in the Valley campsite; and Low 30's to mid 60's on some trails... and for wilderness backpacking campsites.

It is important for comfort to have good, warm clothing for night, lightweight clothing for hiking, and several layers for in between (wearing layers allows adjustment as needed - a key to staying comfortable in the regularly changing situations). But remember, space is limited – we will need to fit everything in our vehicles and those backpacking will need to fit group gear as well. Please bring the following items with you on the Y-Hike:

Required for Everyone

- at least two N95 or KN95 face masks (for anytime called on by COVID-19 protocols)
- personal identification
- money for meal stops to and from Yosemite, showers if desired, souvenirs, and snacks (at least \$40.00)
- any needed medications and personal toiletries
- daily underwear & socks (cotton is ok for some days but is usually not the best choice for significant hikes)
- 1 – 2 pair of durable, loose shorts or light weight pants for hiking
- 4 – 5 light t-shirts
- light weight long sleeve shirt(s)
- sweater or sweatshirt – **backpackers should choose insulating when wet options (like wool / poly-pile)**
- long pants for colder weather – **backpackers should choose synthetic or wool (not jeans)**
- hiking boots or running shoes with tread -- well broken in (not brand new!)
- jacket – waterproof or at least water resistant --rain is a possibility
- sunglasses and sunscreen (UV blocking--SPF 15 or more)
- day pack to carry snacks, water, misc. while hiking
- plastic bowl, mug, fork and spoon (for repeat use)
- water bottles – 64 to 128 oz. combined capacity
- warm sleeping bag (rated for 20° or colder) (may be borrowed from the Caltech Y)
- closed-cell foam, or self-inflating, sleeping pad (may be borrowed from the Caltech Y)

Optional for Camp/Hike Group – Required for Backpackers

- backpacking backpack – for those who will be backpacking (may be borrowed from the Caltech Y)
- an additional bag for items left at the campground – you will take limited items on the backpacking excursion
- large zip-lock bags to keep things dry if it rains
- insect repellent
- long underwear (polypropylene)
- hat (wool or synthetic fleece) and mitts/gloves
- lightweight flashlight or headlamp & extra batteries
- hat with brim (for sun)

Optional for Everyone

- extra camp shoes or sandals
- travel towel
- swim suit if you are interested in the possibility of swimming (unlikely, but possible)
- small pillow
- camera & extra batteries / phone & charging cable (FYI - there will not be places to plug in in the campground)
- personal entertainment (compact music, card games, books, etc.)