

What to Expect at the UC Merced SNRS Yosemite Field Station, and What the SNRS Expects from You

Visiting Yosemite National Park: The SNRS Yosemite Field Station is in the community of Wawona, within Yosemite National Park. You must abide by park regulations while using YFS facilities. Please be sure that you follow all Park guidelines and regulations. As a guest of the YFS, your conduct will reflect on all of us and on UC Merced. You will be provided with brochures listing rules and regulations governing behavior in the Park at the Entrance Station. Pay particularly close attention to garbage and trash disposal regulations; hantavirus from mice, and bear activity are both issues in the area. Feeding the wildlife is a serious offense. Speed limits are also important because of wildlife (and fellow visitors) in the park; speeding kills bears and other wildlife.

Park access: A “Gate Pass” fee waiver can be requested from the station director prior to your visit for official use of the field station. You must present it at the Park entry station. Gate passes must be signed by SNRS staff before you leave to validate the fee waiver.

Wawona area: There are two small general stores in Wawona and large supermarkets 22 miles south in Oakhurst. There is an urgent care facility in Oakhurst that is open until 9 pm. Drugstores, restaurants, auto repair shops, etc., can also be found there. There is a nice restaurant at the Wawona Hotel (559-253-5635). Note that the hotel is not open year round, and that there are NO other restaurants in Wawona.

Communications: There is poor or no cell phone access in Wawona, depending on your carrier. Don’t count on it. There is a general use phone in the office – 209-375-9917 – but bring a *calling card* for long distance calls. In an emergency, dial 911. Operators will notify Yosemite law enforcement or fire personnel. Wireless internet is available in all facilities, but no extra computers. For a fast connection for your own equipment, bring an Ethernet cable.

Facilities use: All SNRS housing and facilities are supplied at minimal charge for the convenience of those who otherwise would not be able to conduct research far from home or campus. There is no housekeeping staff, nor anyone available to take care of your day to day needs. In almost all situations, you are expected to take care of yourself. In the event of a serious electrical, plumbing, law enforcement or other problem, emergency contact information is posted at the SNRS Station Office (7799 Chilnualna Falls Road; the second white house on the left as you enter Wawona).

Please treat the facilities and the community with care and respect. The buildings are owned by the National Park Service and are under permit to UC Merced. It has been a challenging and costly process to make these facilities functional and livable. Please be careful not to damage either the houses or our relationship with the surrounding community.

There are abundant rodents and insects in the forest around the houses. Store all your food with all this in mind. Traps are available at the office if needed. Live-trapped animals should be released unharmed at least 2 miles from any occupied structure.

Know that at any time, other researchers might be assigned to share the space, or might already be there when you arrive. Please consider this when you plan your arrival and your stay. Keep keys in the lockboxes so others may access the buildings – don't take them with you.

Your well-supervised children are welcome if you arrange their visit with the station director in advance. There are no child care facilities in Wawona. No pets are allowed, but service animals are permitted; notify the station director prior to your arrival.

Office and meeting room: The SNRS office (7799 Chilnualna Falls) contains multiple facilities for researcher use, including office space, a meeting room, a kitchen, a shower, and laundry. If you're the last to leave the office, make sure that all 3 doors are locked.

Data visualization center / lab / classroom: Adjacent to the SNRS office is the multi-purpose data visualization center. It is suitable for meetings, classes and presentations, lab work, and other creative uses. This can accommodate approximately 40 people, and may be reserved free of charge for research and training purposes.

Lab: A small wet lab, a dry lab, and a workshop with dedicated freezer space and some basic lab equipment (e.g., dissecting scopes) are available. Space is tight, so please speak to the station director about your needs prior to arrival.

Cabins: You may be sharing your cabin with other users: keep your cabin clean and keep keys in lockboxes. Cabins have extra-long twin mattresses, and some have full-size mattresses. The cabins and office contain full kitchens with standard appliances, cookware, dishes, silverware, cleaning supplies, etc. Bathrooms contain basic hygiene items. Some cabins have propane grills, and some have wood-burning fireplaces.

You must bring:

- Linens, pillows, blankets, and towels.
- Food, paper goods, and any specialty supplies.

You may wish to bring:

- Firewood. Many cabins have wood-burning fireplaces. Bring only local wood to prevent the spread of forest pests. Wood gathering is prohibited in the park.
- Calling card for long-distance calls. If your cell phone service is unavailable, you may use the telephones with a calling card.
- Bicycle. Wawona is a bicycle-friendly neighborhood. Please walk or bike whenever possible, as parking is limited.

When you leave:

- Complete the departure checklist in your cabin and return it to the office when you leave.
- Ensure all keys are in their lockboxes.
- Ensure that all facilities are a little cleaner than when you arrived, including floors, bedrooms, kitchens, bathrooms, and patios.
- Remove all of your trash and recycling. It can be deposited at the NPS facility on Wawona District Circle.
- Remove all of your food from refrigerators and cabinets. Do not leave any behind!
- Remove all of your supplies, bedding, and other items. If you wish to donate them, leave them at the office with the permission of YFS staff.
- Report any maintenance issues.
- There is no housekeeping at the YFS. If we must hire cleaning personnel or arrange supply disposal after your visit, you will be invoiced for charges and denied future use.

There is a post office next to the general store near the Wawona Hotel.

To receive regular USPS mail at SNRI, have it sent to:

Your Name
c/o SNRS
PO Box 2117
Wawona, CA 95389

To receive packages (e.g., UPS, FedEx) at SNRI, have it shipped to:

Your Name
SNRS Field Station
7799 Chilnualna Falls Rd
Wawona, CA 95389

Contact the station director or station steward if there are any issues or concerns during your stay

- Director cell (24 hours) – 209-628-1064
- Steward cell (24 hours) – 209-626-6895
- Office – 209-375-9917
- Director residence: Vincent House, 2640 English Ln