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(Virtual) Camping in Yosemite

Wow, I am so excited to go camping in Yosemite park, one of the most beautiful national parks in the United States! However, to keep it so beautiful, I have a couple responsibilities I must keep in mind...

To prepare ahead of time, I will create an itinerary for my camping trip! In this itinerary, I will also track what items I bring with me, so that if any are lost, I can try to find it to make sure I'm not leaving something in the wilderness and disrupting the community. I will research to see if there are any established campsites at Yosemite (there are 13 of them!) so we aren't putting our tent up in land that is supposed to stay undisturbed. We will do our hiking on existing trails and camp in existing campgrounds. I will go with my two best friends, and we can keep each other accountable! The whole trip, we will just be hiking, taking in the various features of the Yosemite landscape.

Relevant items we will bring include...

soap (bars)

hygiene products

snacks that we will premake and pre prepare: homemade granola bars, nuts, fruit, vegetables, and hard boiled eggs

metal cutlery & dishes

Our metal cutlery and dishes will help us reduce the amount of plastic we are creating while camping. Our fruit and veggie snacks can be organic and purchased locally.

Our attire is composed of large jackets that we will need throughout the entire trip. We will wear plain sweatpants and change wardrobe choices throughout the time we are 'there' (perhaps 3 days). The two friends I have in mind, as well as myself, thrift shop extremely often. We would likely get our attire completely second-hand.

Now, it's time to get going!

We will carpool in a car together. Yosemite is only about a 5-6 hours drive from my location. It's open right now, and there's no better time to visit!

In Yosemite, I mostly see oak trees and sequoias. Oak trees are a keystone species, and many oaks are California natives, but they aren't mentioned as much as the sequoias. Black bears and coyotes can possibly be seen in the Yosemite mountains. If we see one of these amazing animals, we will stay far away and observe from a distance.

Reflection

Pre-journey, my intentions were to learn more about Yosemite because I am a California resident, and while I've always kind of known what it is, I never learned anything specific. I didn't know about the giant sequoias, or that it boasted beautiful waterfalls.

We aimed to make less than 20% waste. I would say, hypothetically, we accomplished that. My friends and I came to the conclusion that the only waste would be food wrappers.

Despite doing this virtually, I learned so much about Yosemite! I truly hope I get to visit there one day, maybe when I am less busy. I learned all about their granite cliffs and museum while researching the museum itself.





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rania_.pgc The most important Leave No Trace principle is to plan ahead of time!

Planning ahead of time prepares you for sticky situations, so you can go about it in the best, most responsible way, instead of doing the first thing that comes to mind. For example, a coyote stumbles upon your campground, eats all your food, & decides to take a nap inside your tent? This could be avoided if you A) research and make sure you're camping in established campgrounds, B) kept food locked away from wildlife & C) watched the coyote from a distance so as not to disturb it.

Here (virtual) in Yosemite Park, I want to learn more about the beautiful sequoia trees! I want to learn about their wildlife value, and how they became this mature.

I really want to go to the Yosemite National Park one day, because I feel like it is an integral part of California's landscape. I loved exploring it virtually. While doing this challenge, I thought of how many other people in the world right now must be camping as well, and hoping they were adhering to the Leave No Trace principles.