



# Nature is Our Classroom

Experience Environmental Science Programs in Yosemite National Park

**Connect your students to nature, science and each other while exploring one of the most iconic national parks in the country!**

**Sense of Place:** Students spend their days on trail, exploring the deep valleys, grand meadows and sequoia forests of Yosemite. Students sleep in tent cabins in Yosemite Valley or dormitories at the National Environmental Science Center (NESC).

**Interconnections:** NatureBridge educators guide students through hands-on science investigations augmented by activities incorporating team building, group challenges, art, writing and math. Students develop tools and hone their perspectives in ways that help them relate their national park experiences back to their home communities.

**Stewardship:** Students realize their actions impact the world, and are inspired to care for their environment and home communities.

**Outcomes:** Students experience personal growth, build interpersonal skills and engage in academic content that supports Common Core, NGSS Standards and the California Blueprint for Environmental Literacy.



A proud partner of the  
National Park Service

Learn more at:  
[yosemite-reservations@naturebridge.org](mailto:yosemite-reservations@naturebridge.org)  
[naturebridge.org/programs/yosemite](http://naturebridge.org/programs/yosemite)

## Sample Day

**Morning:** Students wake up in tent cabins or dorms, eat breakfast in the dining hall, pack backpacks, and prepare for the day.

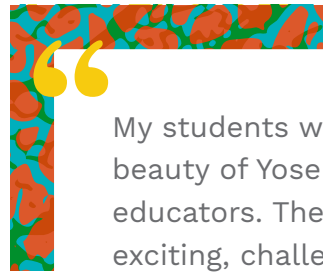
**Instructional Day on Trail:** Students are divided into small learning groups and led by an experienced NatureBridge educator. Lessons reinforce classroom learning, incorporate NatureBridge's Core Educational Framework, and meet the learning goals of each group. All students participate in an engaging and authentic science investigation that brings classroom learning to life. Lunch is eaten out on trail.

**Afternoon/Early Evening:** Students return to campus to reflect, relax, and unwind while school chaperones supervise. Dinner gives everyone a chance to share their trail stories.

**Evening:** NatureBridge educators facilitate an evening program that could include a short night hike, a presentation about black bears, or a town-hall style debate about damming Hetch Hetchy Valley. Students then return to the cabins or dorms and get ready for bed.

## Sample Activities

- Hike along the path of a waterfall and learn about glaciation.
- Study ecological relationships from the perspective of a 2,000-year-old giant sequoia tree.
- Discover winter adaptations of plants and animals while cross-country skiing or snowshoeing in high Sierra meadows.
- Participate in National Park Service research projects such as macro-invertebrate biomonitoring and phenology tracking.



My students were awed by the natural beauty of Yosemite and our NatureBridge educators. They brought them to new, exciting, challenging and quiet experiences that connected their hearts to the environment and each other.

—Elisa C., Teacher at Mariposa School of Global Education, attending NatureBridge since 2014

