



New Volunteer Orientation

Volunteers are the heart of the MARIPOSA TRAILS organization, shaping its vision, enlivening its mission, and achieving its goal to maintain and promote recreational trail access for hikers, runners, cyclists, equestrians and others. If you share our belief that health, prosperity and fun are grounded in our access to the earth, and our care of it, then join us. You can make a difference by being an active and valued member of the MARIPOSA TRAILS community.

We crafted this handout to ease your transition into our community; it gives you a better idea of what it's like being on a trail crew. Want to learn more? Check out our digital library under "SAFETY" at the footer of www.mariposatrails.org.

If you have any questions about our Trail Tending Days, contact Bill at mariposa.trails@yahoo.com

What is the cost to join a project?

It's free! For all projects, tools and safety gear (including a hard hat, safety glasses, and gloves) are typically available. Of course, you're welcome to bring your own gear and tools too. Not only is it free, but we are so grateful for you that we seek to reward volunteers with vouchers for food and gas on workdays, by supplying delicious refreshments at the end of trail work days, assuring their tools are sharp and safe to use, and, by hosting an annual volunteer appreciation party. Of course, we welcome and rely upon your donations to help pay for our programs. Please considering donating and supporting our crews.

What do I need to bring?

For all projects, MARIPOSA TRAILS provides tools and safety gear (including a hard hat, safety glasses, and gloves). For everything else, however, volunteers are responsible to bring the recommended gear for single-day and multi-day trips, which are listed in the pack lists under the FAQ section of our webpage.

Can I bring my pet?

Pets are not allowed on MARIPOSA TRAIL outings; pets can be a significant distraction and, in some cases, a safety hazard.

What are the age requirements?

We accept volunteers that are 18 years of age or older, or no younger than 15 when authorized AND accompanied by an adult.

Do I need to have prior trail work experience?

No. We work hard to teach our volunteers the joy of trail maintenance. We hope by investing our time in teaching you trail maintenance you'll come back and join us again. If you have previous trail maintenance experience, please let us know in advance. Volunteers should be in good physical condition and prepared to be outside all day, however.

How do I sign up for a project?

Check out the "Tending the Trail" schedule to find a project that you would like to attend. You could also join our Facebook public group page to become aware of this schedule, as well as planned recreational hikes. Additionally, if you sign up to be a member of MARIPOSA TRAILS, you will be notified about new "Tending the Trail" events. Be sure to [RSVP for each event](#) so we can ensure we have enough equipment for everybody.

How do I get to the project?

You will need to arrange transportation to and from the project. The meeting location is typically a trailhead or campground. After you register for a project you will receive directions to the meeting location. Unfortunately, MARIPOSA TRAILS is unable to provide transportation for liability reasons. However, when volunteers register for a trail project, they can mark if they are interested in carpooling with other volunteers and if they are willing to drive, need a ride, or are willing to drive or ride. If volunteers are interested in carpooling, your project leader can put you in contact with other participating volunteers by e-mail. We never share phone numbers with anyone without their permission.

Do I need backpacking experience for the backcountry projects?

No. While volunteers are not required to have backpacking experience to participate in the backcountry projects, they must inform the trail crew leader at time of RSVP, and must be cleared to attend the outing. Attendance is subject to the discretion of the crew leader. Volunteers will need to be prepared to carry in their own personal gear to base camp, which could be anywhere from 3 to 8 miles or more from the trailhead.

Can I rent or borrow backpacking gear?

We can loan backpacks, sleeping bags and bear containers for trips. If you have need of any, contact Bill at mariposa.trails@yahoo.com.

What about bears?

While we've seen lots of bear sign (scat, prints and rubbing trees), we rarely see bears. We make every effort to have a clean camp, i.e., being sure to not leave food out or unprotected for long periods of time. Additionally, we put all food and scented items in secure bear lockers or containers at night, or when we have to leave our packs out during the day.