

**5th Annual Pilgrimage to Yosemite National Park  
Commemorating the Contributions of Chinese in the Sierra Nevada  
July 27th to August 2nd, 2017**

The National Park Service celebrated its 100th Birthday last year. In its next 100 years, how will the Park Service interpret and educate visitors about the contributions of Chinese in building many of the roads and railways through the Sierra Nevada range, working at historic lodges and in the lumber industry, and contributing to the early history of our National Parks?

For the fifth year, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California in collaboration with the National Park Service is helping to sponsor an annual pilgrimage to historically significant sites in Yosemite National Park. All Chinese Historical organizations are welcome as well as any individual to participate in this event. The dates and activities for this year are:

**Thursday, July 27 - Limited Campsites Available**

- Tent campsites at Wawona Campground available starting Thursday night to volunteers only.
- Alternative accommodations also available at Wawona Hotel, other Yosemite area hotels, and through CHSSC which has pre-rented two large house cabins in Wawona. If you would like to reserve accommodations in one of our rented cabins, please direct your request to [chssc@hotmail.com](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com).

**Friday, July 28 - Tuolumne Meadows hike along part of the Old Tioga Road**

- At 11:00 A.M., meet National Park Service Ranger Yenyen Chan at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. She will lead a lunchtime hike along part of the original Tioga Road completed in 1883 by Chinese road builders. The hike is about 1.5 miles on a flat trail through a large sub-alpine meadow (8600' above sea level) with views of the Cathedral Range, the Tuolumne River, Soda Springs, and Lembert Dome. There is the option of taking the local shuttle bus back to the Visitor Center or retracing our footsteps back. Allow 1 hour driving time from Mammoth Lakes, 1 hour 45 minutes from Yosemite Valley, or 2 hours 45 minutes from Wawona. Park along the highway immediately east of the Visitor Center where there are no time limits for parking (not the parking area for the Visitor Center). Look for Ranger Yenyen by the Visitor Center front porch. Bring a sack lunch and 1-2 liters of water per person.
- Afternoon optional excursions TBD to Yosemite Valley and/or other sites to view spectacular natural scenery, and to browse interpretive exhibits within California's first national park.

**Saturday, July 29 - Wawona Area History Talk and Pot Luck Cookout**

- At 10:00 A.M. meet a National Park Service Historian in the parking lot near the "Grey Barn" in the historic district, just past the store in Wawona for about an one hour walk to historic sites where Chinese worked to service the hotel.
- From 1:00 to 2:00 P.M., come to the "Gray Barn" in Wawona to hear Hilton Obenzinger PhD, Professor of American Studies at Stanford University and Associate Director of the Stanford Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project. His presentation will be "The Chinese and the Iron Road: Building the Transcontinental." A discussion will

follow his presentation about the social conditions that existed for Chinese in America in the late 1800s as it may relates to the work they performed in Yosemite.

- Outdoor Cooking Session and Pot Luck Dinner: start cooking as early as 3:00 P.M. at the Wawona Community Center on Chilnualna Road. The theme is *Outdoor Cooking a Hundred Years Ago and Now with a Chinese Twist*. Discussion and demonstrations at 5:00 and dinner at 6:00. Cook, talk about and serve something that was made 100 years ago based on historical information or your family history or what Chinese Americans cook now in the outdoors, using methods, ingredients and equipment currently available. Outdoor wok cooking stations will be available. Bring your own pans and cookware as well as cups, bowls, plates and flatware to reduce trash.

### **Sunday, July 30 - Future of Pilgrimage and Working with NPS Brainstorming**

- Meet from 9:00 to 11:00, bring your own brunch to the Wawona Community Center for a discussion regarding future plans for the Pilgrimage and how Chinese and Asian American history in the park can be developed and enhanced.
- Afternoon optional excursions TBD to Yosemite Valley and/or other sites to view spectacular natural scenery, and to browse interpretive exhibits within California's first national park.

### **Monday through Wednesday, July 31 to Aug. 2 - Pilgrimage to Sing Peak**

- A three day backpacking trip which involves a day going off trail to climb to the top of Sing Peak (10,552' elevation), named after the famous chef of the Mather Mountain Party. Limited to those who are signed up on teams which have Wilderness Permits.

Save these dates and make reservations for accommodations in or around Wawona! Summer months are some of the busiest times in the Park and reservations are filled early. If attending the Friday event in Tuolumne Meadows, another option is to spend the first night, July 27th, at Mammoth Lakes, June Lake, or Lee Vining along the Hwy 395 corridor, and subsequent nights in Wawona.

If you are interested in this project or want to volunteer or participate in the backpacking trip, contact the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California at [chssc@hotmail.com](mailto:chssc@hotmail.com) or Jack Shu at [jkshu52@gmail.com](mailto:jkshu52@gmail.com) .