



Steve Ybarra's
Yosemite Packing School

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Steve Ybarra's
Yosemite Packing School



Learn to pack the Yosemite way

Complete course of instruction,
for beginners to advanced packers

Learn new skills

Improve existing skills

Take your ability to the next level



Welcome to

The Yosemite Packing School

Experience Makes The Difference

- ★ All classes are taught by experienced professional packers
- ★ Complete course of instruction in 3 classes
- ★ Basic Packing, Intermediate Packing, Advanced Packing
- ★ You will learn the things you need to know to begin packing



What you will learn...

- ★ The function of the pack saddle and its uses
- ★ How to make up loads that will ride
- ★ How and why to tie different hitches
- ★ How to safely lead a string of mules
- ★ How to deal with hard to handle pack stock
- ★ "Leave No Trace" methods of livestock camping
- ★ Basic backcountry first aid for livestock
- ★ Traditions and history of packing in the Sierra



Opportunities for Packers

Commercial Pack Stations always have need for experienced and entry-level packers. This school will give you the training you need for summer employment as a guide and packer.

Government agencies like the Park Service, Forest Service, and BLM need experienced packers. This school will get you started learning the skills needed to secure one of these good-paying jobs.

Search and Rescue (SAR) teams need people with basic packing skills. This school will give you the training you need to become a highly valued member of an SAR team.



School Particulars

3 Courses: Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced

★ **Basic Packing**

3-day course
\$250 per student
12 students maximum

Learn to saddle mules, make up loads, tie hitches, lead mules, wrangle stock, provide basic livestock first aid

★ **Intermediate Packing**

4-day course
Includes room (a tent) & board and 3-day base camp pack trip into Northern Yosemite
\$575 per student
12 students maximum

Practice skills from the Basic Class and learn "Leave No Trace" stock camping methods, how to hold stock in the backcountry, wilderness stock-use regulations, backcountry shoeing

★ **Advanced Packing**

7-day course
Includes 7-day all-expense traveling pack trip touring Northeastern Yosemite
\$1,050 per student
12 students maximum

Intensive practice of the skills learned in Basic and Intermediate Packing and guest lectures on backcountry veterinary medicine from experienced packer/veterinarian

Class Schedule

★ **Basic Packing**

Friday to Sunday, last Friday in April
Check-in time 7:30 a.m. Friday or day before after 4:00 pm
Location: 4-Y Ranch

★ **Intermediate Packing**

Thursday to Sunday, first Thursday in July
Check-in time 7:30 a.m. Thursday
Location: Virginia Lakes Pack Outfit

★ **Advanced Packing**

Sunday to Saturday, last Sunday in August
Check-in time 7:30 a.m. Sunday
Location: Virginia Lakes Pack Outfit



Your Instructors

Steve Ybarra has been a professional mule packer in Yosemite National Park for over 24 years.

In 1974 he started out as guide and packer for the Yosemite Park and Curry Company. He worked for the Curry Company until 1981. In addition to packing a few thousand basic food and dunnage loads he has packed lots of unusual things such as propane refrigerators, tables, and 12' row boats.

In 1982 Steve went to work for the National Park Service (NPS) as a government packer. While there he further developed his expertise by packing trail crew camps, dirt, rocks, cement mixers, 12' bridge decking and many more heavy, large items.

From 1991 until 2001 Steve ran the packing operations for the NPS as the Packer Foreman. During that time one of his focuses was on teaching and speaking. Specifically he has:

- ◆ Taught the 6-week Mounted Patrol School, Yosemite
- ◆ Taught 40-hour Advanced Mounted Patrol School
- ◆ Taught a 40-hour Interagency Packing School, Saguaro AZ
- ◆ Taught a 40-hour Advanced Packing School for Search and Rescue (SAR) needs
- ◆ Speaker at Horse Expo, Sacramento CA
- ◆ Speaker and Demonstrator, SAREX Donner Mine Camp Northern Calif.

During his career Steve has won several awards:

- ◆ Mule Days World Champion Packer
- ◆ 2-time World Champion Packing Team
- ◆ Westside Sierra Packing Champions
- ◆ Winner of the Sweepstakes Award Bishop Parade
- ◆ Winner of Governors and Presidents Awards for best parade entries



Matt Taylor is a 5th generation Sierra mule packer.

He started packing professionally in 1974 at Wolverton Meadow Pack Station in Sequoia National Park.

He worked for the Yosemite Park and Curry Company packing unusual loads like jack hammers, refrigerators, and row boats onto young poorly trained mules.

He worked for Bob Tanner at Red's Meadow Pack Station taking guests on multi-day pack trips into the John Muir Wilderness, the Ansel Adams Wilderness, and Yosemite National Park. While at Red's

Matt taught several one-week packing school classes.

He worked as a sawyer for the National Park Service in Yosemite. His was one of two sawyers responsible for riding all of the trails in the Yosemite Wilderness and cutting downed trees from the trails.

Since 2002 he is the Owner/Operator of Virginia Lakes Pack Outfit near Bridgeport, CA. The pack station runs commercial pack trips into the Hoover Wilderness and Northern Yosemite National Park. It currently runs a herd of 40 horses and 30 mules.

In the winter he owns and operates the Double 8 Ranch in Willits, CA, where he focuses on producing well-bred Cutting Horse futurity prospects.

Matt has been a member of 3 Mule Days World Champion Packing Teams.

