



For Immediate Release

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YARTS CELEBRATES EARTH DAY WITH FREE RIDES TO YOSEMITE

MERCED – The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) will provide free trips to Yosemite National Park in honor of Earth Day and National Park Week on Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21, 2019. YARTS is a regional public transit service that provides a year-round alternative to driving to Yosemite from Merced and Mariposa along Highway 140, and from Highways 120, 395 and 41 during summer months. Last year, this free service transported more than 26,000 passengers to and from the National Park.

YARTS provides free rides on all of Yosemite National Park's free gate days. Riders can board a YARTS bus at any regular stop along the route. Boarding is provided on a first-come, first-serve basis and passengers are encouraged to arrive early for the best chance at securing a seat.

"Being in Yosemite to celebrate Earth Day and National Parks across the country is a special experience," says YARTS Assistant Manager Cindy Kelly. "Knowing that we are helping families to enjoy the natural environment and reducing pollution from cars at the same time is what YARTS is all about."

There will be extensive celebrations and special activities happening in Yosemite all weekend to mark the occasion. For a complete schedule of events in the Park or for information about visiting Yosemite visit: www.nps.gov/yose. For more information about YARTS routes and schedules please visit www.yarts.com or call (877) 989-2787.

YARTS is a California Joint Powers Authority comprised of Merced, Mariposa and Mono Counties in partnership with Caltrans, Federal Highway Administration, National Park Service and the United States Forest Service. The Merced County Association of Governments provides administrative services and operational support for YARTS.

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