



FINDING AID

Yosemite Women's Group Collection 1955-1989



[Images from Yosemite Women's Group collection]

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HISTORY

The Yosemite Women's Group was founded by Marian Woessner, wife of Yosemite dentist Charles Woessner, in 1951, shortly after their arrival in Yosemite during the winter of that year. As a recreational club for women living in and around Yosemite, group members participated in monthly meetings as well as programs such as hiking trips, luncheons, and lectures organized by officers. The group also organized a yearly activity calendar with several events open to non-members, including an annual holiday craft bazaar; and dances and outings for family and friends. Additionally, the group regularly planned fundraising events for numerous causes and programs in Yosemite, such as a scholarship program for college-bound students living in the park. Group members also hosted and entertained students for the annual American Field Service weekend. The group was most active from 1955 to 1989 when it disbanded due to low membership.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Yosemite Women's Group Collection
1955-1989

CATALOG NUMBER YOSE 237674

VOLUME 0.70 LF

DESCRIPTION The Yosemite Women's Group Collection includes materials created by the Yosemite Women's Group from 1955 to 1989. These records depict the regular activities of the group through meeting records maintained by the secretary, in addition to announcements and invitations for special events organized by the group for the Yosemite community. A majority of the collection, from the period of 1955 to 1984, is made up of monthly meeting notes and event announcements for the many annual events put on by the group, including the December craft bazaar. Meeting records also indicate special lecturers and topics discussed by the group, event planning processes, and administrative tasks. Other materials, such as scholarship applications received by the group from 1987 to 1989; and group records related to the role of the women's group in the annual American Field Service weekend in Yosemite National Park are also included in this collection.

Materials include meeting minutes, agendas, event calendars and flyers, letters, officer folders, financial receipts, scholarship applications as well group constitutions and bylaws. Additionally, a small amount of material was collected and used for group discussion or for other events, such as newspaper clippings and brochures. Notable topics and individuals in this collection are the American Field Service weekend, an international exchange program for students, notable Yosemite historian Shirley Sargeant, and photographer and naturalist Dana Morgenson.

ORGANIZATION The collection is arranged according to the order by which it was created starting in 1955, which is chronological. As materials were created, the group's secretary would place these into binders, grouping general meeting agenda and notes with event announcements or letters referenced during

that meeting. At the time of donation, this chronological scheme had been in place already for a majority of the records, and thus, the arrangement of this collection reflects that continuity.

The Yosemite Women's Group Collection does not include series or subseries. As records created and maintained by the group, all materials are directly related to the activities of the organization and are thus grouped together as records of a similar nature.

PROVENANCE

The Yosemite Women's Group Collection came to Yosemite National Park through two separate donations, which were subsequently accessioned separately in 1992.

Kathy Ash-Flashner and Kay Pitts, the two final members, donated a portion of the group's records to the Yosemite Research Library in 1990, which were formally accessioned in 1992 as accession YOSE-05635. This accession largely includes materials from the 1980's, including scholarship applications from 1987-1989 and documents related to the women's group participation in the annual American Field Service weekend from 1982-1985.

Another former member, Gail Matteson, donated additional records in 1992 (accession YOSE-05651), which now make up the bulk of the collection, spanning 1955 through 1982. Originally housed in three binders, these records largely maintained the chronological order by which they were created, and include monthly meeting notes, event announcements, letters, group member surveys, and copies of the group's formal bylaws and constitution.

RESTRICTIONS

Yes

FILE UNIT DESCRIPTIONS/CONTAINER LIST**BOX 1:**

- Folder 0001. Yosemite Women's Group Officer Lists, 1955-1970, 1980-1981
- Folder 0002. Agenda, Meeting Notes, Event Calendars, Correspondence, 1955-1958
- Folder 0003. Constitution, Bylaws, Amendments, 1957, 1967
- Folder 0004. Agenda, Meeting Notes, Event Announcements, Correspondence, 1959-1962
- Folder 0005. Women's Group Officer Duties, 1961-1962, 1968, 1985-1986
- Folder 0006. Agenda, Meeting Notes, Event Announcements, Correspondence, 1963-1967
- Folder 0007. Chairman Annual Summary Notes, 1967-1970
- Folder 0008. Yosemite Women's Group Girl Scout Sponsorship Agreement, 1968
- Folder 0009. Agenda, Meeting Notes, Event Announcements, Correspondence, 1968-1969
- Folder 0010. Yosemite Women's Group Member Surveys, 1968, 1983-1984
- Folder 0011. Newspaper Article: How to Be a Good Club President, circa 1968
- Folder 0012. Agenda, Meeting Notes, Event Announcements, Correspondence, 1969-1971
- Folder 0013. American Field Service Weekend in Yosemite Women's Group Announcement and Article, 1972
- Folder 0014. Agenda, Meeting Notes, Event Announcements, Correspondence, 1972-1974
- Folder 0015. Agenda, Meeting Notes, Event Announcements, Correspondence, 1975-1977
- Folder 0016. Agenda, Meeting Notes, Event Announcements, Correspondence, 1979-1984
- Folder 0017. Yosemite Women's Group, American Field Service Weekend, 1982

Folder 0018. American Field Service Brochures, circa 1982-1985

Folder 0019. Newspaper Article: Can the Audience Forget the Color?, 1983

Folder 0020. Yosemite Women's Group, American Field Service Weekend, 1983

Folder 0021. Yosemite Women's Group, American Field Service Weekend, 1984

Folder 0022. Yosemite Women's Group, American Field Service Weekend, 1985

BOX 2:

Folder 0023. Officer Folder, Hospitality (Hostess), circa 1985

Folder 0024. Officer Folder, Publicity, circa 1985

Folder 0025. Officer Folder, Treasurer, circa 1985

Folder 0026. Agenda, Correspondence, Event Calendars, Event Accommodations, 1985-1988

Folder 0027. Yosemite Women's Group, American Field Service Weekend, 1986-1987

Folder 0028. Yosemite Women's Group Financial Statements, 1986-1989
Sensitive, Privacy Act

Folder 0029. Yosemite Women's Group Scholarship Applications, 1987-1989