



America The Beautiful - The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass

- Home
- General Information
- Annual Pass
- Senior Pass
- Access Pass
- Volunteer Pass
- Definitions
- Site Locations That Issue Pa

Overview of the Access Pass

[Pass Use](#) | [Benefits](#)

1. Where can I get an Access Pass?

You can obtain an Access Pass in person, with proper documentation, from a participating Federal recreation site or office. See [Site Locations](#) that issue the Access Pass.

Access Passes may also be obtained via mail order from USGS. Mail-order applicants for the Access Pass must submit a completed [application](#), proof of residency and documentation of permanent disability, and pay the document processing fee of \$10 to obtain a pass through the mail. Once the application package is received, the documentation will be verified and a pass, with the pass owner's name pre-printed on it, will be issued to the applicant.

Access Pass applications are processed and shipped within 3-5 business days from the day they arrive at USGS. Transit time varies, and is dependent upon the service selected:

- USPS - typically 5-10 business days
- FedEx Ground - typically 3-5 business days
- FedEx 2nd day - typically 2 business days
- FedEx Overnight - typically 1 business day

2. What is the Access Pass?

A free, lifetime pass - available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States that have been medically determined to have a **permanent disability** - that provides access to more than 2,000 recreation sites managed by five Federal agencies.

At many sites the Access Pass provides the pass owner a discount on Expanded Amenity Fees (such as camping, swimming, boat launching, and guided tours).

See [Access Pass Benefits](#) section.

3. Who qualifies for the Access Pass?

The Access Pass may be issued to U.S. citizens or permanent residents of any age that have been medically determined to have a **permanent disability** that severely limits one or more major life activities.

A **permanent disability** is a permanent physical, mental, or sensory impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.

4. If I am partially disabled do I qualify for the Access Pass?

The disability requirements for the Access Pass are not based on percentage of disability. To qualify for the Pass the disability must be permanent and limit one or more major life activities.

5. How do I prove I'm permanently disabled?

Some examples of acceptable documentation include:

- Statement by a licensed physician;
- Document issued by Federal agency such as the Veteran's Administration, Social Security Disability Income, or Supplemental Security Income;
- Document issued by a State agency such as a vocational rehabilitation agency.

Some examples of documentation that is accepted and not accepted:

<i>Example:</i>	<i>Example:</i>	<i>Example:</i>	<i>Example:</i>
ACCEPTED <u>Notice of Award (SSDI)</u>	ACCEPTED <u>Summary of Benefits (VA)</u>	ACCEPTED <u>Award Letter (VA)</u>	NOT ACCEPTED <u>Notice of Benefit Increase (SSDI)</u>
		** Letter must denominate any disability percentage **	

6. Are Golden Access Passports still valid?

Golden Age Passports are valid for a lifetime however, if they physically wear out you will need to obtain a replacement Access Pass with proper identification.

7. Can my permanently disabled child get an Access Pass?

Example:



NOT ACCEPTED
Handicap Placard/Application

Yes. There is not an age requirement for this pass.

8. Where can I use my Access Pass?

Please contact a site directly if you have a question about pass acceptance and fees.

The Forest Service, the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation honor the Access Pass at sites where Entrance or Standard Amenity Fees are charged.

- Bureau of Land Management <http://www.blm.gov>
- Bureau of Reclamation <http://www.usbr.gov>
- Fish and Wildlife Service <http://www.fws.gov>
- USDA Forest Service <http://www.fs.fed.us>
- National Park Service <http://www.nps.gov>

In addition, the Corps of Engineers and Tennessee Valley Authority may honor the Access Pass for entrance or camping discounts.

9. Why is the US Army Corps of Engineers accepting Access Passes but not issuing them?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) was not included in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (REA), which gave agencies the authority to create the *America the Beautiful - the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass*. Although the Corps will not sell or issue the passes, the Corps will accept the Access Passes or Golden Access Passports as proof of eligibility for disability-related discounts. More information may be found at: <http://www.CorpsLakes.us/fees>.

[top](#)

Access Pass Use

1. Who is admitted with an Access Pass?

The Access Pass admits pass owner/s and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per-vehicle fee areas and pass owner + 3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, where per-person fees are charged. (Children under 16 are always admitted free.)
Note: Photo identification will be requested to verify pass ownership.

2. If I have more than four people in my car, how many passes do I need?

- One pass covers the vehicle at sites that charge "per vehicle".
- At "per person" sites, the applicable fee will be charged for each additional person.

3. My family is traveling in two cars; will one Access Pass let all of us into the site?

No. Only the vehicle with the pass owner is covered. The second vehicle is subject to an entrance fee, or must have (or buy) a second pass.

4. What about motorcycle drivers who have an Access Pass?

An Access Pass permits entrance for one motorcycle.

5. What if I forgot to bring my Access Pass?

You will be required to pay the applicable Entrance or Standard Amenity Fee(s).

6. What if my Access Pass is lost, stolen or damaged?

- If lost or stolen, you'll need to apply for another one.
- If damaged, it can be replaced as long as a portion of the pass is identifiable and you show proper identification.

7. How do I show my pass at a site that doesn't have an entrance station?

At Federal recreation sites that don't have entrance stations you need to display your pass or show proof of pass ownership to compliance officers via one of the two following methods:

HANGTAGS

A pass can either be displayed on your rearview mirror using a free hangtag or on your dashboard with the signature side showing. Remember, the hangtag itself is only a way to display your Pass, and is not valid for entry unless it holds a valid Pass.

DECALS

If you own an open-topped vehicle (jeep, motorcycle, etc.) you may obtain a free decal to attach to your vehicle that will serve as proof of payment at sites that don't have a staffed entrance station.

- Decals are issued on annual basis, even for owners of lifetime Senior/Access passes
- Decals are NOT valid for entry at staffed entrance sites - you MUST show your pass
- Decals must be obtained in person and you must show the following: your Pass, driver's license and vehicle registration. The name on all three documents must match.
- All sites that issue passes issue free hangtags

8. Can I use my Access Pass at state parks or local city/county recreation sites?

No. The Access Pass is valid only at participating Federal recreation sites. Visit <http://www.recreation.gov> for information about Federal recreation sites.

[top](#)

Access Pass Benefits

Please contact a site directly if you have a question about pass acceptance and fees.

1. In addition to free entry, does the Access Pass include any discounts at Federal Recreation sites?

At many sites the Access Pass provides the pass owner a discount on Expanded Amenity Fees (such as camping, swimming, boat launching, and guided tours).

2. What are the discount guidelines?

The pass program is managed by five Federal agencies that operate under different regulations and have different fees. Therefore, the discount program for the Access Pass is not handled in the same way on all Federal recreation lands.

U.S.

In general discounts are honored as follows:

- **Individual Campsites:** The discount only applies to the fee for the campsite physically occupied by the pass owner, not to any additional campsite(s) occupied by members of the pass owner's party.
 - **Campsites with Utility Hookups:** If utility fees are charged separately, there is no discount. The discount may apply if the utility fee is combined (seamless) with the campsite fee.
 - **Group Campsites and Facilities** (including, but not limited to, group facilities, picnic areas or pavilions): There is no discount for group campsites and other group facilities that charge a flat fee. If the group campsite has a per person fee rate, only the pass owner receives a discount; others using the site pay the full fee.
 - **Guided Tours:** The pass offers discounts on some guided tours. Only the pass owner receives a discount if one is offered.
 - **Transportation Systems: (Inquire Locally)**
 - **Concessionaire Fees: (Inquire Locally)**
 - **Special Use Permit Fees: (Inquire Locally)**
3. Does my Access Pass provide any discounts at Cooperating Association bookstores or gift shops that are located in the Federal Recreation sites?
- No. The Access Pass does not cover discounts in on-site bookstores or gift stores.

[top](#)

Department of the Interior | U.S. Geological Survey
URL: <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/index.html>
Page Contact Information: usgsstore@usgs.gov
Page Last Modified: January 09, 2013

APPLICATION FOR MAIL ORDER SALES OF THE AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL – THE NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS ACCESS PASS

U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service,
National Park Service --- U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service

About the Access Pass:

The Access Pass is a free, lifetime pass available to United States citizens or permanent residents, regardless of age, that have a permanent disability. The Pass can be used at over 2000 Federal recreation sites across the nation, including National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and many National Forest lands. The Access Pass admits the Pass owner and any passengers traveling with him/her in a non-commercial vehicle at per-vehicle fee areas or the Pass owner and three additional adults where per-person fees are charged. The Access Pass may also offer a discount on some expanded amenity fees, such as camping. Discounts offered by the Pass vary widely across the many different types of recreation sites. Pass owners are encouraged to check with sites they plan to visit before obtaining a pass to verify that their Pass will be accepted. Anytime a Pass is used, photo identification will be requested to verify Pass ownership.

How to Obtain an Access Pass

The pass may be obtained two ways, either at a federal recreation site where entrance or standard amenity fees are charged or through the mail. To obtain a pass you must have identification to verify that you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, which could include:

- A US State or Territory issued Drivers License, Identification or Birth Certificate
- A US Passport or Passport Card
- A Permanent Resident Card (Green Card)

You must also have documentation that you have a permanent disability, which could include:

A statement signed by a licensed physician attesting that you have a permanent physical, mental, or sensory impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, and stating the nature of the impairment;

OR

A document issued by a Federal agency, such as the Veteran's Administration, which attests that you have been medically determined to be eligible to receive Federal benefits as a result of blindness or permanent disability. Other acceptable Federal agency documents include proof of receipt of Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI);

OR

A document issued by a State agency such as the vocational rehabilitation agency, which attests that you have been medically determined to be eligible to receive vocational rehabilitation agency benefits or services as a result of medically determined blindness or permanent disability. Showing a State motor vehicle department disability sticker, license plate or hang tag is not acceptable documentation.

Obtaining a Pass Through the Mail

To obtain an Access pass through the mail you must complete this application, provide a photocopy of proof of citizenship or residency, documentation of disability and pay the processing fee. The cost of obtaining an Access Pass through the mail is ten dollars (\$10) for processing the application (the Pass is free).

Obtaining a Pass in Person

If you apply for an Access Pass at a Federal recreation site you do NOT need to fill out this application. When you arrive at the recreation site, the officer selling the pass will verify your documentation of disability and that you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident by checking your ID. You will then be issued the Pass. The Pass is free if obtained in person, there is no processing fee. Before making a trip to obtain a Pass, be sure to contact the site to ensure that they have passes available.

Replacement Passes

Lost or stolen Passes cannot be replaced at this time. If your pass has been lost or stolen you must obtain a new one. Worn or damaged Passes can be replaced free of charge at any recreation site where Passes are issued, or through the mail by returning the Pass with this application and paying the ten dollar (\$10) processing fee.

APPLICATION FOR THE AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL – THE NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS ACCESS PASS

U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service,
National Park Service --- U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service

Your mail application for an Access Pass must include:

Product #209291

1. This completed, signed application form.
2. **Photocopy** of documentation issued by Social Security Disability, Office of Veterans Affairs and/or a licensed physician that demonstrates permanent disability.
3. **Photocopy** of documentation issued by an authorized U.S. agency that demonstrates U.S. citizenship or permanent residence. (driver's license, passport, state issued ID).
4. Payment of the processing fee by Credit Card.
5. For a pass replacement please submit the original worn pass.

****Do Not Send Original Documents****

Please Print Clearly - Your name should appear as it does on your Photo ID

First Name _____	Middle _____	Last Name _____
Mailing Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip Code _____
Day Time Telephone _____		
E-Mail Address _____		

By submitting this application:

I hereby affirm that I am a citizen of or domiciled in the United States, and that I have been medically determined to have a permanent physical, mental, or sensory impairment that severely limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities include functions such as: caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, etc. (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 USC § 705 20)).

Signature: _____ Date _____

Payment

Credit Card Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Credit Card Number: Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Send your completed Application to:

USGS
Attn: Access Pass
Box 25286
Denver, CO 80225

Questions: fedrecpass@usgs.gov
1-888-ASK-USGS
(1-888-275-8747)

Federal Law 18 U.S.C. 1001 makes it a crime in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States for any person knowingly and willfully to falsify, conceal, or cover up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact; to make any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or to make or use any false writing or document knowing that it contains a materially false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry. Violations of 18 U.S.C. 1001 are punishable by fines of up to \$10,000, imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

Public Burden Statement: The public burden for the collection of information is estimated to be 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing the form. Comments regarding the burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information may be sent to the National Park Service, WASO Fee Management Office, 1849 C St., NW (2608), Washington, D.C. 20240.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. This information is collected to determine adequate proof of disability and residency. The obligation to respond is required to obtain the Interagency Senior Pass.

[Print Form](#)