

# FEDERAL RECREATION PASSPORT PROGRAM

## Introduction

Some federal parks, refuges and facilities can be entered and used free of charge. Other areas and facilities require payment of entrance fees, user fees, special recreation permit fees, or some combination.

There are five congressionally authorized entrance passes. The annual Golden Eagle Passport and the two lifetime passes, the Golden Age Passport and Golden Access Passport, can be used at all federally operated outdoor recreation areas which charge entrance fees. These include national parks, recreation areas, and wildlife refuges. The annual Park Pass can be used only at a specific national park which charges entrance fees. The annual federal Duck Stamp can be used at any national wildlife refuge which charges entrance fees.

These passes were established as part of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended, and the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986. These passes are options the visitor may consider rather than paying single-visit entrance fees which range from \$1 to \$2 per person or \$3 to \$7.50 per carload.

In addition to entrance fees, some areas may also require user fees. User fees are charged for the use of certain facilities such as campgrounds, boat launching equipment, cave tours, and so on. Additionally, fees may be charged for specialized uses, such as group activities, recreation events, and motorized recreation vehicles.

The money collected by the seven federal land-managing agencies that provide public outdoor recreation opportunities is used for providing recreational use and conservation of the unique land, water, and biological resources of our nation.

U.S. Department  
of the Interior  
1987

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## Golden Eagle Passport For persons under 62

### What is it?

The Golden Eagle Passport is an annual entrance pass to those national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas and national wildlife refuges that charge entrance fees.

The passport admits the permit holder and any accompanying passengers in a single, private, noncommercial vehicle.<sup>1</sup> Where entry is not by private vehicle, the passport covers the holder, spouse, children and parents. The Golden Eagle Passport does not cover use fees, such as fees for camping or parking. It is valid for entrance fees only.

The Golden Eagle Passport costs \$25 and is neither refundable nor transferable. It is good for one calendar year (January 1 through December 31) and permits unlimited entries to all federal entrance fee areas.

Those who plan several visits to park and refuge areas that charge entrance fees may save by buying the Golden Eagle Passport for \$25 rather than paying single-visit entrance fees which range from \$1 to \$2 per person or \$3 to \$7.50 per carload.

### How Do I Get One?

A Golden Eagle Passport may be purchased in person or by mail for \$25 from the National Park Service or U.S. Forest Service headquarters offices in Washington, D.C., one of their regional offices (addresses on pages 7 and 8), or park units or refuge areas that charge entrance fees.

<sup>1</sup> A private noncommercial vehicle is defined as any passenger car, station wagon, pickup, camper truck, recreation vehicle, motorcycle, or other motor vehicle used for private recreation purposes.

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## Golden Age Passport For persons 62 and older

### What Is It?

The Golden Age Passport is a free lifetime entrance pass to those national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas and national wildlife refuges administered by the federal government which charges entrance fees. It is issued to citizens or permanent residents of the United States who are 62 or older. It also provides a 50 percent discount on federal use fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, boat launching, parking, and so on. The Golden Age Passport does not cover fees charged by private concessionaires.

The Golden Age Passport admits the permit holder and any accompanying passengers in a single, private, noncommercial vehicle.<sup>1</sup> Where entry is not by private car, the passport admits the permit holder and his or her spouse, children and parents.

<sup>1</sup> A private noncommercial vehicle is defined as any passenger car, station wagon, pickup, camper truck, recreation vehicle, motorcycle, or other motor vehicle used for private recreation purposes.

Note: In some cases where use fees are charged, only the permit holder will be given the 50 percent reduction, for example, for cave tours or elevator services.

### How Do I Get One?

A Golden Age Passport must be obtained in person. They are not available by mail. You must show proof of age in order to get a Golden Age Passport. This may be a state driver's license showing your birth date, a birth certificate, or Medicare card.

The Golden Age Passport is available at most federally operated recreation areas where it may be used. Thus, it is not necessary to obtain the passport before beginning a vacation trip.

The Golden Age Passport may be obtained in person at:

- \* All National Park Service, and Forest Service headquarters and regional offices

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- \* All Forest Service supervisor's offices
- \* Most Forest Service ranger station offices
- \* All National Park System areas where entrance fees are charged
- \* Bureau of Land Management state and district offices
- \* Tennessee Valley Authority—Land Between the Lakes and all recreation areas that charge fees
- \* All Fish and Wildlife Service regional offices and national wildlife refuges where fees are charged
- \* Bureau of Reclamation—Hoover Dam

## Golden Access Passport For blind and disabled persons

### What Is It?

The Golden Access Passport is a free lifetime entrance pass to those federally-operated parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas and wildlife refuges which charge entrance fees. It is issued to citizens or permanent residents of the United States who have been medically determined to be blind or permanently disabled and as a result, are eligible to receive benefits under federal law. The passport also provides a 50 percent discount on federal use fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, boat launching, parking, and so forth. The Golden Access Passport does not cover fees charged by private concessionaires.

The Golden Access Passport admits the permit holder and any accompanying passengers in a single, private, noncommercial vehicle.<sup>1</sup> Where entry is not by private car, the passport admits the permit holder and his or her spouse, children and parents.

<sup>1</sup> A private noncommercial vehicle is defined as any passenger car, station wagon, pickup, camper truck, recreation vehicle, motorcycle, or other motor vehicle used for private recreation purposes.

Note: In some cases where use fees are charged, only the permit holder will be given the 50 percent reduction, for example, for cave tours or elevator services.

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### How Do I Get One?

You may only obtain a Golden Access Passport in person. They are not available by mail. You must show proof of being medically determined to be blind or permanently disabled and therefore eligible for receiving benefits under federal law.

The Golden Access Passport is available at most of the federally-operated recreation and refuge areas described under the Golden Age Passport. It is not necessary to obtain the passport before beginning a vacation trip.

### Park Pass To a specific unit

#### What Is It?

The Park Pass is an annual entrance permit to a specific park, monument, historic site or recreation area in the National Park System that charges entrance fees.

The pass admits the permit holder and any accompanying passengers in a single, private, noncommercial vehicle.<sup>1</sup> Where entry is not by private vehicle, the pass permits the holder, spouse, children and parents. The Park Pass does not cover use fees, such as fees for camping or parking. It is valid for entrance fees only.

The Park Pass costs \$10 or \$15, depending upon the area, and is neither refundable nor transferable. It is good for one calendar year (January 1 through December 31) and permits unlimited entries only to the park unit where it is purchased.

Those who plan several visits to other parks and refuge areas that charge entrance fees may save by buying the Golden Eagle Passport for \$25 rather than purchasing the Park Pass or by paying individual entrance fees which range from about \$1 per person to \$7.50 per car.

### How Do I Get One?

A Park Pass may be purchased in person or by mail

<sup>1</sup> A private noncommercial vehicle is defined as any passenger car, station wagon, pickup, camper truck, recreation vehicle, motorcycle, or other motor vehicle used for private recreation purposes.

from the National Park Service unit at which the pass will be honored.

### Federal Duck Stamp

#### What is it?

Officially known as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, the Duck Stamp was authorized in 1934 as a federal permit to hunt waterfowl and a source of revenue to purchase wetlands.

Although still required of waterfowl hunters, the federal Duck Stamp now also serves as an annual entrance fee permit to national wildlife refuges which charge entrance fees.

The federal Duck Stamp admits the stamp holder and any accompanying passengers in a single, private, non-commercial vehicle.<sup>1</sup> Where entry is not by private vehicle, the stamp permits the holder, spouse, children and parents. The federal Duck Stamp does not cover use fees, such as fees for camping, tours or blind rental. It is valid for entrance fees only.

The federal Duck Stamp costs \$10 and is neither refundable nor transferable. Each Stamp must be validated by the signature of the bearer across the face of the stamp. A stamp is good from July 1 through June 30 of the following year and permits unlimited entries to all national wildlife refuges which charge entrance fees. It is not valid as an entrance permit outside the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Those who plan visits to one or more national wildlife refuges which charge entrance fees may save by buying the federal Duck Stamp for \$10 rather than paying daily single-visit entrance fees which range from about \$1 per person to \$7.50 per car.

### How Do I Get One?

The federal Duck Stamp can be purchased at most post offices and many national wildlife refuges. Some sporting goods stores may also carry them as a service to

their customers. They may also be purchased through the mail from the U.S. Postal Service, Philatelic Sales Division, Washington, D.C. 20265-9997 for the price of the stamp plus \$.50 postage and handling.

<sup>1</sup> A private noncommercial vehicle is defined as any passenger car, station wagon, pickup, camper truck, recreation vehicle, motorcycle, or other motor vehicle used for private recreation purposes.

### FEDERAL RECREATION FEES

Only those federal areas designated as fee areas of facilities may charge entrance or recreation use fees.

Note: The Golden Eagle, Golden Age, Golden Access, annual Park Pass, Duck Stamp, single-visit entrance fees, recreation use fees, or special recreation permit fees do not cover charges by private concessionaires or other contractors operating within federal recreation areas.

### INFORMATION SERVICES

#### National Park Service

##### Headquarters:

U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
PO Box 37127  
Washington, DC  
20013-7127

##### Regional Offices:

North Atlantic Region  
15 State Street  
Boston, MA 02109-3572  
Mid-Atlantic Region  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
National Capital Region  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20242  
Southeast Region  
75 Spring Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
Midwest Region  
1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, NE 68102

Rocky Mountain Region  
655 Parfet Street  
PO Box 25287  
Denver, CO 80225

Southwest Region  
PO Box 728  
Sante Fe, NM 87504-0728  
Alaska Region  
2525 Gambell Street, Rm 107  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Golden Gate National  
Recreation Area  
Fort Mason, Hdq. Bldg. 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Santa Monica Mountains  
National Recreation Area  
22900 Ventura Blvd.  
Suite 140  
Woodland Hills, CA 91364  
Pacific Northwest Region  
83 South King Street  
Suite 212  
Seattle, WA 98104

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

#### Headquarters:

Division of Refuges  
Rm 2343  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
18th and C Streets, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

#### Regional Offices:

Pacific Region  
Lloyd 500 Bldg.  
Suite 1692  
500 NE Multnomah Street  
Portland, OR 97232

Southwest Region  
Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

### FOREST SERVICE

#### Headquarters:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
14th and Independence Ave.  
South Agriculture Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20250

#### Regional Offices:

Northern Region  
Federal Building  
Missoula, MT 59807  
Rocky Mountain Region  
240 W. Prospect  
Box 25127  
Denver, CO 80225  
Southwestern Region  
517 Gold Avenue, SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
Intermountain Region  
324 25th Street  
Ogden, UT 84401

North Central Region  
Federal Building  
Fort Snelling  
Twin Cities, MN 55111

Southeast Region  
75 Spring Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Northeast Region  
One Gateway Center  
Suite 700  
Newton Corner, MA 02158

Denver Region  
Box 25486  
Denver, CO 80225

Alaska Region  
1011 E. Tudor Road  
Anchorage, AK 99503

California Region  
630 Sansome Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Pacific Northwest Region  
319 S.W. Pine Street  
PO Box 3890  
Portland, OR 97208

Southern Region  
1720 Peachtree Road, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30309

Eastern Region  
310 West Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Alaska Region  
Box 1628  
Juneau, AK 99802

FEE OPTIONS	COST	ELIGIBILITY/ CRITERIA	ALLOWS ENTRY TO	GOOD FOR	FOR DETAILS SEE
SINGLE-VISIT ENTRANCE FEE (Daily or other term, as posted)	Fees range from \$1 per person to \$7.50 per vehicle as set by the individual areas	At national park units, fees are charged of visitors 13 thru 61 years of age; at national wildlife refuges, visitors 16 thru 61 years of age	Specific national park or national wildlife unit (where fees are paid)	Oct. 1 thru Sept. 30	P. 1
GOLDEN EAGLE PASSPORT	\$25 annually	(see above)	All federal entrance fee areas	Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31	P. 2
GOLDEN AGE PASSPORT	Free	For visitors 62 years or older	All federal entrance fee areas plus 50 percent discount on recreation use fees	Lifetime	P. 3
GOLDEN ACCESS PASSPORT	Free	For visitors who are blind or permanently disabled	All federal entrance fee areas plus 50 percent discount on recreation use fees	Lifetime	P. 4
PARK PASS	\$10 to \$15 annually	For visitors 13 thru 61 years of age	The national park unit at which the pass is purchased	Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31	P. 5
DUCK STAMP	\$10 annually	For visitors 16 thru 61 years of age	All national wildlife refuges which charge entrance fees	July 1 thru June 30	P. 6