

National Parks Access Pass

The America the Beautiful Access Pass is a lifetime pass and is available at no charge to veterans with a service-connected disability. Participating agencies include the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation. Documentation is required to obtain the pass. Acceptable documentation includes a Veteran's Administration rating letter granting a service connected disability of 0% or greater, or a Veteran's Administration Health Care Card stating service connected.

The pass provides access to, and use of, federal recreation sites that charge an entrance or standard amenity fee. The pass admits the pass holder and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder plus 3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, at per person fee areas (children under 16 are admitted free). The pass can be obtained in person at the park, or at designated offices nationwide. The Access Pass provides a 50% discount on some expanded amenity fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launching, and specialized interpretive services. In some cases where expanded amenity fees are charged, only the pass holder will be given the 50% price reduction.

The pass is non-transferable and generally does not cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires. For additional info refer to <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/access.html>. Applications are available at this website and also at our office.

Contact Joe Wright if you would like to receive veteran's information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information on the Web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office website at www.countyofkings.com.

Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford, CA 93230; call 582-3211, ext. 2669; or e-mail joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us.