

Discounts for Seniors and Disabled at USDA Forest Service Campgrounds

Questions and Answers

1. Do seniors and people with disabilities have affordable access to Forest Service campgrounds?
 - Yes. Seniors 62 and older pay a one-time \$10 fee for the Senior Pass. Lifetime Access Passes for people with disabilities are free. Concessioners will continue to honor these passes at Forest Service campgrounds.
2. Will holders of Golden Age and Golden Access Passports as well as Senior and Access Passes continue to receive 50 percent discounts?
 - Yes. Under current policy, seniors and people with disabilities who are pass holders receive a 50 percent discount at both Forest Service-operated campgrounds and concession-operated campgrounds.
3. Why the Forest Service decide not to change current policy?
 - In the current difficult economic times, the Chief determined maintaining current benefits to Seniors and people with disabilities outweighs advantages a changed fee structure would offer.
4. How would the concession industry be affected by the requirement to continue to honor 50 percent camping discounts to pass holders?
 - The Forest Service recognizes the challenges faced by the concession industry. Although the Forest Service has determined the proposed changes in discounts to pass holders is not the solution, the agency will continue to work with this important industry and the public to ensure the American people have continued access to recreation opportunities on national forests and grasslands.
5. Did the proposed directive affect how the National Park Service honors senior and access passes?
 - No. The proposed directive did not apply to recreation facilities provided by the National Park Service.
6. Explain the differences among all Forest Service public land passes.
 - The Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) replaced the Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access Passports with the America the Beautiful–National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, known as the Interagency Pass. Golden Age and Golden Access Passports are still honored in lieu of an Interagency Pass. The Interagency Pass consists of four passes:

The Annual Pass, which:

- Costs \$80 per year, is valid for 1 year, and may be purchased by anyone.
- Covers Forest Service-operated, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation sites that charge a standard amenity recreation fee under REA (such as picnic sites and trailheads) as well as entrance to national parks and other areas where an entrance fee is charged under REA.
- The Annual Pass is not accepted at Forest Service standard amenity sites operated by concessioners.

The Senior Pass, which:

- Costs \$10 and is issued for life to citizens and permanent residents who are 62 years of age or older.
- Provides the holder a 50 percent discount at Forest Service-operated and concession-operated campgrounds.
- Covers Forest Service-operated, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation sites that charge a standard amenity recreation fee under REA (such as picnic sites and trailheads) as well as entrance to national parks and other areas where an entrance fee is charged under REA.
- The Annual Pass is not accepted at Forest Service standard amenity sites operated by concessioners.

The Access Pass, which:

- Is free and is issued for life to citizens and permanent residents who have a permanent disability under Federal law.
- Provides the holder a 50 percent discount at Forest Service-operated and concession-operated campgrounds.
- Covers Forest Service-operated, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation sites that charge a standard amenity recreation fee under REA (such as picnic sites and trailheads) as well as entrance to national parks and other areas where an entrance fee is charged under REA.
- The Annual Pass is not accepted at Forest Service standard amenity sites operated by concessioners.

The Volunteer Pass, which:

- Is a free annual pass issued to those who perform over 500 hours of volunteer work on federal lands.
- Covers Forest Service-operated, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation sites that charge a standard amenity recreation fee under REA (such as picnic sites and trailheads) as well as entrance to national parks and other areas where an entrance fee is charged under REA.
- The Annual Pass is not accepted at Forest Service standard amenity sites operated by concessioners.

7. What is a Standard Amenity Recreation Fee site?

- Standard Amenity Recreation Fees (SARF) are authorized at many day use sites. The most common SARF sites are picnic areas and trailheads.
8. What is the difference between a camping fee and a Standard Amenity Recreation Fee?
- Camping fees are classified as "Expanded Amenity Recreation Fees" (EARFs) under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA). EARFs are also authorized at some day use areas, such as swim areas and boat launches. SARF sites and EARF sites require different amenities under REA to qualify for a recreation fees.