

ABOUT THE VOLUNTEER PASS

1. What is the Volunteer Pass?

A Volunteer Pass is awarded to those individuals who volunteer 500 hours on recreation lands managed by one or more of five Federal agencies as a way to say "thank you!"

2. Which agencies participate in the Volunteer Pass program?

Volunteer hours may be accrued on lands managed by the following:

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

3. Where can I find out about volunteer opportunities on Federal recreation lands?

<http://www.volunteer.gov/gov/> **OR Inquire Locally**

HOW TO EARN A VOLUNTEER PASS

1. Who qualifies for the Volunteer Pass?

The Volunteer Pass will be issued free of charge to volunteers who accrue 500 volunteer hours. Hours accrued prior to January 1, 2007, do not count towards a Volunteer Pass.

2. Do I have to accrue the 500 hours in one calendar year?

No. There is no specific timeframe in which volunteer hours must be accrued. Hours can be accrued over one, or several, calendar years.

3. How will volunteer hours be recorded and tracked?

Work with your local Federal recreation site supervisor or Volunteer Coordinator to track your hours. Whatever format you use to track your time, be sure to keep copies for your records.

4. What happens when a volunteer reaches the 500 hours?

Once the 500 hour requirement is reached, a pass is issued, and the volunteer's "Pass hours" are reset to zero and the count begins again.

5. Who will issue the Volunteer Pass?

The Federal Volunteer Coordinator who authorizes that a volunteer has accrued 500 hours.

6. If a person volunteers more than 500 hours in one year, do they receive additional passes?

No. If a volunteer works more than the 500 hours a year they still earn only one pass per year.

VOLUNTEER PASS USE

1. How long is the Volunteer Pass valid?

The Volunteer Pass is valid for 12 months from the month of issuance.

2. Can a volunteer give their pass to someone else if they already have an annual or lifetime pass?

No. Volunteer Passes are non-transferable and may not be given to someone else or traded in for cash equivalent. The Volunteer Pass is only one means of rewarding a volunteer, so if a volunteer already has a pass, other types of acknowledgement will be offered in place of a pass.

***Note:** Photo identification may be requested at Federal recreation sites to verify pass ownership.*

3. What does the Volunteer Pass cover?

The Volunteer Pass admits pass owner and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per-vehicle fee areas and pass owner + 3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, at per-person fee areas. (Children under 16 are always admitted free.)

4. Is the Volunteer Pass valid at un-staffed Federal recreation sites?

Yes. A free Hangtag is available with the Volunteer Pass, providing a way to display the pass so it is visible through the windshield of a vehicle.

- *Insert your Volunteer Pass on the side of the Hangtag stating*

“Annual.”

- *When visiting un-staffed Federal recreation sites, place the Hangtag on your rearview mirror, ensuring your pass is facing towards your vehicle window.*
- *Hangtags are merely a way to display your valid pass and they **are not valid for entry without a valid pass.***

5. My family is traveling in two cars; will one Volunteer 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 use a second pass.

6. My spouse and I are each riding our own motorcycle or scooter; will one Volunteer Pass cover both our entries?

No. At sites with per vehicle entrance fees the Volunteer Pass will cover entrance for the pass owner on one motorcycle only.

7. I have a school bus that has been converted into a motor home. Will the Volunteer Pass cover my entrance into a Federal recreation site?

Yes. However, you will be questioned if the vehicle still looks like a school bus, and not a private motor home. (The Pass covers entrance for a single non-commercial vehicle).

VOLUNTEER PASS BENEFITS

1. Does the Volunteer Pass include any discounts at Cooperating Association bookstores, or at gift shops that are located in the Federal Recreation sites?

No. The Volunteer Pass **does not** provide discounts at Cooperating Association bookstores or on-site gift shops.

2. Does the Volunteer Pass provide any discounts on Expanded Amenity or Concessionaire (Concessioner) Fees?

No. The Volunteer Pass **does not** cover discounts on any Expanded Amenity or Concessionaire Fees such as: camping, RV hook-ups, boat launching, backcountry permits, parking at Mount Rushmore, guided cave tours at Wind Cave National Park; or parking at some historic monuments or homes.

3. How can I tell the difference between a Standard Amenity Fee, an Expanded Amenity Fee, a Special Recreation Permit Fee, or a Concessionaire (Concessioner) Fee?

Since the pass program is managed by five Federal agencies that operate under different regulations and charge different types of fees, it can be confusing to sort out fees, terminology, and to distinguish between a “Federally-managed facility/activity” versus a “concession-managed facility/activity”.

Please see the **Definitions** section for further details, but more importantly, **Inquire Locally** with your fee and Pass-acceptance related questions

4. Is a Volunteer Pass valid at State Parks or local city/county Recreation Areas?

No. The Annual Pass is valid only at participating Federal recreation sites. Visit www.recreation.gov for information about Federal recreation sites.