



America the Beautiful

The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program

Introduction

Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), Public Law 108-447, in December 2004.

REA established a new interagency pass program to replace the Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access Passports and the National Parks Pass. The passes will be informally known as the Interagency Annual Pass, Interagency Senior Pass, and Interagency Access Pass. The new interagency pass program also introduces a new pass for volunteers.

The new pass program is expected to begin in January 2007.

The Golden Passports will no longer be issued after the new passes go on sale. After launching the new passes, old passports in stock must be documented and destroyed according to agency policy. A small supply of all of the Golden Passports should be kept on hand to replace damaged passes.

General Rules

Passes

- Are non-transferable.
- Are non-replaceable if lost or stolen.
- Are void if altered.
- Are replaceable if damaged as long as identification is provided to validate ownership and a portion of the damaged pass is identifiable.
- Must be serially numbered.
- Must be signed by the pass holder(s) to be valid.
- Must be punched with an expiration date when purchased/issued, whether in person or over the internet (Annual/Volunteer Passes).
- Do not provide a discount at friends/cooperating association bookstores, etc.
- When issuing passes, staff should help visitors determine if a decal or hangtag is needed and should explain how to use them.

The Golden Eagle Passports and National Parks Passes that were sold prior to the new pass launch will be honored until they expire.

The Golden Age and the Golden Access Passports will continue to be honored for the lifetime of the pass holder, so both passes, along with the new Interagency Senior and Access Passes, will be valid for many years to come.

Exchanging the Golden Age and Golden Access Passports for the new Senior and Access Passes

Paper Golden Age and Golden Access Passports should be exchanged for new Interagency Senior and Access Passes, free of charge, to facilitate future data collection. However, even the paper versions are valid for a lifetime, so we cannot require the pass holders to exchange them.

Existing plastic Golden Age and Access Passports are valid for a lifetime and should not be exchanged. If visitors ask to trade these in, explain that their pass is still valid. If they have a Golden Access Passport and insist on trading it in, do so at no charge. If the pass is a Golden Age, they should be charged the \$10 fee for the new pass.

Interagency Annual Pass

The photo on Annual Pass will be replaced annually, so new passes will be issued each year:



Passes with the image from the previous year should be destroyed.

Benefits

- The pass admits the pass holder/s and any accompanying passengers in a private non-commercial vehicle at per-vehicle fee areas, and pass holder and up to 3 persons, not to exceed 4 persons (16 and older) at per-person fee areas. Persons 15 and younger are admitted free of charge.

Cost

- \$80.00

Availability

- The pass will be available for purchase by the general public and will be valid for one year from the month of purchase.
- The pass will be available for purchase at Federal recreation sites that charge an entrance fee and are staffed by fee collection personnel. The pass will also be available at many Federal agency offices.
- The pass will be sold by participating cooperating associations, at some national retailers and through the internet.

Validation

- The pass, which must be validated at time of purchase, expires 12 months from the month of purchase.
- The pass is not valid until signed, on at least one signature line. Any two individuals may sign the pass regardless of their relationship.

Pass Use

- The pass belongs to the signer/s only, and s/he must be present for the pass to be used.

Motorcycles

For consistency, all sites should now treat motorcycles as individual vehicles.

However, because two individuals may sign one Interagency Annual Pass, and it is highly likely that the two will travel together on separate motorcycles, they shall be admitted on separate motorcycles with one pass.

Interagency Senior Pass

The new Senior Pass will replace the Golden Age Passport. Existing Golden Age Passports will continue to be honored.



Benefits

- The pass admits the pass holder and any accompanying passengers in a private non-commercial vehicle at per-vehicle fee areas, and pass holder and up to 3 persons, not to exceed 4 persons (16 and older) at per-person fee areas. Persons 15 and younger are admitted free of charge.
- 50% discount on some expanded amenity fees for passholder.

Cost

- \$10 Lifetime.

Pass Use

- Must be 62 or older, a legal citizen or permanent resident, and purchase in person.
- The pass belongs to the signer only and s/he must be present for the pass to be used.

Required Documentation

- To be eligible, an applicant must present documentation of age and residency.

Interagency Access Pass



The new Access Pass will replace the Golden Access Passport. Existing Golden Access Passports will continue to be

honored. We only issue these to U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are permanently disabled.

Benefits

- The pass admits the pass holder and any accompanying passengers in a private non-commercial vehicle at per-vehicle fee areas, and pass holder and up to 3 persons, not to exceed 4 persons (16 and older) at per-person fee areas. Persons 15 and younger are admitted free of charge.
- 50% discount on some expanded amenity fees for passholder.

Required Documentation

- To be eligible for the Access Pass, an applicant must present documentation of permanent disability and residency. If an applicant cannot produce documentation, s/he must read, sign, and date the Statement of Disability Form in the presence of the staff member issuing the pass.

Cost

- Free Lifetime.

Pass Use

- The pass belongs to the signer only, and s/he must be present for the pass to be used.
- Must obtain pass in person.

Interagency Volunteer Pass



Annual pass issued to volunteers who accrue 500 volunteer hours.

Benefits

- The pass admits the pass holder and any accompanying passengers in a private non-commercial vehicle at per-vehicle fee areas, and pass holder and up to 3 persons, not to exceed 4 persons (16 and older) at per-person fee areas. Persons 15 and younger are admitted free of charge.

Cost

- Free annual pass for volunteers who accrue 500 volunteer hours.

Availability

- The pass will be available through agency-specific volunteer program coordinators.
- Volunteers may officially begin to accrue hours on or after January 1, 2007.

Pass Use

- The pass belongs to the signer only, and s/he must be present for the pass to be used.

Decals

A new product, Interagency Annual Decal will be available to those who park open-topped vehicles (like Jeeps) or motorcycles at unstaffed Federal recreation sites. The decal will allow visitors to display proof of payment without leaving their Interagency Annual/Volunteer Pass unsecured in their vehicle.

- The decal is only valid at unstaffed sites for open-topped vehicles. At staffed Federal recreation sites, a valid Interagency Annual Pass or Interagency Volunteer Pass must be shown.
- The vehicle tag number will be written on the decal to validate it. Vehicle registration is required and must match the names of the those who have signed the pass.
- To prevent tampering, decals are designed to self-destruct if removed; they are nontransferable.
- A maximum of two decals may be issued per Interagency Annual Pass.
- A maximum of one decal may be issued per Interagency Volunteer Pass.
- The Interagency Annual Pass or Interagency Volunteer Pass must be punched to indicate the number of the number of decals issued.

- The decal must be placed on the lower right hand side of the windshield for automobiles and on the front of motorcycles in a clearly visible place.
- Decals expire at the same time as the pass, no matter when the decal is issued. The expiration must be punched on the decal.

Hangtags

Another new product, the Interagency Pass Hangtag, will be available for issuance to those who recreate at Federal sites that are not regularly staffed by fee collection or enforcement personnel. These hangtags, which should be hung from the rearview mirror, will allow pass holders to display their pass in the window of their vehicle so the expiration date is clearly visible for compliance checks. The hangtag makes it easier for enforcement personnel in these areas to view the pass and the expiration date.

- Hangtags will be printed on two-sides. One side will show the expiration month for the Annual and volunteer pass. The other side is for use with the Interagency Senior or Access Passes.
- Hangtags alone are not passes and are not valid for entry or use. It is only a means for displaying the pass at unstaffed sites.
- Because hangtags do not have a number associated with them, they are not considered accountable property.
- Hangtags may be replaced free of charge or issued to people who did not receive one when they were issued a pass.

For More Information

Field stations that sell these passes will continue to order them through the Regional Office. For more information or to order these passes, contact:

<i>Region 1</i>	Mike Marxen	503/872-2700
<i>Region 2</i>	Lori Jones	505/248-6484
<i>Region 3</i>	Margie Maldonado	612/713-5440
<i>Region 4</i>	Kim Turner	404/679-7185
<i>Region 5</i>	Mary K. Jennings	413/253-8636
<i>Region 6</i>	BJ Neiffer	303/236-4394
<i>Region 7</i>	Ruth Johnson	907/786-3540
<i>CNO</i>	Art Shine	916/978-5606
<i>Region 9</i>	Rebecca Halbe	703/358-2365