



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Shawnee
National
Forest

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASSES AVAILABLE AT SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST OFFICES

Harrisburg, IL, March 24, 2009 – Is your family planning a trip to a national park, national forest or other federal land in the United States this year? If you are, you may be unaware that you can purchase a federal pass in advance for entry into national parks, national recreation areas and for discounts at some federal recreational sites. These passes can be purchased at any of the Shawnee National Forest offices and 80% of all revenue from the sale of passes remains on the Forest.

Many national parks, national forests, Bureau of Land Management sites and fish and wildlife areas require fees. The three available America the Beautiful Passes (annual, senior and access) will provide free or reduced-fee access to federal sites where entry fees are charged. The annual pass costs \$80 and applies to a vehicle and passengers or to the pass holder and three accompanying adults. Children 15 and under are free.

If you are 62 years of age or older and planning to travel this summer, you can purchase a lifetime senior pass for only \$10.00! If you have a permanent disability, you are eligible for a lifetime access pass for free. Holders of senior or access passes may also receive 50% discounts at many recreation areas with expanded amenities, such as campgrounds.

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Are you a devoted volunteer? Individuals who donate 500 hours or more on federal lands are eligible to receive a complimentary annual pass. You can accumulate hours from year to year.

Please note that more highly developed recreation sites, such as campgrounds or boat launches at developed areas that charge expanded amenity fees, such as boat launching, are not covered by the annual pass, nor are many federal sites operated by concessionaire.

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