

VETERANS FOR CHRIST, INC.  
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## Veterans, Gold Star Families get free lifetime pass to national parks, wildlife refuges, other public lands

**New pass provides free lifetime access and waived recreation fees for Veterans**

On Veterans Day 2022, the National Park Service unveiled a lifetime pass providing free entrance to [national parks](#) for Veterans and their families. The Interagency Military Lifetime Pass waives entrance fees for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites for current military service members and their dependents, Veterans and Gold Star Families.

Veterans and their families have free access to approximately 2,000 public locations spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, which host activities to fit any lifestyle—from serene to high octane, including hiking, fishing, paddling, biking, hunting, stargazing, camping, and much more.

The Military Pass has been expanded to include a pass that does not expire for Veterans and Gold Star Family members. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2022 authorized a free lifetime pass to national parks and other federal recreational lands for eligible Veterans and Gold Star Families. In recent years, they were able to receive annual passes.

### Are you eligible?

For purposes of this program, a Veteran is identified as an individual who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserve, and is able to present one of the following forms of valid (unexpired) identification:

- Department of Defense Identification Card
- [Veteran Health Identification Card \(VHIC\)](#)
- [Veteran ID Card](#)
- Veterans designation on a state-issued U.S. driver's license or identification card

Gold Star Families are next of kin of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a “qualifying situation,” such as a war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the United States while serving with the United States Armed Forces.

### **The America the Beautiful – the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass (Interagency Pass) Program**

The Interagency Pass Program includes a free annual pass for active-duty members of the U.S. Military and their dependents. Current Military service members must show a valid (unexpired) Department of Defense ID. Dependents of current service members must show a valid (unexpired) DD Form 1173 AD or DEC.

Other free or discounted passes, including some lifetime passes, are available for persons with permanent disabilities, fourth grade students, volunteers and senior citizens age 62 years or older.

#### **How to get your Interagency Pass**

Interagency Passes can be obtained in person while visiting a participating site. Visit [Places to Get Interagency Passes](#) for a searchable list and be sure to contact the site before you go, to make sure they are open and have passes in stock. In addition, Military passes, as well as those for seniors and persons with permanent disabilities, are available online through the [USGS Online Store](#) with an additional processing fee. Existing passes remain valid. You do not need to obtain a new pass if you already have a Lifetime Senior or Access Pass.

For more information about eligibility and passes, visit [Free Entrance to National Parks for Veterans and Gold Star Families \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#).

The participating agencies also offer several fee-free days for everyone throughout the year to mark days of celebration and commemoration. Examples of fee-free days include the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., National Public Lands Day, Veterans Day and the signing of the Great American Outdoors Act.

Fee-free days and fee policies vary among the agencies, so it’s best to check the agency website or contact the site you plan to visit in advance of your trip.

## **Veterans Get Free Training to Help Start, Grow Your Business**

Are you a Veteran with aspirations of [entrepreneurship](#) and business ownership? Do you need guidance to help you put your idea into action?

[Warrior Rising](#) is positioned to help you. A non-profit organization launched by Veterans for Veterans in 2015, Warrior Rising is dedicated to transforming Veterans into “Vetrepreneurs,” providing them opportunities to create sustainable businesses, perpetuate the hiring of fellow American Veterans and earning their future.

[Apply Now](#)

Warrior Rising's next online course starts Nov. 30. This free Service-Disabled Veteran Entrepreneurs (SDVET) program includes four weeks of web-based instruction, followed by participation in other programs Warrior Rising offers (Warrior Academy, VETtoCEO, virtual-live coaching/mentoring sessions).



### **Course information (What)**

- Introduction and overview of starting a business, as well as advantages to purchasing an existing business or starting a franchise.
- Identifying opportunities in business.
- Understanding markets and competitive space.
- Building your economic model.
- Legal entity structuring and insurance.
- Financing options (including latest in capital agreements, ex “SAFE” agreements).
- Business plan creation.
- Available resources and SDVOSBs/VOSBs/getting certified through the SBA for procurement/government contracting work.

The course is offered by Warrior Rising as part of its SDVET Program, sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration, and is free to all verified service-disabled Veterans (see Qualifications below). Attendees may be located anywhere throughout the U.S.

## **Sessions (When)**

Virtual live sessions (via Zoom) will be at 7 p.m. ET (4 p.m. PT) on the following Thursdays: Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Dec. 21.

The Zoom link will be provided to you by email two (2) business days prior to start of the sessions.

Important: Please ensure your information is correct when registering (especially email address). Please check your spam folder (or in some cases, if you have auto-routing rules set up for your email it may be bypassing your inbox altogether and going to trash or another folder you've set up in your email). It will be the same link for every session. Also, please be aware that our email provider also distributes newsletter and other information.

If you unsubscribe, you will not receive any messages, including the links for these sessions.

## **Qualifications**

For verification, a DD-214 is preferred (Please blackline or cover your SSN), or other VA-issued ID. Class attendees must also provide documentation from VA showing disability (any disability rating is sufficient). The upload must be in the form of a PDF and you should minimize the file size (resolution) so it is less than 1 MB.

Current or widowed spouses of qualifying Veterans may also participate, but you must provide the required documentation above.

Interested Veterans must be pursuing a career as an entrepreneur/business owner at the concept or early stage of business development for this program.

Please note that while this particular program is funded for service-disabled Veterans, Warrior Rising has other programs available (Warrior Academy, VETtoCEO, coaching/mentoring) that any Veteran can participate in. More information can be found at [www.WarriorRising.org](http://www.WarriorRising.org), under the tab "What We Do."

## **Apply (How)**

Apply no later than 6 p.m. ET on Nov. 27, 2023, at [Warrior Rising SDVET Program Registration](#). The next presentation of this course will be in March 2024.

Warrior Rising is a 501c3 non-profit comprised of Veterans, and it offers free entrepreneurship training to current and former military service members. Visit [Warrior Rising](#) (click this link) for more information or contact it at [programming@WarriorRising.org](mailto:programming@WarriorRising.org). Please include your email address in the body/text of your message or we will not have a way to respond to you.

The sharing of any non-VA information does not constitute an endorsement of products and services on the part of VA. Veterans should verify the information with the organization offering.

**“Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, being men of courage, be strong.”  
1Cor 16:13**

Sincerely,

**William A. Harris, Jr.**

William A. Harris, Jr., USAF Retired

President, Veterans for Christ, Inc.

[www.veteransforchristinc.org](http://www.veteransforchristinc.org)

### **Need to contact VA?**

Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255

Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838 or Chat

White House VA Hotline: 1-855-948-2311

1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) is never the wrong number