

## **Military Discounts on Florida State Parks Annual Entrance Passes Frequently Asked Questions**

### General Questions

#### **Who does the Florida Park Service consider to be a veteran?**

We consider a veteran to be a person who served in the **active** United States military and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

#### **What is active duty?**

Active duty is defined as Full-time duty in the active military service of the United States. This includes members of the Reserve Components who have been called to serve on active duty.

#### **Can I get the military discount if I order my Florida State Parks Annual Entrance Pass online?**

No, the military discounts on Florida State Parks Annual Entrance Passes are available at any Florida State Park staffed ranger station or by mail or fax. For details see [How to buy an Annual Entrance Pass](#) on the website.

#### **Since I am eligible for a Free for Life Family Annual Entrance Pass does that mean it is free for me to visit Weeki Wachee Springs State Park with my family of four?**

The cost of a Family Annual Entrance Pass is free, if you meet certain eligibility criteria. The Pass Entitlements do not change due to your eligibility for a military discount on the pass. For example, the Family Annual Entrance Pass is valid for up to eight people in a group, except at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park and Weeki Wachee Springs State Park where the family pass is good for admission of up to two people. Additional guests to Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park and Weeki Wachee Springs State Park may wish to purchase additional passes or pay the daily admission fees. And at Skyway Fishing Pier State Park the pass is valid for a 33 percent discount on the admission fees.

#### **I just bought an Annual Entrance Pass three months ago, can I return it for a refund and get a new one with the discount?**

According to legislation, the military discounts on Annual Entrance Passes will start being offered July 1, 2010; unfortunately, we are not able to offer a refund for the pass purchased three months ago. We will be honored to provide an annual pass to you with a military discount when your current pass expires.

In reference to the **25% discount on Annual Entrance Passes for active duty and honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard or reserve units of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard** who present proof of eligibility.

#### **Did I have to serve in a war zone to be eligible?**

Service in a conflict or war zone is not required to be considered a veteran. We consider a veteran to be a person who served in the **active** United States military and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

#### **Do I have to be serving in active duty to be eligible?**

If you are currently a member of the National Guard or a reserve unit of the US Armed Forces you are eligible for the discount; active duty service is not required in this instance.

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### **I only served 3 or 4 years in the reserves, am I eligible?**

You must be a current member of the active duty US Armed Forces, reserves or National Guard or an honorably discharged veteran to be eligible for this discount.

In reference to the **Free for Life Family Annual Entrance Passes for honorably discharged United States veterans who have service-connected disabilities.**

### **Can I just take my paperwork to the entrance station and use that to get in to the park free?**

You will need to prove your eligibility to receive a free for life discount on a Florida State Parks Family Annual Entrance Pass, complete the paperwork for the Family Annual Entrance Pass and then use the pass to enter a park according to the entitlements of the pass.

### **What percentage of disability do I have to have to be eligible for the free for life discount on the Annual Entrance Pass? 10, 20, 30 – 100% - is there a minimum?**

There is no minimum percentage of disability required, 0 – 100% is acceptable, but your disability must be service-related.

### **Will a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs be enough proof of eligibility?**

There are three different criteria that must be met to prove eligibility for the Free for Life Family Annual Entrance Pass for honorably discharged United States veterans who have service connected disabilities: 1) proof that the bearer has a service-connected disability (A letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs is satisfactory for this criteria if it states that the bearer has a service-connected disability), 2) proof of personal identity (with a driver license, etc.) and 3) proof of honorable discharge (with a DD214 or other current document from any office within the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security or Department of Veterans Affairs).

In reference to the **Free for Life Family Annual Entrance Passes for surviving spouses of deceased members** of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard or reserve units of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard **who have fallen in combat.**

### **What do you mean by fallen in combat?**

We have defined a person who has fallen in combat as; a person who served in the active United States military, National Guard, or a reserve unit assigned to a war or conflict zone who was killed while on duty, due to enemy action.

### **My spouse died in a war/conflict zone, but his/her death was not combat related will that work?**

If your spouse died of natural causes, unrelated to their military service you would not be eligible. If your spouse was killed due to enemy action in a war or conflict zone but was non-combatant then you would be eligible for the discount.

### **I have re-married, would I still be eligible for the Free for Life discount on a Family Annual Entrance Pass?**

Yes, if you were eligible prior to re-marriage you would still be eligible. If your name has changed, you should bring appropriate documentation to show your name change history.