

Access Pass

Elaine McHugh

Did you know that an Access Pass is free for individuals with permanent disabilities? This pass may be obtained through the National Seashore Park in Cape Cod and may be used at any National Park Service facilities nationwide. The following information was obtained from the National Parks website at <http://www.store.usgs.gov/pass/access.html>.

The Access Pass is a replacement for the Golden Access Passport as of January 2007. The pass is for citizens or permanent residents of the United States, regardless of age, who have been medically determined to have a permanent disability. It provides access to, and use of, any Federal recreation site that charges an entrance or standard amenity fee and provides a discount on some expanded amenity fees. The pass must be obtained in person. The Access Pass is free, and it is valid for the lifetime of the pass holder. Photo identification may be requested to verify pass ownership. Golden Access Passports are valid for a lifetime and are equivalent to the new Access Pass.

An Access Pass can be obtained in person from a participating Federal recreation site or office. The pass may be issued to U.S. Citizens or permanent residents of the U.S., regardless of age, that have been medically determined to have a permanent disability that severely limits one or more major life activities. A permanent disability is a permanent physical, mental or sensory impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.

What type of documentation do I need to present in order to get the Access Pass?

Some examples of acceptable documentation include: statement by a licensed physician; document issued by a Federal agency such as the Veteran's Administration, Social Security Disability Income or Supplemental Security Income; or document issued by a State agency such as a vocational rehabilitation agency.

If I am partially disabled do I qualify for the Access Pass?

If you believe you qualify based on the definition of permanent disability and have supporting official documentation for the disability, you can be issued a pass.

Can my child get an Access Pass?

Yes. This allows the caregivers to enter Federal recreation sites when

accompanying the child.

What if my Access Pass is lost, stolen or damaged?

If an Access Pass is lost or stolen, you may be issued a new one with proper documentation.

The Forest Service, the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation honor the Access Pass at sites where entrance or standard amenity fees are charged. In addition, the Corps of Engineers and Tennessee Valley Authority may honor the Access Pass. Check with the local site for more information at <http://www.recreation.gov>. The Access Pass admits pass holders and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holders + 3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, at per person fee areas. (Children under 16 always admitted free). The Access Pass provides a 50 percent discount on some expanded amenity fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launching, and specialized interpretive services. In some cases where expanded amenity fees are charged, only the pass holder will be given the 50 percent price reduction. The pass is non-transferable and generally does NOT cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires. Inquire locally for pass acceptance policies.