California’s State Park System is the largest in the country, offering some of the world’s most varied natural wonders. No matter where you are headed, there are exciting activities to choose from. We hope you enjoy your upcoming visits and that your adventures help you “Discover the many states of California.”™

California State Parks has rules and regulations to protect park areas for the enjoyment of future generations as well as for the convenience and safety of the park visitors. To ensure your visit is a pleasant one, please observe the terms and conditions listed below that apply to this pass and its use. Violation of the terms and conditions could result in pass revocation.

- This is a lifetime pass and is valid for use of the pass holder only. Once pass is received, you may use passcard for applicable benefits; requests for retroactive refunds will not be honored. Although your benefits are lifetime, your passcard will need to be renewed every five years.
- Information relating to the 5-year renewal process for the passcard will be provided to the pass holder prior to the expiration of your current passcard. Pass holder should notify the Park Pass Sales office of any change of name, address, email address, or telephone number in order to continue to receive benefits. Pass holder cannot claim multiple state residency for the purposes of this pass and associated benefits.
- Pass is issued as a personal benefit to the pass holder only. Pass holder may only hold one lifetime discount pass issued by California State Parks. The pass holder may not lend, loan, reassign, or resell their pass or the privileges allowed by this pass to anyone else including spouses, registered domestic partners, or other family members.
- Pass holder must abide by any rules and regulations applicable to California State Parks or to the use of this pass, as amended from time to time.
- Pass entitles the holder to the use of basic facilities (day use, family camping and boat use fees) at no charge at any unit of the California State Park System operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. It is not valid at State Park units operated by federal or local government, private agencies or concessionaires. You may use the pass any day of the week, including holidays, if space is available. No priority will be given to you as a pass holder. You are not assured of space – use of facilities is on a “first-come, first-served” basis when space is available, unless reservations are made in advance.
- Pass is not valid for group use or sites, special events, additional/extra vehicle fees, reservation, transfer and cancellation fees, sanitation disposal use or for supplemental fees.
- Pass is not valid for resale or commercial use, industrial or business operations, including, but not limited to, fleet use or pooling. Pass shall not be assigned for profit and is void if misused.
- Pass is valid unless revoked. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other pass and/or discount, nor can it be copied or altered in any way. Pass will be cancelled if the pass holder is found not to meet the pass qualifications. All sales are final. No refunds, replacement or exchanges will be made for any reason including, but not limited to: loss, theft, park closures or environmental conditions such as low water levels, fire, or inclement weather.

Required Identification
- Pass holder is required to present the Distinguished Veteran Pass (photocopies not accepted) and your valid California Driver License or Identification Card (interim/temporary not accepted), along with any campsite reservation or tour ticket, and to pay any supplemental fees upon entrance to the park unit.
Day Use and Boat Use

Pass may be used for discount for one passenger vehicle or highway licensed motorcycle occupied by you, the pass holder, with a capacity of nine persons or less where a vehicle day use fee is collected. The pass may be used for discount on boating for one motorized vessel, sailboat over 8 feet or personal watercraft (PWC) associated with this vehicle. To receive pass benefits at self-pay locations, clearly display the pass and self-payment receipt on your vehicle’s dashboard where it is visible through the windshield.

When a park requires “ticket per person” admittance such as for museums, swimming pools, tours, etc., the discount will apply to the pass holder only.

Camping

Pass may be used for discount for family camping (8 people or less). Only the one campsite occupied for the duration of stay by you, the pass holder, is subject to the discount. Any subsequent campsites reserved by you, but not occupied by you will be charged full price. Making multiple overlapping reservations using your discount will place your Distinguished Veteran Pass in jeopardy of revocation. Discount not valid for group use or group campsites. You must present the pass at check-in with required identification, even when reserved in advance.

All campers are subject to the California State Parks camping rules and regulations. Campers may stay in the same park up to 30 nights in a calendar year. Each campground has a limit on the consecutive number of nights a camper may stay. Once this consecutive-night has been reached, the person(s), equipment, and/or vehicle(s) must vacate the campground for a period of 48 hours before returning for another stay.

Reservations

Reservations can be made for campsites online through the department’s reservation system at www.parks.ca.gov or by calling toll-free at (800) 444-7275 (TDD (800) 274-7275), or for Hearst Castle/Año Nuevo tours at toll free (800) 444-4445. You must identify yourself as a Distinguished Veteran Pass Holder when you make your reservation. No priority will be given to you as a pass holder.

If you are unable to use your campsite or tour reservation, it is your responsibility to cancel any unneeded reservations. By not cancelling your reservation, you may be putting your pass in jeopardy of being revoked. Please remember that others would like to use the camping and touring facilities and by not cancelling your reservations, they are prevented from doing so.

Camping reservations must be made in the name of the pass holder in order to receive the discount. Associated reservations must have the discount applied at the time they are made, as no retroactive refunds will be applied.

Accessible Campsites

Visitors reserving accessible campsites will be required to possess a valid Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Disabled Placard or license plate and corresponding identification card issued by DMV. Disabled veterans possessing a valid disabled veteran’s license plate and corresponding identification card also meet the requirement. A Distinguished Veteran Pass is not required to reserve an accessible site, but is required in advance of making a reservation to receive a discounted rate. If you require an accessible campsite, you must specify this at the time of the reservation.

Replacement of Lost or Damaged Pass

Upon suitable proof, a lost or damaged pass may be replaced through reapplication.

If you have any questions about the Distinguished Veteran Pass Program, please contact the California State Parks Pass Sales Office at (800) 777-0369 ext. 2 or (916) 653-8280.

Our Mission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state’s extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.