

Travel Tips
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What was the WEAC-Fox Valley Travel Committee has met for the past nine years. Committee membership is open to all active and retired members. During the year, we will be meeting at Appleton's Mary's North (Richmond St. off of 41) the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. As the years have gone by, this group has also discussed topics of interest such as WEA-Trust / Benefits, Wisconsin Retirement System (fixed and variable), Medicare, Medicare supplements, investment tips, and WEAC.

Annual and Lifetime Passes for Federal Parks

When planning to visit several national park areas during a single trip or taking several trips during a twelve-month period, you'll likely benefit from purchasing an America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, also called an Interagency Pass, that provides access for the pass holder and non-commercial vehicle passengers to all Federal recreation sites that charge an entrance fee. The \$80 pass is valid for one year from the date of purchase. Take your dream vacation around the United States without one of these passes and a traveler could easily run up national park entrance fees of well over \$100. The Interagency Pass supplants the Golden Eagle Pass that was sold for many years, but is no longer available. The annual America the Beautiful pass can be purchased via phone at 888-275-8747, ext. 1; via email at fedrecpass@usgs.gov; via the Internet at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass>, or at a participating Federal recreation site.

Annual passes are free for active U.S. military members and dependents including reserve and National Guard members. Qualified individuals must have a valid military I.D. and obtain the pass in person at a federal recreation site that charges an entrance fee.



Individuals who accumulate at least 500 hours of volunteer work (for example, serve as a campground host) are eligible to receive a free Volunteer Pass that conveys privileges similar to the America the Beautiful Pass. This pass is good for one year from the date of issue. The 500 hours can be accrued by volunteering on federal recreation lands managed by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, or the Fish and Wildlife Service. The pass is issued by the

Federal Volunteer Coordinator who authorizes that a volunteer has accrued the appropriate number of volunteer hours.

U.S. citizens and permanent residents age 62 years and older can take advantage of an even better deal - the America the Beautiful Senior Pass that costs only \$10 and is valid for the holder's lifetime. In addition to free entrance for the holder and passengers in the same non-commercial vehicle, the senior pass provides a 50-percent discount on some facility charges such as interpretive services and camping. It does not qualify for discounts on food or lodging. The senior pass must be obtained in person and applicants must be able to prove their age with a document such as a driver's license.

A lifetime pass with privileges similar to the Senior Pass is available without charge for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities. Obtaining the pass requires appropriate documentation including a statement by a licensed physician, a federal agency document, Social Security disability income, or a document issued by a state agency. This pass must be obtained in person. Don't be concerned about acquiring a pass prior to leaving on a trip because all three passes are available at any federal visitor center or entrance station that charges a fee.