



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

CECW-CO

AUG 05 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS;
CHIEFS, OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

SUBJECT: Participation in the Every Kid in a Park initiative, July 2015

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will fully participate in the President's Every Kid in a Park initiative which is scheduled to commence on 1 September 2015. The goal of this initiative is to provide young people and specifically 4th Graders an in-person experience with their federal lands and waters. The principal component of the initiative is to provide free access for 4th Graders and accompanying adults to federal parks that charge day use or entrance fees for one year. To accomplish this, 4th Graders will be able to acquire vouchers and America the Beautiful 4th Grade passes.
2. Effective 1 September 2015, the Corps will accept the new Every Kid in a Park voucher or pass at Corps managed recreation areas that charge day use fees as proof of eligibility for free day use.
3. Until the Corps receives the durable passes for distribution, the Corps will only accept the vouchers and passes, but will not be able to exchange vouchers for passes. The Corps is scheduled to receive durable passes in late September or early October for distribution.
4. A Frequently Asked Questions sheet on the initiative is enclosed. Additional guidance will be provided as more information regarding the program becomes available.
5. Training information on the initiative is listed in the Frequently Asked Questions sheet.
6. The point of contact for the recreation use fee program is Ms. Mary Coulombe, Chief, Natural Resources Management, at (202) 761-1228 or until December, Ms. Roseana Burick, at (202) 761-4558.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Stockton, P.E.
Director of Civil Works

Encl

What is the “Every Kid in a Park” initiative?

President Obama is committed to giving every child the chance to explore America’s great outdoors and unique history. That’s why he launched the Every Kid in a Park initiative, which enables every 4th grader schooled in the U.S and his or her family to have free access to any national park, forest, land or water for an entire year. The Every Kid in a Park initiative seeks to bridge the growing disconnect between the next generation and the great outdoors by encouraging valuable opportunities to explore, learn and play in the spectacular places that belong to all of us.

Who is running the Every Kid in a Park initiative?

Every Kid in a Park is an Administration-wide effort supported by eight Federal agencies including the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Education, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, National Park Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Is there training on the Every Kid in a Park initiative?

Yes, the National Park Service is hosting a series of 8 one-hour webinar trainings on the Every Kid in a Park 4th Grade Pass beginning on Thursday, 23 July 2015 at 2:30 pm EDT. A complete list of these training sessions is shown below. Each of these training sessions will be identical. This training will be recorded and will be made available online at a later date.

Webinar Training Sessions – Register at:

https://docs.google.com/a/nps.gov/forms/d/1S-elcRg_s39nIScVFLozRuFgqkSTF-tMnch9gHCHiAQ/

Thursday, August 6th at 2:30 EDT

Tuesday, August 11th at 2:30 EDT

Thursday, August 13th at 2:30 EDT

Tuesday, August 18th at 2:30 EDT

How does a 4th grader obtain a fee-free access voucher or pass?

Beginning in September, a 4th grader (including home schooled and free choice learner age 9-11 years old) can obtain their fee-free access pass by visiting the Every Kid in a Park website where they can participate in an educational activity and be awarded their own paper voucher with a personalized serial number for printing and use at any federal public land or water. If desired, the paper voucher can be exchanged for an Interagency Annual 4th grade pass at a federal recreation site location. These locations will only issue a pass with the exchange of a valid paper voucher and when the 4th grader (the pass owner) is present. Federal recreation site locations can be found at <https://store.usgs.gov/pass/PassIssuanceList.pdf>. The 4th grader can use either the paper voucher or the pass for fee-free entry.

What does the fee-free entry include?

Beginning September 1, 2015 and valid through August 31, 2016, both the paper voucher and pass include fee-free access for one year to all federal parks, forests, lands and waters, including:

- a. Bureau of Land Management (<http://www.blm.gov>)
- b. Bureau of Reclamation (<http://www.usbr.gov>)
- c. Fish and Wildlife Service (<http://www.fws.gov>)
- d. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (<http://www.noaa.gov>)
- e. National Park Service (<http://www.nps.gov>)
- f. US Army Corps of Engineers (<http://www.corpslakes.us>)
- g. U.S. Forest Service (<http://www.fs.fed.us>)

The paper voucher and pass do not cover expanded amenity fees such as camping, special tours, special permits or ferries. In addition, at some locations private concessionaires and resorts manage some facilities and activities on Federal recreation lands. Neither the paper voucher nor pass is valid for these services. For questions about particular sites' pass acceptance and fees, please contact the site directly.

How can Educators get the fee-free access for their 4th graders?

Educators can gain fee-free access for their students by visiting the Every Kid in a Park website and entering the "Educators" section, where they can download the personalized paper vouchers for each of their students. Please note each voucher contains a unique serial number. Duplicates or photocopies will not be valid. Educators will also find downloadable learning activities, aligned with standards that can be used to introduce 4th graders to topics surrounding federal lands and waters.

Who qualifies as an "Educator"?

Educators include teachers, youth group leaders, religious group leaders, camp directors, afterschool programs, leaders of homeschoolers, etc. and any adult comfortable preparing, leading and completing the educational activity associated with accessing the vouchers.

Who can accompany the 4th grader?

The Every Kid in a Park paper voucher and/or pass admits the 4th grader and any accompanying passengers in a private non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas, or the pass owner and up to 3 accompanying adults (anyone 16 years of age or over shall be considered an adult) at sites that charge per person. If the child and their family are riding bikes, up to 3 adults are included. Please note that 4th graders must be present at entry.

How does a 4th grader receive fee-free entry at an unstaffed federal recreation site?

At unstaffed federal recreation sites, either the paper voucher or the pass should be displayed in the dash area of your vehicle. If the 4th grader has a pass – it should be displayed from the rear view mirror using an available hangtag. If the 4th grader has a paper voucher – it should be placed on the car dashboard with the tracking number showing.

What do I do if we don't have any 4th Grade Annual Passes to exchange for vouchers?

The child may use his or her voucher for free admission until they are able to exchange it for a pass.

What should I tell a family that requests a 4th grade pass without a voucher?

We are not authorized to determine if a visitor qualifies for the pass, we can only exchange a valid *Every Kid in the Park* voucher for an Annual 4th grade Pass. Provide the visitor with an *Every Kid in a Park* brochure and charge the visitor the entrance or standard amenity fee.

What do I tell a visitor that wants a pass for their 3rd grader?

Let the visitor know that the *Every Kid in a Park* initiative and the curriculum associated with this initiative is directed toward youth in the 4th grade. Explain to the visitor that their child would be eligible for the Interagency Annual 4th grade pass at the end of August 2016. Then give them an *Every Kid in a Park* Brochure that explains the initiative.

Do home schooled students qualify for the pass?

Yes, as long as they have completed the required web based educational activity and present their *Every Kid in a Park* voucher. They may visit the www.everykidinapark.gov website for more information.

When will a student that attends a year round school qualify for a pass?

This initiative is from September through August each year so that we can try and accommodate the varied school schedules across the nation. Once the *Every Kid in a Park* initiative begins and the 4th grader has completed their web educational activity they will receive the *Every Kid in a Park* voucher package.

If a visitor forgets to bring his/her pass to a site and pays the entrance or use fee, can he/she mail in the receipt and a photocopy of their pass and get a refund?

Refunds are not issued. Pass photocopies, electronic images, and hangtags without Passes are not valid for entrance or use.

What happens if a voucher or pass is lost?

A new voucher may be obtained by going to the Every Kid in a Park website and following the same steps previously used to receive a new voucher. If desired, the voucher can then be exchanged for the 4th grader pass. A digital or a photocopy of the voucher or pass is not valid.

How will you ensure only 4th graders and their families use the pass?

Our design team is working to minimize the possibility of fraud and misuse while ensuring that any personal information needed to process the pass is collected in accordance with applicable laws (such as the Child Online Protection Act). We have requested 4th graders to identify themselves in the activity and in good faith hope that people will not take advantage of this generous opportunity.

Can my site just let 4th graders and their families in for free?

Generally, they may not. The 4th grader must present a voucher or pass to gain fee-free access.

Can a local site offer each member of a field trip group passes or paper vouchers?

Field trip groups should visit the “Educators” section of the Every Kid in a Park website to learn about how they can download vouchers for their group. The pass can only be issued in exchange for a valid Every Kid in a Park paper voucher when the 4th grader (the pass owner) is present.

What do I do when a visitor arrives with a voucher or pass and does not appear to be a 4th grader?

In cases when it appears that no one in the group is age appropriate for the 4th grade pass, explain to the visitors that the 4th grader listed in the voucher packet or on the pass must be present to receive or use the Interagency Annual 4th grade Pass. If no one in the group qualifies for the pass, the visitors would need to pay the entrance or standard amenity fee.

How do I verify that the 4th grader is with the group?

If the visitor hands you an Interagency Annual 4th grade pass you can ask if s/he is in the vehicle/group today by using the name on the pass. For example, say “Is, use the first name on the pass, in the vehicle today?” The pass holder will need to be present to use the pass. We should not request personal information from children less than 18 years of age.

What do I do if a visitor presents their smart phone with an image of their voucher and wants their 4th Grade Pass?

For accountability reasons, you must receive the paper voucher and retain it with your shift report. Let the visitor know that a valid printed paper voucher is required to receive a pass. Use your best customer service skills and offer to allow them in as a one-time courtesy.

How will you track usage/success?

We have an evaluation team in place to track website visitors, the number of vouchers downloaded and redeemed, and the level of engagement on social media. This data will help inform the development of the program in future years.

What role might civic organizations and non-profit partners play in the initiative?

Educators and partners can support the Every Kid in a Park initiative by spreading the word about the program, engaging and supporting community members in field trips and outings to federal public lands and waters and connecting to the Every Kid in a Park social media to be announced in the summer.

Where can I find out more about this initiative?

Until the Every Kid in a Park website goes live, you can visit www.doi.gov/everykid to learn more and get the latest updates on the initiative.