



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

CECW-CO

10 November 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND
DISTRICT COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Policy Guidance - Expansion of Benefits for the Military and Every Kid
Outdoors Programs for Free Entrance to Public Recreation Lands Administered by the
US Army Corps of Engineers and Other Federal Agencies.

1. Reference. Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) memorandum, Subject: America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass and Every Kid Outdoors Annual 4th Grade Pass Expansion on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Managed Recreation Areas, 6 November 2020.

2. Purpose. The purpose of this memorandum is to initiate a program change to the interagency America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands (AtB) Annual Pass Program (specifically the Military pass) and the Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) 4th Grade Pass Program in accordance with direction from the ASA(CW) (see Reference). This is a joint interagency initiative by all Federal land management agencies. Both programs apply at US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) managed facilities that charge a per-person entrance fee, a standard amenity, or day use recreation fee. No benefits apply to camping, no discount is available. Discounts are also not available for group camps or group shelters, nor special events or other special activities. These programs do not extend to recreational lease areas or other areas at USACE water resource projects not managed by USACE, unless the managing agency chooses to honor these programs.

3. Veterans and Gold Star Families. In 2012, active duty military service members became eligible for a Military pass through the AtB Pass program which provides free admittance to all federal recreation lands. USACE will implement a program change to include military veterans and Gold Star Family members as eligible recipients of the Military pass which will entitle them to free admittance to federal recreation lands in accordance with the AtB program rules, and the limitation in paragraph 2. Beginning on November 11, 2020 and until amended, suspended or revoked, military veterans and Gold Star Family members will be admitted free of charge to USACE managed recreation areas and other Federal recreation lands that charge a fee.

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4. Fourth and Fifth Grade Voucher Program (EKO). The ASA(CW) also directed USACE to implement a program change to recognize 5th Grade students in a similar manner that 4th Grade students are currently recognized thru the EKO initiative. Fourth grade students are currently eligible for free admittance to federal recreation lands that charge a fee in accordance with program rules. Effective immediately, all 5th grade students are now eligible for the same benefit. This is a temporary change to ensure that 5th grade students who may not have been able to make full use of the EKO Annual 4th Grade Pass during the 2019-2020 academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic will have a chance to do so during the current academic year (2020-2021). The benefit for 5th grade students will expire on 31 August 2021.

5. Guidance. Implementation guidance is included as Enclosure 1 (Veterans and Gold Star Families) and Enclosure 2 (5th Grade Voucher Program). Please remain flexible as these initiatives are evolving.

6. Questions may be directed to Scott Strotman at (202) 761-0036 or james.s.strotman@usace.army.mil.

2 Encls

1. Implementation Guidance
2. Implementation Guidance

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