



GENERAL AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASS OVERVIEW

1. What are Digital America the Beautiful Passes?

America the Beautiful Passes cover entrance or standard amenity (day-use) fees to thousands of recreation areas managed by six federal agencies:

- U.S. Forest Service
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Starting in 2026, you will be able to get digital versions of the America the Beautiful Passes, as required by Congress (2025 EXPLORE Act). The Annual Pass is available digitally as of October 1, 2025; all other America the Beautiful Passes will be available digitally beginning in January 2026.

2. Which America the Beautiful Passes are going digital and when?

The Annual Pass is available digitally as of October 1, 2025; other America the Beautiful Pass types will be available digitally beginning in January 2026.

- Annual
- Access
- Senior Annual
- Senior Lifetime
- Military Annual
- Military Lifetime
- Every Kid Outdoors 4th Grade Passes

At this time, Volunteer Passes and pass decals will not be offered digitally through Recreation.gov.

DIGITAL ANNUAL AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASSES

1. What is the Digital Annual Pass?

This pass is one pass type in the Digital America the Beautiful Pass series that covers entrance fees and standard amenity (day-use) fees at thousands of recreation locations, managed by six federal agencies. Proceeds from pass sales are used to improve and enhance visitor recreation services. The Annual Pass is valid for 12 months from purchase date through end of the same month in the following year.

2. What's the difference between the Interagency Annual Pass and the Digital Annual Pass?

Nothing! They are the same pass; the Digital Annual Pass is offered in a digital format rather than physical and does not require shipping unless a physical pass is requested during checkout.

3. How much does the Digital Annual Pass cost?

The Digital Annual Pass is \$80 per pass, the same price as the physical pass, plus an additional \$7.50 shipping fee if requesting an accompanying physical pass at checkout.



DIGITAL ANNUAL AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASSES (continued)

4. Who qualifies for the Digital Annual Pass?

Anyone 16 years or older may purchase this pass.

5. Are there any fees that a Digital Annual Pass doesn't cover?

The Annual Pass does not cover expanded amenity fees such as camping, parking, special tours, special permits, or ferries. Additionally, any lands managed by concessioners do not accept the Annual Pass. (Concessioners are private companies granted permission by the agencies to provide services.)

PHYSICAL PASSES

1. Can I still get a physical America the Beautiful Pass?

Yes, there are several ways to get a physical pass! Choose the "physical pass" option before you finalize your digital pass purchase in the cart to have a pass delivered by mail (\$7.50 shipping and handling fee applies). You can also get a physical pass in person at a site near you (see [list of locations](#)) or by visiting store.usgs.gov.

2. If I don't request a physical pass at the time I purchase a digital America the Beautiful Pass, can I receive a physical pass later (either through Recreation.gov or in person)?

No. You can only request a physical pass at the time you purchase a digital pass on Recreation.gov.

3. Can I get a digital America the Beautiful Pass if I already have a physical America the Beautiful Pass?

Yes, you will be able to register your physical pass on Recreation.gov to obtain a digital version, but this feature may not be available until January 2026. You can connect an existing physical America the Beautiful Pass by adding it to your Recreation.gov account. Once added, a digital version of the pass will be created. You may use either the physical or digital version when you visit a federal recreation site.

4. How will physical passes work if I also have a digital America the Beautiful Pass?

You may use either the physical or digital version of the pass when you visit a federal recreation site.

5. If I am purchasing a digital America the Beautiful Pass and request a physical pass be mailed to me, do I have to pay an additional fee?

You will need to pay a flat rate \$7.50 shipping and handling fee. International shipping will not be offered for physical passes at this time. Please allow up to 3 weeks for your pass to be delivered. No expedited shipping will be available as you will receive a digital pass immediately after the transaction on Recreation.gov. Please note, all passes will be shipped by USGS, not Recreation.gov. Requests for a physical pass to accompany a digital pass will only be available at the time of purchase.

6. If I request a physical pass be mailed to me when purchasing a digital America the Beautiful Pass on Recreation.gov, will the physical pass have my name printed on it?

Yes, the physical pass will have your name printed on it. The name on your Recreation.gov account will be used as the pass holder name on both the digital and physical passes. USGS fulfills physical pass sales and will print your name on the physical pass. Requests for a physical pass to accompany a digital pass will only be available at the time of purchase.



BUYING A DIGITAL PASS

1. Can I purchase a digital America the Beautiful Pass without a Recreation.gov account?

No, a Recreation.gov user account is required for purchasing digital America the Beautiful Passes for policy compliance and to safely and securely store and manage access information.

2. Can I purchase a digital America the Beautiful Annual Pass for someone else as a gift?

No, digital Annual Pass purchases on behalf of someone else as a gift is prohibited. Physical passes may still be purchased as gifts, and the recipient may link the physical pass to their Recreation.gov account to obtain a digital pass.

3. Can I receive a refund for digital America the Beautiful Passes?

Digital America the Beautiful Passes will be available immediately and are non-refundable. Please read all pass-specific information on the Recreation.gov [Buy a Pass](#) page before making your purchase.

USING YOUR DIGITAL PASS

1. How do I use the digital pass when I visit a federal recreation location?

Rules for use are the same as with the physical passes. Each America the Beautiful Pass is issued to one person (the pass holder). The pass holder must be present whenever the pass is used. Valid photo identification is required. Please see our How-To guide for more detailed instructions on accessing and downloading your digital pass.

2. After purchasing a digital America the Beautiful Pass, will it automatically populate in my smartphone mobile wallet?

No, you will need to manually add the digital America the Beautiful Pass to your smartphone mobile wallet from your Recreation.gov account. After purchase, the digital America the Beautiful Pass will be available from your Recreation.gov account page, accessible through a mobile browser, or through the Recreation.gov mobile app. Please see our How-To guide for more detailed instructions on accessing and downloading your digital pass.

3. Do I have to install the Recreation.gov mobile app to use the digital America the Beautiful Pass?

No, but the free Recreation.gov mobile app provides a convenient way for you to access your pass. You can access your digital America the Beautiful Pass on your Recreation.gov account via a mobile browser on your phone, if preferred. Digital passes may also be stored in your Apple Wallet or Google Wallet. Please see our How-To guide for more detailed instructions on accessing and downloading your digital pass.

4. Can I show a screenshot of my valid digital America the Beautiful Pass at a location if I cannot access it through my browser, mobile app, or in my digital wallet?

Yes, screenshots can be accepted if the digital pass cannot be accessed through your Recreation.gov account, on the Recreation.gov mobile app, or in your Google or Apple Wallet. The entire digital pass must be captured, not just the QR code. Copies or photos of physical passes will not be accepted.



USING YOUR DIGITAL PASS (continued)

5. What happens if there are no facility staff at the location to scan or validate my digital pass?

You will need to print a PDF version of your digital pass before your trip, or plan to arrive with your physical pass (if you have one), in case a location is unstaffed, or in case there is no connectivity at the location.

6. What happens if I don't have my cell phone or my phone has died? How can my digital America the Beautiful Pass be accessed?

Prepare for your arrival by making sure your pass is ready to show, using the options below:

- Download the Recreation.gov mobile app; tap the Reservations button to access digital pass
- Download the pass to your phone, using your Google Wallet or Apple Wallet
- Print a PDF version, and/or
- Bring the physical pass (if available)

7. How can I use the digital pass when in remote areas or locations with no cell phone reception?

The pass can be accessed on the Recreation.gov mobile app and added to your mobile wallet (Google or Apple Wallet) while online and thus available offline. Visitors traveling to an unstaffed location have the option of printing a PDF version or presenting the physical pass (if you have one).

8. How do I use a digital America the Beautiful Pass to get a camping discount?

The Digital Annual Pass does not offer camping discounts. Other passes (such as the Access Pass and Senior Pass) do offer some discounts but will not be available digitally until January 2026. See [Using Passes for Discounts](#) for more information.

UPGRADING A PASS

1. If I purchased a Site Pass can I upgrade it for a digital America the Beautiful Annual Pass?

Upgrade policies vary by agency. Please check with the specific location where your site pass is valid to see if an upgrade is possible.

Keep in Mind

This FAQ will be updated as the Interagency Pass Program (IAP) within the National Park Service works with Recreation.gov to implement digital America the Beautiful Passes between October 2025 and January 2026.

Please look for updated copies marked with latest version date. This document will be hosted on the Recreation.gov external site for visitors to access, starting 10/1, and is intended to also support agency staff across National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and US Army Corps of Engineers locations when assisting visitors.