

EVERY KID IN A PARK
FAQ's
Audience: GENERAL PUBLIC

1. 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 U.S. 4th grader and his or her family to have free access to any national park, forest, land or water for an entire year.

2. Why do we need the “Every Kid in a Park” initiative?

From sea to shining sea, our country is home to gorgeous landscapes, vibrant waterways, and historic treasures that all Americans can enjoy. But right now, young people are spending more time in front of screens than outside. 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.

3. What are the goals of the Every Kid in a Park initiative?

The goal of the “Every Kid in a Park” initiative is to inspire every young person across the country to visit our national parks, forests, public lands and waters. We intend for this to be an ongoing commitment. By targeting 4th graders one year at a time, we will ensure every child in the U.S. has the opportunity to visit and enjoy their public lands and waters by the time he or she is 11 years old.

4. Why 4th graders?

Research shows that children ages 9-11 are at a unique developmental stage in their learning where they begin to understand how the world around them works in more concrete ways. They are most likely to have positive attitudes towards nature, the environment and culture and grow into the next generation of stewards, ready to support and care for these natural wonders and historical landmarks.

5. 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.

6. How can a 4th grader obtain fee-free access to a public land?

Beginning in September, a 4th grader (including home schooled and free choice learner age 9-11 years old) can obtain their fee-free access 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 voucher 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. The voucher and pass will be valid from September 1st through August 31st.

7. 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 voucher 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.

8. 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.

9. 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 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.

10. What does the fee-free entry include?

Available 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, boat launching, parking, 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.

11. 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.

12. 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 at 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.

13. 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.

14. How can I find federal lands or waters to visit?

There will be a multitude of resources available to assist in the planning of a visit to a federal public land or water including through the Every Kid in a Park website. On partner sites like www.recreation.gov or www.discovertheforest.gov, you can plan a trip utilizing a trip-planning tool.

15. How does this effort relate to the Secretary of the Interior's overall youth initiative?

Launched in 2013, Secretary Jewell's youth initiative strives to engage the next generation in opportunities to play, learn, serve and work on our public lands. The Every Kid in a Park initiative builds off the success of the Secretary's aim to reach millions of young people and connect them to the outdoors, and helps bring added partners and visibility to these efforts.

16. How is the initiative being funded?

The President's budget request prioritizes engaging youth and expanding programs and services that will help support this initiative, including a request for \$20 million to support transportation and visitor services for "Every Kid in a Park" outings. This request will be combined with the successful models to connect young people to the outdoors that are already in existence and being strengthened across the Federal family.

17. Will transportation support be offered?

Transportation can be one of the biggest barriers that prevent youth, especially those from underserved communities, from visiting some of our most precious lands and waters. To address this, the Every Kid in a Park Transportation Grants will leverage public and private dollars to reimburse schools for transportation expenses for field trips to parks and other public lands and waters. The grants will focus on schools around the country with the most need. The National Park Foundation is running the grants program. To learn more about this program, please visit www.nationalparks.org.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. What role is the U.S. Department of Education playing in the initiative?

The U.S. Department of Education will conduct outreach about Every Kid in a Park opportunities to state, local, and school officials; teachers; key non-profit groups; and education-related associations.

21. Can a local site offer the group passes or paper vouchers to a field trip group?

Field trip groups should visit the “Educator’s” 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.

22. 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.