

(5 August 2015)

## **Frequently Asked Questions – *Every Kid in a Park***

### **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 **4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **How does a 4<sup>th</sup> grader obtain a fee-free access voucher or pass?**

Beginning in September, a 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> grader (the pass owner) is present. Federal recreation site locations can be found at <https://store.usgs.gov/pass/PassIssuanceList.pdf>. The 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> grader?**

The Every Kid in a Park paper voucher and/or pass admits the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> graders must be present at entry.

### **How does a 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> grader has a pass – it should be displayed from the rear view mirror using an available hangtag. If the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Explain to the visitor that their child would be eligible for the Interagency Annual 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> grade pass, explain to the visitors that the 4<sup>th</sup> grader listed in the voucher packet or on the pass must be present to receive or use the Interagency Annual 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

<https://www.everykidinapark.gov/>