

National Parks Pass - Info for IPWA Wilderness Volunteers

Volunteers can earn a FREE one-year entrance pass to all Federal public lands (the America the Beautiful National Parks Pass & Federal Recreation Lands Pass). More information is available here: <https://store.usgs.gov/faq#Volunteer-Pass>

Here's how it works:

- The pass can be issued free of charge to a volunteer who individually accrues 250 volunteer hours. Passes are non-transferable.
- Only one pass may be issued per year to an individual, as they are valid for one year.
- There is no specific time frame in which the volunteer hours must be accrued. In other words, a volunteer can earn a pass within three months, or three years. When a person is awarded a pass for volunteering 250 or more hours, their volunteer time goes back to zero in terms of counting the next 250 hours. Hours in excess of 250 at the time of issuance of pass do not roll over.
- Volunteer activities may occur across agencies (National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, or Bureau of Reclamation) and are coordinated by the agency volunteer coordinator(s).
- Volunteer hours may be accumulated for any agency-sponsored volunteer activity. Individual volunteers may also accumulate hours while working with a group (such as IPWA).
- IPWA will verify and confirm your IPWA hours before submitting a request for a Parks Pass to our local USFS office. Our records go back to 2021 and include both summer and winter patrols, as well as Trailhead Host and Trail Maintenance hours.
- If you think you have volunteered an average of 80+ hours per year (12+ patrols per year) over the last three years, you may qualify for the pass!
- IPWA management activities such as Board participation time, do not "count" towards the Parks Pass; the intent is to reward public-facing activities.

If you're over 62, you may already have purchased a lifetime senior pass. However, if you are younger and/or don't have a senior pass and think you may qualify for one of these passes, please email us at hikers@indianpeakswilderness.org.