

Veterans may qualify for reduced recreation license fees

Solano County veterans may qualify for a number of free and reduced parks and recreation license fees, including hunting and fishing licenses issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Hunting Licenses

Hunting licenses are available to any resident or non-resident veteran in the state with a 50 percent or greater service-connected disability and who chooses to hunt birds or mammals. Certification from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is required at the time of application. A copy of a previous year's California Disabled Veterans Hunting License will also suffice.

A fee reduction is also available for service members who are recovering from serious service-related injuries and who are a member of the National Guard. A letter from the unit commander is required to verify the service related condition.

The fee for service members looking for a reduced hunting license is \$6.95. Visit the Department of Fish and Game's website at www.dfg.ca.gov for more information.

FREE hunting licenses are available to veterans who are mobility impaired. Mobility impaired veterans use a motorized vehicle to hunt game. The licenses are available to residents and non-resident veterans and are for muzzleloader and archer hunters who have severe disabilities that impair their ability to hunt normally.

Fishing Licenses

Veterans may also be eligible for reduced-fee fishing licenses, specifically those who have been honorably-discharged from the US Armed Forces with a service-connected disability rating of 50 percent or more and proof of the disability from the VA. A copy of the previous year's license is also acceptable and should be presented at the time of application.

The fee for service members looking for a reduced fishing license is \$6.95. Visit the Department of Fish and Game's website at www.dfg.ca.gov for more information.

FREE fishing licenses are available to anglers who are legally blind and any veteran who is so disabled as to require a wheelchair or any other assistive device. A physician's verification is required to qualify and should be presented at the time of application.

State of California Park Passes

California State Park Passes are available to disabled veterans who are classified as 50 percent or more and who served during war time. Prisoners of War and Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients are also eligible for State Park Passes. Applications for FREE State Park Passes are available by telephone at (800) 777-0369.

If you need help applying for reduced price hunting and / or fishing licenses or the State of California Park Pass, please stop by the Solano County Veterans Services office during regular business hours for assistance, as my staff is happy to help.

Ted Puntillo is director of Veteran Services for Solano County. Reach him at 784-6590 or TEPuntillo@SolanoCounty.com. The Solano County Veteran Services Office, 675 Texas St. in Fairfield, is open from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.