



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

101 N. 14TH ST., 17TH FLOOR
RICHMOND, VA 23219

Air Force Association
American Legion
AMVETS
Association of the United States Army
Disabled American Veterans
Fifth Baptist Veterans Ministry
Fleet Reserve Association
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
Korean War Veterans Association
Legion of Valor of the U.S., Inc.
Marine Corps League
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the World Wars
Navy Mutual Aid Association
Navy Seabee Veterans of America
Non-Commissioned Officers Association
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Reserve Officers Association
Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of America
Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
Virginia National Guard Association
Women Marines Association

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JLC Contact

Virginia National Guard Association
Kevin Hoffman

Position Paper 2021-05

Reduced Price Annual Passes to Virginia State Parks for Guard members

OBJECTIVE: To ensure Virginia's continued commitment to the men and women of the Virginia National Guard by offering a 50% discount on Virginia State parks annual pass.

BACKGROUND:

- Numerous states offer free admission to state parks for their National Guard Members.
- A reduced price pass allows the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to examine the number of passes issued at a discount and provides adjustments, if necessary, based on usage.
- Federal parks are now free for active service members, which includes the National Guard members.

DISCUSSION:

- Virginia National Guard Soldiers will mobilize into federal service from Fort Hood Texas in the spring of 2021. They will be able to visit all of the State parks in Texas without paying an entrance fee. Those same Soldiers will have to pay a fee to use a state park in Virginia.
- The cost of this effort is relatively low in extending a 50% discount to our National Guard members. We recognize their continued service to the Commonwealth during times of need. This year alone approximately 1,500 Guard members have mobilized in response to COVID 19 and civil disturbances throughout the Commonwealth.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Governor and General Assembly grant reduced price annual passes to Virginia State parks to members of the Virginia National Guard.