



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF
VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

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

Air Force Association
Air Force Sergeants Association
American Legion
AMVETS
Association of the United States Army
Disabled American Veterans
Fifth Baptist Church Veterans Ministry
Fleet Reserve Association
Legion of Valor of the U.S., Inc.
Marine Corps League
Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Military Order of the World Wars
Navy Mutual Aid Association
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Reserve Organization of America
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
Wounded Warrior Project

Position Paper 2023-05

Virginia National Guard State Park Admission

OBJECTIVE: To ensure Virginia's continued commitment to the men and women of the Virginia National Guard by offering free or reduced price entrance to state parks for all Virginia National Guard members.

BACKGROUND:

- Federal parks offer free admission for all National Guard members.
- Numerous states offer free admission to state parks for their National Guard members. Some states extend this to Guard members from out of state for example:
 - Thousands of Virginia Soldiers will mobilize through installations in Texas in 2021 and 2022.
 - They are able to visit all of the State parks in Texas without paying an entrance fee.
 - Those same Soldiers have to pay a fee to use a state park in Virginia.
- Last year alone approximately 1,500 members of the Virginia National Guard were mobilized in response to COVID-19 and civil disturbance response throughout the Commonwealth.
- The Department of Conservation and Recreation listed the fiscal impact of this measure to be approximately 10K.

DISCUSSION:

- Offering free or reduced state park admission for members of the Virginia National Guard recognizes their continued service to the Commonwealth during times of need.

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

Approved September 15,
2022

JLC Contact

**Virginia National
Guard Association**

Kevin Hoffman
kevin.j.joffman20
.mil@mail.mil
571-344-8616

