Divisions of Boating and Waterways, Historic Preservation and Off-Highway Vehicles

News Release



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Free Admission to California State Parks for Veterans, Active and Reserve Military Personnel on Memorial Day

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California State Parks will offer free admission to veterans, as well as active and reserve military personnel in participating California state parks on Memorial Day, May 26, 2014.

Participating state parks include 133 parks that are accessible with the "<u>Surf Explorer</u>" Annual Pass, plus eight <u>State Vehicular Recreation Areas</u> (SVRAs), as well as the <u>California State Railroad Museum</u> in Sacramento.

Veterans, active duty and reserve military personnel must show a valid military ID in order to receive free admission.

"We are extending a special invitation to our Armed Forces and our veterans by inviting them to visit a state park. This is a wonderful opportunity to thank our Armed Forces for their service and sacrifice, as well as create lifetime connections with our State Parks that we hope will continue as an annual tradition," said Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret.), Director of California State Parks.

This year, California State Parks is commemorating its 150th Anniversary, giving the department an opportunity to connect people with their parks, and showcasing the beauty and diversity of the parks, including state beaches, recreation areas, state historic parks, and SVRAs. The free admission is part of AB 150 (D-Olsen), signed by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. last year, which authorizes California State Parks to offer Veterans, active duty or reserve military personnel for the United States Armed Forces and the National Guard of any state a reduced or free day use at California state parks.

"The passage of AB 150 reaffirmed and strengthened our state's support for the many Californians who have made extreme sacrifices to protect our country through military service," Assemblymember Olsen said. "My hope is that the men and women who make up our Armed Forces take this opportunity to enjoy time with loved ones in one of our beautiful state parks."

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