



Veterans Network Directory - Montgomery County, MD

Parks, Trails, Garden and Nature Centers

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This is a project of the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs.

To submit an update, add or remove a listing, or request an alternative format, please contact: MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov.

[See Also Recreation and Sports](#)

Maryland State Park Passes - Golden Age Pass and Universal Disability Pass

Maryland Park Service
580 Taylor Avenue, E-3
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

1-877-620-8367 (Toll Free)

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/goldenage.aspx>

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/udpfaq.aspx>

The Golden Age Pass entitles pass holders to free day-use entry to all state parks that charge service fees (for cardholders only, unless a per-vehicle fee is in effect, then free entry applies to everyone in the vehicle with the cardholder). To be eligible for a Golden Age Pass, you must be 62 years of age or older. The Golden Age Pass can be purchased online, or at designated state parks. If you plan to purchase the pass in person at a state park, please call that park office ahead of time to verify that they are sold there, or call the park service headquarters at 410-260-8186 (V) for help finding a convenient location to purchase your pass.

This pass is also valid for half-price camping (includes campsites and mini- cabins, excludes full-service cabins and houses) for one site, Sunday through Thursday, excluding holidays. The passholder must present the original pass at check-in and must be part of the camping party on that site during the entire stay. Boat launching fees at Maryland State Parks are also waived for seniors who possess a Golden Age Pass. This is a non-transferrable, lifetime pass with a \$10 processing service fee. If the pass is lost, stolen or needs to be replaced for any reason, the card holder must apply for and purchase a new pass.

Montgomery Parks

Email: info@montgomeryparks.org

301-495-2595 (V)

www.montgomeryparks.org

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Parks: www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-trails/parks/

Trails: www.montgomeryparks.org/activities/park-trails/

Gardens & Nature Centers: www.montgomeryparks.org/visit-nature/

Montgomery Parks is rich in resources for education, leisure activities, and family fun. Park system includes 414 parks across 37,386 acres, 4 lakes, 490 miles of streams, 268 playgrounds, 270.6 miles of paved and nature surface trails, 134 picnic areas, 106 historic structures, 102 campsites, and 29 park activity buildings. Year-round fishing is allowed in all their streams, ponds, and lakes, unless otherwise noted by signs. The nature centers, gardens, arborist programs and community gardens hold annual festivals and events, along with seasonal programming. Nature centers offer quality public programs for all ages and provide a natural sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of city life. In addition, there are miniature trains, indoor tennis facilities, boat rental facilities, indoor ice rinks, event centers, public gardens, and more.

OPERATION: CAMPOUT! – Maryland Park Service

Christina Carlson, Contact

410-603-6073 (V)

Email: christina.carlson@maryland.gov

http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Documents/operation_campout.pdf

The Maryland Park Service (MPS), in partnership with The North Face: Explore Your Parks, offers OPERATION: CAMPOUT! at selected state parks throughout the summer. This program is designed specifically for active duty military, veterans and their families who are new to camping or experienced campers. This is an opportunity for families to reconnect with each other and the great outdoors in a comfortable, safe and relaxing setting. Choose from five Maryland State Parks including Patapsco Valley State Park, Pocomoke River State Park, Rocky Gap State Park, New Germany State Park or Swallow Falls State Park. MPS will lend you gear free of charge including a tent, chairs, stove, lantern and more. Campsites have picnic tables and campfire rings. Bathrooms and hot showers are within walking distance.

Seneca Landing Special Park – Montgomery Parks

16501 Old River Road

301-495-2595 (V)

Poolesville, MD 20837

Email: info@montgomeryparks.org

www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/seneca-landing-special-park/

The site, located in Poolesville, is one of the busiest access points to the Potomac River and adjoins the National Park Service's popular C&O Canal. Features a fully accessible floating launch for non-motorized boats improving safety for kayakers, canoeists and paddle boarders. Also features an accessible drop-off area and walkway, three accessible parking spaces and a fully accessible picnic area with tables and grills. There are no fees to enter the park or to put in.

Warrior Expeditions

Sean Gobin, Founder and Executive Director

Email: info@warriorhike.org

<https://warriorexpeditions.org>

Walk Off The War program is designed to support veterans transitioning from their military service by thru-hiking America's National Scenic Trails. Veterans participating in the "Walk Off The War" Program receive various forms of support during and after their thru-hike. First, veterans receive the necessary equipment and supplies required to complete a thru-hike of a National Scenic Trail. Next, Warrior Hike coordinates trail town support with the numerous veteran organizations and local communities that are located along the National Scenic Trails. Trail town support includes transportation, food, and lodging in addition to providing the opportunity to socialize with veterans from past wars and local community groups. Lastly, Warrior Hike assists veterans with future employment opportunities offered by the numerous supporters of the "Walk Off The War" Program and by partnered veteran job placement companies and veteran hiring services. Any veteran who has served in a combat zone and who has been honorably discharged is eligible to submit an application to Warrior Expeditions.

Woodend Nature Sanctuary – Nature Forward

8940 Jones Mill Road

301-652-9188 (V)

Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Email: contact@natureforward.org

<https://natureforward.org/visit/>

A peaceful 40-acre oasis for experienced nature lovers and new explorers. Enjoy the serenity of their wildflower meadows, walk their meandering woodland trails, visit their native plant gardens, and explore the aquatic life of their pond. The sanctuary is free and open to the public every day of the year from dawn to dusk. Also offer educational programs for adults and parents, an nature preschool, school programs, and summer camps. Nature Forward partners with the UMD Extension to offer Maryland Master Naturalist training. This program engages students as stewards of Maryland's ecosystems through science-based education and volunteer service. Nature Forward's top-notch instructors will provide: 52 hours of training in the ecology, flora, and fauna of Maryland; 8 hours of hands-on field work; and a focus on the natural history of Maryland's Piedmont region. Master Naturalist graduates commit 40 hours of volunteer service annually to support our education programs, stewardship of Woodend habitats, and conservation outreach.