

# Oregon State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts

**August 2015**



The state of Oregon provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- Housing Benefits
- Employment Benefits
- Education Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits
- Oregon Veterans Benefits Website

## **Oregon Veteran Housing Programs**

### **Oregon Veterans Home Loans**

Since 1946, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) has helped more than 334,000 veterans realize their dreams of owning a home, loaning over \$7.5 billion to veterans. ODVA offers a state veterans' home loan that is an additional and distinctively separate benefit from the Federal VA Home Loan Guaranty Program. The current maximum loan amount is \$417,000 for a single family, owner occupied residence and veterans are now eligible to use the loan as a lifetime benefit. The program is designed specifically to provide veterans the lowest interest rate possible and is secured through special federal bonding only available to state home loan programs. ODVA takes pride in achieving consistent high levels of customer satisfaction, and makes every attempt to be flexible and provide an easy application process. A home loan program for honorably discharged veterans with below market interest rates. The eligibility for the program expires 30 years after discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces. ODVA also offers home improvement loans. Toll free information number 1-800-828-8801. Learn more about Oregon Veterans Home Loans at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODVA/HOMELOANS/Pages/index.aspx> .

### **Oregon Veterans Homes**

Care at the Oregon Veteran's Homes is an earned benefit available to veterans, their spouses and parents who had a child die while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. To be eligible for this benefit, qualifying veterans must have served as defined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (Federal VA) and received an honorable discharge from their branch of service.

A VA physician's certification that nursing home care is needed due to a service connected disability may qualify a veterans to be eligible to have some or all of the cost of care at the Veterans' Home covered by the VA. Typically veterans who have a 70 percent or greater service-connected disability and are in need of skilled nursing care due to their disability may be eligible to have their cost of care covered by the VA. The Homes are Medicare and Medicaid Certified. Veterans living at the Home may be eligible for additional federal benefits which can help them supplement their cost of care. The Admissions Liaison at the Oregon Veterans' Home is able to assist veterans and their families in obtaining additional federal benefits. Learn more by clicking on the links below. A new window will direct you to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs website.

- [Compensation and Pensions](#)
- [Dependent and Survivors Benefits](#)
- [Health Care Benefits](#)
- [Long Term Care Benefits](#)
- [Burial Benefits](#)
- [Auto/Adaptive/Clothing Allowances](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Records/Medals/Discharges](#)
- [VA Homelessness Resources](#)

Admissions Assistance - The Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs has Admission Liaisons to assist veterans and their families with questions about care and the admissions process at the two homes.

- **The Dalles Oregon Veterans' Home** - 700 Veterans' Drive, The Dalles, Oregon 97058 Tel: (541) 296-7190 or 800-846-8460. Program Director: Dallas Swafford Tel: 541-296-7152. The Dalles website <http://www.thedalles.oregonveteranshomes.com>. is



- **Lebanon Oregon Veterans' Home** - 600 North 5th Street, Lebanon, Oregon 97355 Tel: (541) 497 -7265. Program Director: Jeremy Woodall (541) 497-7268. Lebanon website <http://www.lebanon.oregonveteranshomes.com>.



**Main Entrance, Community Center**

### **Oregon Property Tax Exemption**

If you are a 40% or more disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a war veteran, you may be entitled to exempt up to \$18,540 of your homestead property's assessed value from property taxes. The exemption amount increases by 3 percent each year. The exemption is first applied to your home and then to your taxable personal property. If you are an Oregon resident and a qualifying veteran or that veteran's surviving spouse and live in your home, you may file a claim and receive the exemption.

## **Oregon Employment Benefits**

### **Oregon Veterans' Employment Preference**

Veterans preference in public employment. Additional preference for disabled veterans. Preference points are awarded to eligible veterans seeking employment with all state agencies, and are awarded as follows:

- A five (5) point preference for eligible veterans if Application is made within 15 years of discharge or release from service in the Armed Forces
- A ten (10) point preference for service-connected disabled Veterans. Application can be made throughout the lifetime of the disabled veteran.

Go to [www.oregon.gov/ODVA/Pages/HireVetsFirst.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODVA/Pages/HireVetsFirst.aspx) to learn more about the Oregon Veterans' Employment Preference.

### **Oregon Veterans' Reemployment Rights**

Oregon Veterans' are entitled to their old job, seniority, and pay with accrued status upon release of service. Enforced by the United States Department of Labor, Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). USERRA protects all members of the uniformed services from discrimination in employment regardless of whether their uniformed service was in the past, present or future.

Learn more about Oregon Veterans' Reemployment Rights at <http://www.doj.state.or.us/veterans/rights.shtml>

## **Oregon Education Assistance Benefits**

### **Veterans' Dependent Tuition Waiver - Offered by Oregon University System and State Community Colleges**

This benefit is offered by the State of Oregon University System and local community colleges and provides a full tuition waiver (not fees) for a bachelor's or master's degree at an OUS institution for a child or spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces who either died in active duty, became 100% disabled in connection with military service, or died as a result of a disability sustained in active duty.

### **Voyager Aid Program for Oregon National Guard and Reserve**

This program is a tuition benefit that is available to honor and support Oregon residents who served the nation as members of the National Guard or Reserves in an active duty capacity in a combat zone since September 11, 2001. Voyager is a "last dollar award". Qualifying students will be awarded a fee remission for no more than the difference between campus tuition and mandatory fees and expected military tuition benefits. The student is responsible for obtaining federal military tuition benefits. If a student is not eligible for federal tuition benefits, they must demonstrate proof of ineligibility. The combination of military tuition benefits and Voyager tuition benefits will ensure that eligible recipients do not pay tuition. The Voyager Tuition Assistance Program does not cover E-Campus or Distance courses. Contact your university financial assistance department for more information.

### High School Diploma

A school district may issue diplomas under ORS 332.114 to veterans who did not graduate from a high school because they were serving in the Armed Forces.

## Other Oregon State Veteran Benefits

### Oregon Hunting and Fishing Licenses

A free lifetime Oregon hunting and angling license to service-connected disabled veterans rated 25% or more. Disabled veterans are also eligible for an Oregon Elk tag at a reduced cost. Active members of the armed forces or veterans who retired from the Armed Forces within 12 months of the date of application, may apply to the Oregon Military Department for reimbursement for the cost of a resident annual hunting and angling license.

### Oregon State Park Use Permits

Service-connected disabled Veterans and active duty military personnel on leave have free day-use parking and free overnight rental of RV and tent campsites for up to five consecutive days and no more than 10 days total in a calendar month.





### Oregon Veteran License Plates

Veterans may purchase a license plate set displaying the word VETERAN for a \$10 surcharge in addition to normal fees from a local Oregon Division of Motor Vehicles office. The \$10 surcharge goes to the support of the Oregon Veterans' Home. Proof of honorable military service is required. Former POWs, members of the active Oregon National Guard and certain veteran service organization names are available on license plates.

Service-connected disabled veterans in receipt of compensation qualify for a one time registration fee for motor vehicle registration. These plates do not allow parking in designated disabled parking spaces.



The following plates are available to veterans:


Available License Plates	
<p><b>Congressional Medal of Honor</b></p> 	<p><b>General Information:</b> Intended to honor veterans who have been awarded the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor. Configurations available are MOH or CMH followed by next number in series.</p> <p><b>Additional Fees:</b> No surcharge fees in addition to the plate fees or replacement plate fees (if applicable).</p> <p><b>Who Qualifies:</b> Recipients of the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor. Required proof of eligibility is a letter from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, certifying award of the medal.</p> <p><b>Available For:</b> Passenger Vehicles</p> <p><b>Additional Information:</b> Veterans Administration Benefits line (800) 827-1000 or <a href="#">DMV</a>.</p>
<p><b>Disabled Veteran</b> (except motorcycle &amp; moped)</p>	<p><b>General Information:</b> Intended to honor disabled veterans who have a service-connected disability. Does not, in itself, grant special parking privileges. The registration is valid for as long as the person who qualified for Disabled Veteran Plates remains an owner.</p> <p><b>Additional Fees:</b> No surcharge fees in addition to the plate fees or</p>

 <p>Oregon PERMANENT 0000 VETERAN</p>	<p>replacement plate fees (if applicable). The registration fee for Disabled Veteran Plates is \$15 regardless of vehicle type.  <b>Who Qualifies:</b> Disabled veterans with a service-connected disability. Only one set of plates may be issued per qualifying veteran. See the DMV <a href="#">Application for Disabled Veteran Plates</a> (Form 735-6736) for more information.  <b>Available For:</b> All vehicles except motorcycle, moped, low-speed, medium-speed electric, and commercial vehicles.  <b>Additional Information:</b> Veterans Administration (800) 827-1000 or <a href="#">DMV</a>.</p>
<p><b>Disabled Veteran</b> (motorcycle &amp; moped only)</p>  <p>PERMANENT D 07205 OREGON VETERAN</p>	<p><b>General Information:</b> Intended to honor disabled veterans who have a service-connected disability. Does not, in itself, grant special parking privileges. The registration is valid for as long as the person who qualified for Disabled Veteran Plates remains an owner.  <b>Additional Fees:</b> No surcharge fees in addition to the plate fees or replacement plate fees (if applicable). The registration fee for Disabled Veteran Plates is \$15 regardless of vehicle type.  <b>Who Qualifies:</b> Disabled veterans with a service-connected disability. Only one set of plates may be issued per qualifying veteran. See the DMV <a href="#">Application for Disabled Veteran Plates</a> (Form 735-6736) for more information.  <b>Available For:</b> Motorcycles and mopeds that are non-commercial vehicles.  <b>Additional Information:</b> Veterans Administration (800) 827-1000 or <a href="#">DMV</a>.</p>
<p><b>Ex-POW</b></p>  <p>EX POW P W 00477 OREGON</p>	<p><b>General Information:</b> Intended to honor former prisoners of war. Does not, in itself, grant special parking privileges.  <b>Additional Fees:</b> No surcharge fees in addition to the plate fees or replacement plate fees (if applicable).  <b>Who Qualifies:</b> Former Prisoners of War. To learn about qualifications and to certify your eligibility, see the <a href="#">Ex-POW Certification</a> (Form 735-6655).  <b>Available For:</b> All vehicles except low-speed vehicles, medium-speed electric, commercial vehicles, and vehicles with a combined or loaded weight over 10,000 pounds.  <b>Additional Information:</b> Veterans Administration (800) 827-1000 or <a href="#">DMV</a>.</p>
<p><b>First Marine Division FMF</b></p>  <p>Oregon FIRST MARINE DIVISION FMF ABAB VETERAN</p>	<p><b>General Information:</b> Intended to honor veterans involved with the 1st Marine Division.  <b>Additional Fees:</b> \$10 for two-year registration period, \$20 for four-year registration period (new vehicles).  <b>Proceeds Benefit:</b> Additional fees go to the Oregon Chapter of the 1st Marine Division.  <b>Who Qualifies:</b> Honorably discharged veterans and those on active duty that served as a member of, assigned to, attached to, or in support of the 1st Marine Division. Must provide proof of eligibility and certify using the <a href="#">Group Plate Eligibility Certification</a> (Form 735-6940).  <b>Available For:</b> Passenger Vehicles</p>
<p><b>Gold Star Family</b></p>	<p><b>General Information:</b> Intended to honor the families of veterans killed in the line of duty.</p>



 <p>Oregon ABAB Gold Star Family</p>	<p><b>Additional Fees:</b> \$10 for two-year registration period, \$20 for four-year registration period (new vehicles).  <b>Proceeds Benefit:</b> Additional fees go to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Oregon State Council.  <b>Who Qualifies:</b> Must be a parent, spouse or dependent of a person who was killed in action during an armed conflict while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. Must provide proof of eligibility and certify using the <a href="#">Group Plate Eligibility Certification</a> (Form 735-6940).  <b>Available For:</b> Passenger Vehicles  <b>Additional Information:</b> Robin Steckley, (503) 373-2386.</p>
<p><b>National Guard</b></p>  <p>Oregon N00 858</p>	<p><b>General Information:</b> Intended to honor the Oregon National Guard. Plate is for identification purposes only; no special privileges granted.  <b>Additional Fees:</b> No surcharge fees in addition to the plate fees or replacement plate fees (if applicable).  <b>Who Qualifies:</b> Active members of the Oregon National Guard. Must provide an Oregon Military Certificate of Eligibility, AGO Form 4309. To obtain this form or for more information, contact your unit commander.  <b>Available For:</b> Passenger Vehicles and Motor Homes</p>
<p><b>Non-Commission Officers Association</b></p>  <p>Oregon ABAB NCOA VETERAN</p>	<p><b>General Information:</b> Intended to honor veterans.  <b>Additional Fees:</b> \$10 for two-year registration period, \$20 for four-year registration period (new vehicles).  <b>Proceeds Benefit:</b> Additional fees go to the NCOA Oregon State Advisor Council Chapter 1300.  <b>Who Qualifies:</b> No Restrictions  <b>Available For:</b> Passenger Vehicles</p>
<p><b>Paralyzed Veterans of America</b></p>  <p>Oregon PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA AAGW</p>	<p><b>General Information:</b> Intended to honor paralyzed veterans.  <b>Additional Fees:</b> \$10 for two-year registration period, \$20 for four-year registration period (new vehicles).  <b>Proceeds Benefit:</b> Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America.  <b>Who Qualifies:</b> No Restrictions  <b>Available For:</b> Passenger Vehicles</p>
<p><b>Purple Heart</b></p>  <p>Oregon ABAB PURPLE HEART VETERAN</p>	<p><b>General Information:</b> Intended to honor recipients of the Purple Heart Award.  <b>Additional Fees:</b> \$10 for two-year registration period, \$20 for four-year registration period (new vehicles).  <b>Proceeds Benefit:</b> Additional fees go to the Oregon Military Order of Purple Heart.  <b>Who Qualifies:</b> Recipients of the Purple Heart Award. Must provide proof of eligibility and certify using the <a href="#">Group Plate Eligibility Certification</a> (Form 735-6940).  <b>Available For:</b> Passenger Vehicles</p>
<p><b>U.S. Army Special Forces Airborne</b></p>	<p><b>General Information:</b> Intended to honor veterans who served in the U.S. Army Special Forces Airborne Division.  <b>Additional Fees:</b> \$10 for two-year registration period, \$20 for four-year registration period (new vehicles).</p>

	<p><b>Proceeds Benefit:</b> Additional fees go to the Oregon Veteran's Home Trust.</p> <p><b>Who Qualifies:</b> Must be an honorably discharged veteran and Special Forces qualified. Must provide proof of eligibility and certify using the <a href="#">Group Plate Eligibility Certification</a> (Form 735-6940).</p> <p><b>Available For:</b> Passenger Vehicles</p>
<p><b>U.S. Merchant Marine</b></p> 	<p><b>General Information:</b> Intended to honor Merchant Marine veterans.</p> <p><b>Additional Fees:</b> \$10 for two-year registration period, \$20 for four-year registration period (new vehicles).</p> <p><b>Proceeds Benefit:</b> Additional fees go to the Oregon Veteran's Home Trust.</p> <p><b>Who Qualifies:</b> Those who can show proof of military service under honorable conditions (DD214 or DD215).</p> <p><b>Available For:</b> Passenger Vehicles</p>
<p><b>Veterans for Human Rights</b></p> 	<p><b>General Information:</b> Intended to honor veterans who support human rights.</p> <p><b>Additional Fees:</b> \$10 for two-year registration period, \$20 for four-year registration period (new vehicles).</p> <p><b>Proceeds Benefit:</b> Additional fees go to the Veterans for Human Rights group.</p> <p><b>Who Qualifies:</b> No restrictions</p> <p><b>Available For:</b> Passenger Vehicles</p>
<p><b>Veterans Recognition</b></p>  <p>(May be issued as above or with branch of service insignia or service related medals. Click on option at right to view.)</p>	<p><b>General Information:</b> Intended to honor veterans.</p> <p><b>Additional Fees:</b> \$10 for two-year registration period, \$20 for four-year registration period (new vehicles).</p> <p><b>Proceeds Benefit:</b> Additional fees go to the Oregon Veterans Home Trust.</p> <p><b>Who Qualifies:</b> Those who can show proof of military service under honorable conditions (DD214 or DD215). For service related medals, DD214/215 must indicate the medal was awarded. You must also certify eligibility using the <a href="#">Application for Veteran Recognition Plates</a> (Form 735-7307) (<a href="#">fillable</a>).</p> <p><b>Available For:</b> Passenger Vehicles</p> <p><b>Branch of Service Insignias:</b> (click to view)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Air Force</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Army</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Coast Guard</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Marines</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Navy</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Service Related Medals:</b> (click to view)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Afghanistan Campaign</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Air Force Cross</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Armed Forces Expeditionary</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Bronze Star</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Distinguished Flying Cross</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Distinguished Service Cross</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Iraq Campaign</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Korea Service</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Navy Cross</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Silver Star</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">SW Asia</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Vietnam Service</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">World War II Victory</a></li> </ul>
	<p><b>General Information:</b> Intended to honor Vietnam veterans.</p> <p><b>Additional Fees:</b> \$10 for two-year registration period, \$20 for four-year registration period (new vehicles).</p> <p><b>Proceeds Benefit:</b> Additional fees go to the <a href="#">Vietnam Veterans of America</a>, Oregon State Council.</p> <p><b>Who Qualifies:</b> No Restrictions</p> <p><b>Available For:</b> Passenger Vehicles</p>

**Oregon Public Records**

Certified copies of Oregon marriage, death, divorce, and birth records for VA claims purposes are provided free of charge. Also note that county clerks will record veterans' discharge papers (DD Form 214) and provide copies of recorded documents free of charge.

**Veteran Benefit Magazine**

The ODVA has published a comprehensive 40-page Veteran Benefit magazine containing detailed and updated information on all state and federal veteran benefits. You can Order/Reorder copies of this Magazine at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/?sm=oHo8Rgrnf2pWogJSb4CM%2fZtggalbwj626vtVZ1fBFi8%3d> or read it online at [http://issuu.com/odva/docs/241\\_magazine\\_2015\\_feb\\_web](http://issuu.com/odva/docs/241_magazine_2015_feb_web).

Visit the [Oregon Dept. of Veterans Affairs](http://www.oregon.gov/odva/Pages/index.aspx) website <http://www.oregon.gov/odva/Pages/index.aspx> for contact information and benefits assistance.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/oregon-state-veterans-benefits.html> August 2015 ++]

**Military Discounts in Oregon**

1. MVDC has close to 2800 business locations in Oregon that have discounts for military personnel and veterans. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state of Oregon also provides discounts for those that have served. To find business discounts, enter your zip code and category in the search box at <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/oregon.html>.

2. **Veterans Designation on drivers license:** yes

3. **Discounted Fees and Taxes**

- One-time registration fee for motor vehicle registration for eligible veterans with a service-connected disability.



- Free hunting and angling license for disabled veterans rated at 25% or more.
- Free year-round camping for service-connected disabled veterans and active duty personnel on leave.

4. **Property tax and Financial Benefits** - State veterans' home loan that is a separate benefit from the Federal VA Home Loan Guaranty Program

5. **Education Discounts**

- Veterans' Dependent Tuition Waiver for a child or spouse of a member of the US Armed Forces who either died in active duty or became 100% disabled in connection with military service.
- Tuition benefit for Oregon residents who served as members of the National Guard or Reserves in an active duty capacity in a combat zone since September 11, 2001.
- Education benefits to veterans under the Oregon Veteran Educational Aid Program

6. To find businesses that provide military and veteran discounts refer to <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com>.

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/oregon.html> August 2015 ++]