

Utah State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts

2017



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

- Veteran Housing Benefits
- Employment Benefits
- Education Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Utah Veteran Housing and Tax Programs

Veterans Homes

Quality nursing and health care services are provided for Utah veterans with U.S. military service during peacetime or wartime. While wartime service is not a requirement for admission to the nursing home, wartime veterans with one day or more of wartime service, as recognized by state and federal laws, have top priority. A veteran's spouse or surviving spouse may also qualify for admittance to the Utah State Veterans Nursing Home, providing the marriage to the veteran occurred at least one year before the application.

In state-owned veterans homes, the VA pays for nearly one half the cost of care for the resident. In certain instances of service connected disabilities, 100% of the cost of care is paid. Care is available to all veterans and eligible dependents.

Utah has four State Veterans Homes located in Salt Lake City, Ogden, Payson and Ivins. The state oversight agency is the Utah Department of Veterans & Military Affairs (UDVMA). The operations and management of the facilities is contracted to a private health Care provider (Avalon Health Care). All four facilities carry a 5-star CMS rating.

If you have any questions, would like to contribute to these facilities, or to sponsor a patient room, please contact the Utah Department of Veteran's Affairs at either (801) 326-2372 or 1-800-894-9497.



William E. Christoffersen Salt Lake Veterans Home
700 S. Foothill Drive Salt Lake City, UT, 84113-1104
Phone: 801-584-1900 Fax: 801-584-1960



George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home
1102 North 1200 West, Ogden, UT 84404
Phone: (801) 334-4300 Fax (801) 334-4309



William E. Christoffersen Salt Lake Veterans Home
700 S. Foothill Drive Salt Lake City, UT, 84113-1104
Phone: 801-584-1900 Fax: 801-584-1960



Southern Utah Veterans Home
160 N. 200 E Street, Ivins, UT 84738
Phone: 435-634-5220 Fax: 435-673-5839

Disabled Veteran Property Tax Abatement

A Utah permanent place-of-residence property tax abatement that uses the VA’s percentage-rating for a service-connected disability is available for disabled Veterans or for their un-remarried widows or minor orphans. The Veteran’s disability rating must be at least 10% in order to qualify for this abatement. The percentage cap is subject to change, but here is the formula:

- The maximum property tax abatement is \$253,264 (rated at 100% serviceconnected disability),
- Multiply your percentage of disability by 253,024
- Example: a 10% disability X 253,264 = \$25,326.40 tax abatement
- This amount is then subtracted from the taxable value of the property and taxes are paid on the remaining amount.

To apply for this Property Tax Abatement, request a Summary of Benefits Letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Submit the letter and complete a Property Tax Abatement application at the applicable county treasurer, tax assessor, or clerk/ recorder located in the county government building of the county in which the property is located on or before 1 SEP. All property must be on record as of 1 JAN of the year you file. However, a recent change allows an exemption to that rule to qualified widows and orphans. Disabled Veterans only have to file for the abatement one time; after which it will automatically renew each year. (Utah Code 59-2- 1104 & 1105)

Armed forces Property Tax Exemption

The state provides a property tax exemption for members of active or reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces who perform qualifying active-duty military service. For the purposes of this tax exemption, “Qualifying Active Duty Service” is defined as a minimum of 200 days in a calendar year, regardless of whether they were performed consecutively, or 200 consecutive days of active service that may cross over into a second calendar year but has not been applied toward the count for the previous year’s taxes. The amount of the tax exemption is equal to the total taxable value of the claimant’s real property. This tax exemption can be claimed up to a year following the year the service was completed. The exemption may not be claimed by the military person’s spouse, and the military person may not claim the tax exemption for property owned exclusively by the military person’s spouse. (Utah Code 59-2-1104 & 1105)

Utah Veteran Employment Programs

Veterans Job Preference

Eligible veterans or un-remarried spouses are granted either 5 or 10 points, as applicable, for employment preference, added to the results of any written &/or oral exam or other related qualifying technique, by any Utah government entity (state, county, municipality, special district or other political subdivision or administration). The U.S. Dept. of Labor will protect the veteran's rights to the Veterans Job Preference. Any officers, agents or representatives of the state, or any contractor performing work for Utah state government, who willfully fails to hire a military veteran shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Veterans Job Representatives

Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Person (DVOP) are located statewide in the larger employment offices of the Utah Dept. of Workforce Services. They provide intensive employment related services for targeted veterans: referral to job opportunities, resume writing, referral letters, veteran's preference, employment counseling, etc.

Finding a Job

The State of Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs is committed to easing your transition from the service into the civilian world. They have great resources within the state to assist you find a job working for the government or in the private sector. In addition, you will want to check out State of Utah Patriot Partnership program which recognizes organizations that pledge their support for veterans and commit to military veteran employment. This can help you identify organizations where you might want to work. Combined with the tips and tools on preparing to apply for jobs, access to these job resources can help you establish great career here in Utah.

- **Private Sector Jobs** -- If you are seeking employment in the private sector, Utah Department of Workforce Services website <http://jobs.utah.gov> is a great place to start. This site brings together job seekers and potential employers from across Utah in one spot. You can create a profile, access job postings and learn about upcoming hiring events in your area. If you self-identify as a veteran in your online profile, organizations looking to hire veterans can connect with you. As a

veteran, you also receive a “veteran preference” on the website, giving you an identifier next to your name for employers to easily identify.

- **State of Utah Jobs** -- Invest your knowledge, skills, and abilities with the State of Utah! The rewards are enormous. Explore the State of Utah jobs website <http://statejobs.utah.gov/jobseeker/> to learn more about opportunities.
- **Federal Jobs** -- The federal government has a long and outstanding record of employing veterans. Veterans have technical skills in areas of critical importance, and many also already have security clearances that are required for some federal positions. Federal service provides a means for veterans to continue their noble service to this country. All federal hiring is done through the USAJobs website. at <https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/unique-hiring-paths/veterans>.
- **eBenefits** -- If you are looking for a new job or career, don't miss the opportunity to post a verified Veteran profile and connect with employers who are actively looking to hire Veterans. There are more than 1.5 million active job listings currently posted through Veterans Employment Center (VEC). It's easy to post your online profile, ensuring employers can connect with you today. eBenefits website <https://www.vets.gov/employment>.

Veteran-Friendly Employers

May 2011 Governor Gary R Herbert along with The Department of Workforce Services created at <http://www.jobs.utah.gov/employer/business/patriotpledge.htm> a Veteran-Friendly Employer program called Utah Patriot Partnership program to recognize the efforts of certain organizations that hire and retain veterans in their workforce. All across Utah, Veterans of our armed services have returned home after serving courageously on the world's battlefields. Utah businesses can give there veterans the ultimate “thank you” by allowing them the opportunity for employment. These employers recognize the value of hiring veterans and meet specified criteria distinguishing them as a Utah Patriot Partner.

Utah Veteran Education Assistance Programs

In-state Tuition

Active duty military and veterans that have been release from active service within the 12 months of attending school will receive tuition at the rate of in-state tuition at public degree granting and certificate granting schools. See school admissions office <https://le.utah.gov/~2012/bills/static/HB0124.html> to apply.

Purple Heart Tuition Waiver

Purple Heart recipients are eligible for a tuition waiver at all public institution of higher learning in Utah. This benefit can be used toward a degree up to and including a Masters Degree. To receive this benefit the Veteran must submit proof that they are a Purple Heart recipient to the State Institution they are attending.

Scott Lundell Military Survivors Tuition Waiver

Surviving dependants of service members killed in action on or after September 11, 2001 are eligible for a tuition waiver at state schools. <http://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title53B/Chapter8/53B-8-S107.html>. Dependent

children may also be eligible for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship. http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/factsheets/fry_scholarship.pdf.

Veterans Tuition Gap Program

Effective 1 July 2014 the Veterans Tuition Gap Program came into effect. This “funding” gap enables qualifying military Veterans to receive tuition assistance for the last school year at State institutions of higher education. It is for tuition only and does not include housing, books, etc. For more information go to: <http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r765/r765-611.htm>.

Veterans Upward Bound

VUB is funded by the Department of Education and sponsored by Weber State University. VUB provides a valuable service by assisting veterans in obtaining admission to post- secondary schools. Instruction and tutoring are provided free of charge to veterans in math, English and basic computer applications. The services are provided to veterans in Salt Lake, Davis and Weber Counties.

Honorary High School Diplomas

Veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam who left High School for military service are eligible to receive Honorary High School Diplomas from the school they left. Contact the local school district for information on how to receive the diploma.

Other Utah State Veterans Benefits

Outreach

The Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs outreach program has two main areas:

- 1) Outreach to local communities and special events. The community outreach program involves Service Officers and Outreach Representatives on a consistent schedule traveling across the state to assist Veterans and their dependents with filing VA claims. Because the claims process can be so intimidating and because not everyone can get to a service officer in Salt Lake, VMA sends them to you.
- 2) VMA's special events outreach consists of Benefit and Information Fairs, workshops and a variety of other events that are ways of bringing the many available services and resources to communities throughout the state.

To see the schedule of events go to <https://veterans.utah.gov/outreach> and click on the region of the map that relates to you.

Drivers License Privileges

Driver licenses possessed by persons on U.S. military active duty shall be valid 90 days after active duty discharge, unless driver licenses are suspended or revoked for cause by a police department or other judicial entity.

Veterans License Plates

Utah veterans license plates may be purchased for an initial \$25.00 contribution to the Utah State Division of Veterans Affairs plus a \$10.00 plate transfer fee, in addition to normal vehicle registration and property tax fees. Plates can be purchased at any Utah Department of Motor Vehicle office. There will

also be a yearly \$10.00 renewal fee. Proceeds from the sale and renewal of these plates help fund veteran programs within the state. Utah veteran's license plates display colored decal emblems of the U.S. military branch in which served (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Marines as well as the American Legion) and are further inscribed "UTAH HONORS VETERANS". Utah special group license plates for Purple Heart recipients, Pearl Harbor Survivors or former POW's are exempt of application and renewal fees: however, regular registration and property tax fees still must be paid. Proper evidence to present for special group plates includes Military Order of the Purple Heart or Pearl Harbor Survivors Association membership cards, or DD-214 (& equivalent WD AGO 5355) military discharge certificates. You need not wait until renewal time to purchase the license plates. Form TC 817 required for application for a personalized plate with up to 5 alpha-numeric characters. To access the form go to its website at <http://tax.utah.gov/forms/current/tc-817.pdf>

Disabled Veteran



This license plate recognizes Utah resident disabled veterans for their military service. As Utah Tax Code Section 41-1a-414 does not provide handicapped parking space privileges for the Disabled Veteran license plate, a disabled windshield placard must be obtained separately. This plate may be transferred to the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran so long as the surviving spouse remains unmarried. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

Requirements:

- Letter from Utah Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs or other United States military entity certifying the disabled status of the veteran
- \$15 Special Plate Fee
- No Annual Contribution
- If a disabled windshield placard is desired, Form TC-842 available at <http://tax.utah.gov/forms/current/tc-842.pdf> is required and must be signed by a licensed physician or nurse practitioner

Former Prisoner of War



This plate recognizes Utah resident military veterans held as a prisoner of war. This plate may be transferred to the surviving spouse of a former prisoner of war so long as the surviving spouse remains unmarried. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

Requirements:

Form DD214 or Statement of Service from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, \$15 Special Plate Fee, and No Annual Contribution

Gold Star



This plate honors the family of a member of the military who is killed while serving in the United States armed forces. The applicant must be a recipient of the Gold Star award, issued by the U.S. Secretary of Defense. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

This is a centrally distributed license plate. It may be ordered at any DMV office and will be mailed from the Utah State Tax Commission.

Requirements:

- One of the following documents: Document showing classification of death as listed by the U.S. Secretary of Defense, or a Casualty report, or a Telegram from the U.S. Secretary of Defense, or any other document that verifies the applicant is a recipient of the Gold Star award
- \$15 Special Plate Fee, No Annual Contribution, \$3 Postage and Handling

National Guard



This plate recognizes current members of the Utah National Guard. Once separated from the Utah National Guard, the plate must be replaced with a new license plate. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

Requirements: Military photo ID verifying membership in Utah National Guard, \$15 Special Plate Fee, and No Annual Contribution

Pearl Harbor Survivor



This plate recognizes those on duty and surviving the attack at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

Requirements: Membership card issued by the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, \$15 Special Plate Fee, and No Annual Contribution

Purple Heart/Combat Wounded



The Purple Heart decoration is awarded to members of the armed forces who are wounded in combat. This plate recognizes recipients of the award. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

Requirements: A membership card in the Military Order of the Purple Heart Association or military discharge form DD-214 issued by the National Personnel Records Center. There is no Special Plate Fee or Annual Contribution.

Veterans – Air Force



This plate benefits the Utah Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs as it strives to protect the rights of and provide for the needs of Utah's veterans. This plate generates funds to be used in support of these efforts and is available to any person who desires to make the required contribution. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

Requirements: \$15 Special Plate Fee, \$25 Initial Contribution, and \$10 Annual Contribution

Veterans – American Legion



This plate benefits the Utah Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs as it strives to protect the rights of and provide for the needs of Utah's veterans. This plate generates funds to be used in support of these efforts and is available to any person who desires to make the required contribution. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

Requirements: \$15 Special Plate Fee, \$25 Initial Contribution, and \$10 Annual Contribution

Veterans – Army



This plate benefits the Utah Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs as it strives to protect the rights of and provide for the needs of Utah's veterans. This plate generates funds to be used in support of these efforts and is available to any person who desires to make the required contribution. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

Requirements: \$15 Special Plate Fee, \$25 Initial Contribution, and \$10 Annual Contribution

Veterans – Coast Guard



This plate benefits the Utah Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs as it strives to protect the rights of and provide for the needs of Utah's veterans. This plate generates funds to be used in support of these efforts and is available to any person who desires to make the required contribution. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

Requirements: \$15 Special Plate Fee, \$25 Initial Contribution, and \$10 Annual Contribution

Veterans – Marines



This plate benefits the Utah Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs as it strives to protect the rights of and provide for the needs of Utah's veterans. This plate generates funds to be used in support of these efforts and is available to any person who desires to make the required contribution. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

Requirements: \$15 Special Plate Fee, \$25 Initial Contribution, and \$10 Annual Contribution

Veterans – Navy



This plate benefits the Utah Department of Veterans' and Military Affairs as it strives to protect the rights of and provide for the needs of Utah's veterans. This plate generates funds to be used in support of these efforts and is available to any person who desires to make the required contribution. This plate may be personalized by submitting Form TC-817 with the required personalization fee.

Requirements: \$15 Special Plate Fee, \$25 Initial Contribution, and \$10 Annual Contribution

Purple Heart License/Registration Fee Exemption

Recipients of a Purple Heart is exempt from paying the following motor vehicle license and registration fees: automobile driver education fee; motor vehicle registration fee; license plate issuance fees; uninsured motorist identification fee; and local option transportation corridor preservation fee. The only fee due is property tax or age-based fee.

Utah State Division of Veterans Affairs

The *Utah State Division of Veterans Affairs* is located at 550 Foothill Dr. Suite #202, Salt Lake City, Utah 84113 (the corner of Wasatch & Foothill) on the VA Medical Center Campus. The mission of the office is to provide counsel, assist veterans and their dependents with VA claims processing, establish veterans' rights to state and federal benefits and to provide information and advisory services. Veteran service officers under contract provide an outreach assistance program to rural Utah veterans, in conjunction with the Utah State Division of Veterans Affairs. U.S. active duty military service discharge certificates (DD-214's) are on file in the office for veterans discharged after 1980. DD-214's are only on file for veterans with Utah residency or with a Utah forwarding address at the time of release from active duty.

Utah State Veterans Nursing Home

The Utah State Veterans Nursing Home, located on the Salt Lake City VA Medical Center Campus, address, 700 Foothill Drive, SLC, UT. 84113-1104, was dedicated on 22 April 1998 and became operational in May 1998. Quality nursing and health care services are provided for Utah veterans with U.S. military service during peacetime or wartime. While wartime service is not a requirement for admission to the nursing home, wartime veterans with one day or more of wartime service, as recognized by state and federal laws, have top priority. A veteran's spouse or surviving spouse may also qualify for admittance to the Utah State Veterans Nursing Home, providing the marriage to the veteran occurred at least one year before the application.

At present the Utah State Veterans Nursing Home has a 95% occupancy rate with 77 residents using its 81 beds. They are part of a multiple nursing home ownership and area For Profit nursing home. In 2014 the Home has a below average registered nurse per resident per day of 43 minutes compared to the Utah state nursing home average of 76 minutes. They had 8 deficiencies in its previous 2 state inspections compared to the UT average of 10 and complaints compared to the UT average of 3. Utah State Veterans Nursing Home had 7 fire safety deficiencies in the past 2 state inspections which is better than the Utah state nursing home average of 11. For more current information contact the home at (800) 973-1540.

Utah State Veterans Cemetery & Memorial Park

Located at 17111 Camp Williams Road in Bluffdale. This states veteran's cemetery generally follows the eligibility requirements of VA National Cemetery System, including: any U.S. Armed Forces active personnel dying while performing duty or after having served during wartime. Reservist and National Guard retired personnel with 20 years of service are eligible for burial also. Surviving spouses and dependent children also are eligible to be buried in the Utah State Veterans Cemetery & Memorial Park, under rules established by the state of Utah. Authorized in 1988 by act of the Utah State Legislature, dedication occurred on Memorial Day, 1990. Veterans are not to be buried in any portion of any cemetery or burial ground used for paupers; cities, towns, counties or other political subdivisions of the state of Utah may provide proper sites for burial of veterans.



Military Discharge Records

Utah State Archives has military discharge records for Utah (ACTIVE DUTY) veterans from the territorial times, World War II and the Korean War. Utah State Archives will provide a copy of U.S. military discharge records on file free of charge. The Utah State Division of Veterans Affairs has active duty only U.S. military service DD-214's for Utah Veterans from 1980 to the current year. DD-214 certified copies are provided free of charge; toll free 1-800-894-9497. The Utah National Guard Headquarters in Draper Utah maintains file copies of National Guard Bureau record of separation certificates (NGB 22's) for completed service in the Utah Army National Guard & Utah Air National Guard (1950-present). NGB 22 certified copies are free of charge. NOTE: For many years, veterans were

encouraged to place their DD-214 on file with their local county recorders office. We no longer recommend this practice because of issues with identity theft.

Free Use of Armories

Organizations of war veterans are entitled to have free use of state of Utah armories as meeting places, provided such use shall not interfere with the use of armories by the National Guard or organized militia of Utah.

Fishing License Privileges

Utah Disabled Veteran Fishing Licenses are available for Veterans, free of charge, from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. To qualify a Veteran must have obvious physical handicaps, such as, permanently confined to a wheelchair, paraplegic, minus at least one limb, permanently requiring crutches or blind.

Special Fun Tags.

Free admission to most of the 41 state-controlled parks, campgrounds and other recreation areas throughout Utah.

Effective July 1, 2009, the new policy now allows Utah veterans to receive a special Fun Tag, free of charge, if they are:

- Legally Blind, which is defined as vision of 20/200 or less in the better eye with best correction, or a field restriction of 20 degrees of less in both eyes; or
- Non-Ambulatory, which is defined as being permanently confined to a wheelchair or the use of a cane, crutches or mobility device, or who has lost either or both lower extremities.

Special Fun Tag allows day use access to most Utah state parks, but does not include This Is The Place Heritage Park and does not cover the \$2 Davis County Causeway Fee at Antelope Island State Park. The Special Fun Tag does not apply to camping or other special fees. Please call the State Parks and Recreation office at (801) 538-7220 or toll free at 1-877-UTPARKS to have an application mailed to you or log on to www.stateparks.utah.gov to download.

Applications can be mailed or faxed to (801) 538-7378.

Bus / Trax Reduced Fare Cards

Greatly discounted fares (65% reduced) to ride Utah Transit Authority (UTA) busses and TRAX light rail system are available for veterans meeting one of the following criteria: Forty percent (40%) or greater military service-connected disability rating by VA, in receipt of VA non-service connected pension or regardless of disability rating for veterans & others with transportation disabilities that cause either difficulty boarding or getting off a bus/light rail system, difficulty standing in a moving bus/light rail system, difficulty reading bus/light rail system schedules & understanding information signs, difficulty hearing announcements by bus/light rail system, or difficulty hearing announcements by bus/light rail systems operators.

Persons receiving Social Security Disability benefits, SSI, or Medicare also may get UTA Reduced Fare Cards. Elderly persons age 65 and over qualify for Senior Passes at the same price as Reduced Fare Cards. To obtain UTA Reduced Fare Cards 1. Go to either UTA location at 24 West 100 South or 3600 S 700 W in SLC, 2. Complete UTA Reduced Fare Card application form, 3. Present evidence (a VA letter verifying service connected disability rating or non service connected pension. 4. Pay for UTA photo identification to incorporate on UTA Reduced Fare Card.

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Go to <https://veterans.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Utah-Veterans-Resource-Directory.pdf> to access the Utah Veterans Resource contact Directory. To learn more about Utah Veteran Benefits go to <https://veterans.utah.gov>

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/utah-state-veterans-benefits.html> Mar 2014 ++]

Military Discounts in Utah

1. MVDC has close to 2,100 business locations in Utah that have discounts for military personnel and veterans. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state also provides discounts for those that have served. To find business discounts, enter your zip code and category in the search box at the top of <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/utah.html>.

2. Veterans Designation on drivers license: Yes

3. Discounted Fees and Taxes

- Free Disabled Veteran fishing license
- Credit toward professional licensure for education, training and experience earned by veterans, military members and their spouses

4. Property tax and Financial Benefits

- Property tax exemption for eligible disabled veterans
- Free access to most of the state controlled parks, national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas and national wildlife refuges for qualified veterans
- Bus and tax reduced fares for qualifying veterans

5. Education Discounts

- Tuition assistance for National Guard members
- Tuition waiver for Purple Heart recipients for undergraduate programs
- Undergraduate tuition waiver to surviving dependents of Utah resident military members killed on federal and state active duty
- Free of charge admission to post-secondary schools for instruction and tutoring in the areas of math, English, and basic computer applications for qualifying veterans

6. State Ranking For Military Discounts: 9

7. Note: The website providing the above information on Utah Discounts apparently has not been updated since 2014.

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/utah.html> JAN 2017 ++]

