

Newsletter Date
August 1st, 2017

Special points of interest:

- Initial Issue
- What are Veteran Service Officers?
- Oregon State Parks Benefits for Veterans
- County Programs
- Answers to your questions about benefits
- VA Myth Busters Report
- How do you connect with a VSO?

Inside this issue:

Special Hunting and Fishing program for veterans **2**

Oregon State Parks Special Access Pass **2**

How to get a State Access Pass if you're a veteran. **2**

How to get reimbursed for park access passes if you're on active duty. **3**

VA Benefit Myth Busters Report **3**

Non-Profit Organizations that support veterans. **4**

Discounts for your service **4**

For All Who Served Report



Initial Issue of the Multnomah County Veterans Services Newsletter!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the For All Who Served Report. This newsletter is a publication of Multnomah County Veterans Services. Its intention is to share with veterans, partner organizations, and fellow agencies the different benefits, opportunities, Services that are available to them all.

Some features of the newsletter will include sections on:

- Federal VA benefits
- State Veteran Benefits
- County Services for Veterans

- Events in the community for veterans to come together.
- Education about Multnomah County services.
- Information about non-profit organizations that are doing work for veterans in your community.
- There will be articles featuring contributions from local area veterans.

This is also an opportunity to learn about the County Veteran Service Officers that serve the communities that you all live in.

The publication will be issued quarterly, both in print and electronically.

For more information or to be a contributing writer, contact:
Veterans.Services@multco.us



Education leads to empowerment

What do County Veterans' Service Officers Do?

A County Veteran Service Officer or VSO, will ensure that Veterans and their families receive all state and federal benefits available to them. VSOs do this by providing effective and dedicated representation to veterans and their families **free of charge**.

Some "financial planners" or "Veterans Counselors" charge a consultation fee for doing this

work, which may cost you hundreds or dollars and may not even get you the benefits you are entitled to. You will never receive a bill from Multnomah County Veterans' Services. VSOs are trained and accredited by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to represent veterans in their claims for benefits. VSOs are versed in applicable state and Federal laws to provide the best

representation possible.

The County Veterans' Service Office should be the first stop for all recently discharged service members and anyone who has served in any of our Armed Forces branches to receive a complete benefits explanation.

Courtesy of Multnomah County Veterans Services Information Brochure



The Fallen Outdoors Veterans fishing excursion.



Let's go fishing!

Did you know that if you have at least a 25% service-connected disability through the VA, that you can get a combination hunter and angler license with the Columbia River Basin endorsement from the State of Oregon for free!

Go to www.dfw.state.or.us to download the Oregon Resident Disabled Veteran license. Fill out the form, attach your proof of disability (available on e-benefits), and fax or mail in the paperwork

with the \$2.50 processing fee. Pretty awesome right? A few things to keep in mind though.

- You still need tags for big game.
- You must adhere to all applicable federal and state laws regarding your kills.
- If you are vision impaired, you may have another hunter assist you with your shot and

aim, but you must possess an additional license to do so.

- Non-Resident active members of the Uniform Services may purchase hunting and fishing licenses at the resident price.

*Information Courtesy of
www.oregonstateparks.org*

Get Out and Enjoy the Great Outdoors!

We who live here in the great Pacific Northwest are the luckiest in the nation when it comes the availability of the type of serenity of the Great Outdoors!

As a member of the active Uniformed Services or as a disabled veteran you get special access privileges at Oregon State Parks. According to

www.oregonstateparks.org veterans with any level of service-connected disability may:

If you are eligible, this benefit gives you free parking at the 26 state parks that charge a day-use parking fee. It also covers your camping costs in RV sites, tent campsites & standard

horse camp sites. You may camp for free in a tent, RV or standard horse camp site for 10 nights at a time at a single state park, or a total of 10 nights in a 30 day period, regardless of the location. If you stay longer than 10 nights at a park, you will pay the standard rate for the extra days.

Oregon State Parks Special Access Pass for Veterans

Getting a Pass

For U.S. veterans with a service-connected disability, here is the process:

1. Obtain a letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

stating you have a service-connected disability.

Fill out this [application](#) and send it to us (by mail, or in person). Or, call 1-800-551-6949 for a copy, or help.

Oregon State Parks process the application and will send you a card in the mail. The card is valid for four years.

Oregon State Parks Special Access Pass for Active Military Personnel

Information Courtesy of
www.oregonstateparks.org

Members of the military on active duty and on official leave need to pay up front and then get reimbursed. After your visit, send Oregon State Parks and Recreation:

- The camping or day-use receipt for the dates of your stay, and
- A letter from your Commanding Officer on official letterhead stating you were on leave for the dates you visited or

camped. Oregon State Parks must receive your refund request no later than 30 days after the last day of your stay. Oregon State Parks will send refunds within three weeks of a request.

VA Myth Busters! CVSO's break down the most common myths that are hurting veterans today.

What would the military and veteran culture be without lies and rumors? Well, probably a lot less confusing, but not nearly as entertaining.

The laws and statutes as they apply to former service members and the benefits that may be available are immense, and require years of training and experience to interpret them and apply them correctly.

As a military veteran almost without a doubt you'll have discussions with other veterans about each other's service-connected disability. Every veteran is different. Whatever benefit your fellow veteran might have, you may not be eligible for.

Here are some common myths and misconceptions that County Veteran Service Officers have heard from the veterans that they serve.

Myth: "As a National Guard veteran, I am owed the same benefits as active duty soldiers."

Fact: The 38th Code of Federal Regulations (CFR 3.1 (d)) states

A "veteran" is a person who;

- Served on active military, naval, or air service and
- Was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

What about National Guard members and reservists? Although National Guard members and reservist do spend some of their service on active duty, Certain types of Reserve duty are not considered full-time duty in the uniformed service:

- Initial Active Duty for Training (IADT)
- Annual Training (AT), and
- Active Duty Training (ADT).

For all questions related to eligibil-

ity of benefits and resources, veterans and service members should consult with an accredited veteran service officer.

Myth: "The VA only wants to deny my claim, so I should appeal my issues no matter what."

Fact: The VA wants to grant your claim if there is statutory reason to do so. Frivolous appeals slow down the system. If the veteran has the evidence for their service-connected claim up front, and retains an accredited veteran service officer, barring any clerical mistakes, the claims process is relatively fast and seamless. According to recent data from the Bureau of Veteran Affairs, service-connected veterans are receiving their benefit monies in as quick as 3-6 months.

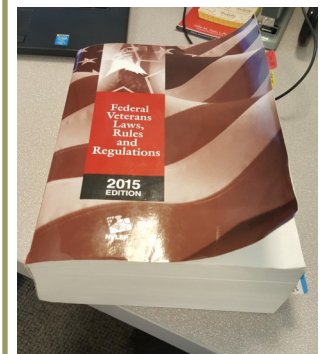
Do you have questions or comments for the County Veteran Service Officers? Send in your questions to www.veterans.services@multco.us we'll answer your question directly, and possibly put it in the newsletter to help out other veterans



U.S. Military Seals are the copyright of The United States Department of Defense.

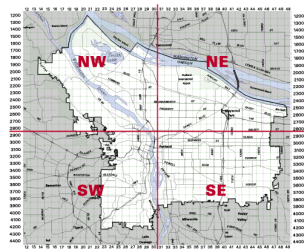
*"Rumors are like
fires. No one
admits to starting
them, but before
you know it, they're
out of control"*

Author Unknown





"Navigating the VA is like trying to find your way with a broken compass"
-Post 9/11 Veteran



City of Portland, OR

How do I find a Multnomah County VSO?

Multnomah County Veteran Service Officers or VSOs' are not as elusive as one might think. In fact there's probably one working right down the street from your neighborhood right now.

Multnomah County Veterans Services understands the importance of having resources in the communities in which you live and work.

If your resources are close, you are more likely to use them.

Multnomah County VSO's can be reached in the following ways:

- E-mail.
- Online Referral.
- Telephone.
- Walk-In locations.
- Referral via a community partner.

E-mail is great way to reach VSO's especially if you just have a question. This e-mail address can also be used to request appointments with VSO's, inquire about events, benefits, resources, request VSO presentations for your non-profit, agency, or workforce, and much more.

Multnomah County Veterans Services E-mail Address is:

Veterans.Services@multco.us

Online Referrals are another gateway to services for veterans and their families. This is also a great portal for referrals by county partners to refer clients. You can reach the online referral submission form by logging onto <https://multco.us/veterans-services>

Click <https://docs.google.com/a/multco.us/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZekywHN464SJT28t9SVxFrQk3U0iZx7lx3Qs-etSHp-RizQ/viewform>

Multnomah County Veterans Services phone number is: 503-988-VETS (8387). This phone number goes directly to Veterans Services and voice messages are generally returned within 2 business days. Veterans or family members leaving messages should be sure to leave a clear name, brief description of what they are inquiring about and the best way for a VSO to reach you.

Multnomah County Veterans Services has spent a great deal of time educating our many community partners how to refer veterans to our services. If you are receiving assistance or services from a community partner or agency, and you would like a referral, ask your care provider and we will always be happy to assist.

VSO's in your community

VSO's are co-located with many agencies throughout the Multnomah county area. VSO's are located for walk-ins and appointments at the following locations:

The Lincoln Building
421 SW Oak street
Portland, OR 97204

VSO's are available for appointments and walk ins at our downtown location.

The hours for Walk-ins at the Lincoln Building are:

- First Wednesday of the Month: 1:00PM – 4:00PM
 - Second Tuesday of the Month: 1:00PM – 4:00PM
 - Third Wednesday of the Month: 1:00PM – 4:00PM
 - Fourth Tuesday of the Month: 8:00AM – 11:30AM
- Every Friday: 9:00AM – 12:00PM

If it is more convenient ,Veteran Service Officers can meet with clients by appointment Monday through Friday.

To schedule an appointment with a Veteran Service Officer contact us at 503-988-VETS (8387). We can also be reached via e-mail at Veterans.Services@multco.us



VSOs' in your community continued

East County ADVSD Branch Office
600 NE 8th Street, Room 100,
Gresham, OR 97030
Office hours: Monday, Wednesday- Friday, 8:30am to 4pm
Walk-In Hours

- First Friday of the Month: 8:30AM - 11:30AM
- Third Friday of the Month: 1:00PM-3:30PM
- Second Tuesday of the Month: 1:00PM - 3:30PM

Fourth Tuesday of the Month:
1:00PM-3:30PM

N/NE Portland ADVSD Branch Office

5325 NE Martin Luther King Blvd, Portland, OR 97211

Office hours: Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30p

Walk-in hours

Every Friday: 1:00AM - 4:00PM

Hollywood Senior Center

1820 NE 40th Ave Portland, Or 97212

Monday by Appointment Only, 8:30am -4pm

Portland VA Medical Center

Chaplain & Social Work Services office in Bldg., 100, Rm. 3B-100, from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- Scheduled appointments: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- Walk-in appointments: 1:30 -4:30pm

For online referrals, go to:

<https://docs.google.com/a/multco.us/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZekywHN464SJT28t9SVxFrQk3U0iZx7lx3Qs-etSHp-RizQ/viewform>

Veterans Discounts

To ask or not to ask. That is the question. There are a variety of opinions on this particular subject. The answer to that is entirely up to the veteran.

If you're still not sure or are feeling a bit shy or embarrassed about asking, here is a list of some businesses that offer veterans discounts to get you over that hurdle.

- **Fred Meyer Retail Store** offers a military discount every 3rd Thursday of the month

- **Home Depot** offers a 10% military discount on most items in store.

- **Jiffy Lube** offers a 15% military discount on most services.

- **Verizon Wireless, T-Mobile, AT&T and Sprint** all offer veterans discounts for their services.

Auto Zone, O'Rileys Auto Parts, and Napa Auto Parts all offer between 5-10%

- veterans discount on parts and tools.

- **Columbia Sportswear** online and in store offer a 10% military and or veterans discount.

- **Kohl's** offers a 15% military discount at checkout.

- **Hometown Buffet** hosts Military Mondays where active duty, and veterans eat for free.



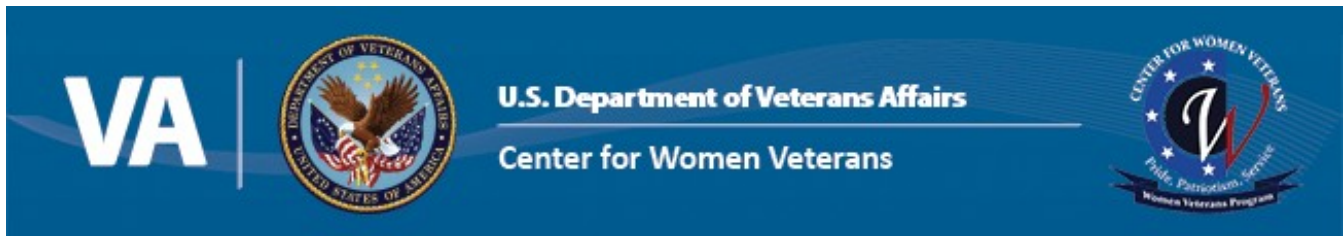
Save some cash!

Non-Profits that Support Veterans



Many veterans due to characterization of service, may not qualify for government benefits. But that is certainly not the end of the line for that veteran. There is a community of civilian providers that appreciate your service and are honored to repay the favor by serving you at little to no cost in most cases. Here are some non-profit organizations that serve veterans and their families every day regardless of discharge status.

- The American Red Cross www.redcross.org/cascades
- The Veterans Family Resource Center of Oregon <http://www.vfrcoregon.org>
- The Oregon Military Support Network www.omsn.info
- Northwest Women's Veteran Connection info@nwwomenveterans.org
- Outserve/SLDN www.outserve-sldn.org
- Easter Seals of Oregon Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program <http://www.easterseals.com/oregon/>
- Central City Concern www.ccconcern.org



In the Game: Navy Veteran Staying Active Despite Vision Loss 05/08/2017 07:00 AM EDT

Joe Ann McBride is competing for the fourth year in a row at the National Veterans Golden Age Games in four events: visually impaired bowling, bocchia, power walking and blind discus golf. [05/08/2017 #VeteranOfTheDay LaToya Stanislaus](#) 05/08/2017 07:00 AM EDT

We honor your service, LaToya! [05/06/2017 #VeteranOfTheDay Audrey Hsieh](#) 05/06/2017 07:00 AM EDT

We honor your service, Audrey! [Veteran-Run Rumi Spice Lands Mark Cuban Investment on 'Shark Tank'](#) 05/06/2017 07:00 AM EDT

On the show, the founders told of their roles in Afghanistan: Emily Miller supported live operations on night raids, Kimberly Jung was a platoon leader looking for bombs, and Keith Alaniz was an Afghan regional expert working with tribal elders. [from The Chicago Tribune] [Philadelphia VA Medical Center Women's Health Clinic Ribbon Cutting](#) 05/05/2017 07:00 AM EDT



Multnomah County Veterans Services is a part of Multnomah County Department of County Human Services' Aging, Disability, and Veterans Services