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***If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?***

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# Oregon State Veteran's Benefits

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

The state of Oregon runs two Veterans Homes in The Dalles and Lebanon. Care at the Oregon Veteran's Home 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.

### Oregon Veterans Home Loans

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.

### Oregon Property Tax Exemption

If you are a 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.

## Oregon Veteran Employment Programs

### 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.
  - 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 is made throughout the lifetime of the disabled veteran.

### 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.

## **Oregon Education Assistance Programs**

### **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.

### **Permanent Vehicle Registration Fee for Disabled Veterans**

One-time registration fee for motor vehicle registration for service-connected disabled veterans in receipt of compensation. Disabled veterans must provide proof that the qualifying disability is connected with service in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Visit the [Oregon Dept. of Veterans Affairs](#) website for more information on any of these programs.