

Wyoming State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts

As of 2017



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

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

Wyoming Veteran Housing Programs

Veterans' Home of Wyoming

This home is located on the historic site of Fort McKinney at 700 Veterans Ln, Buffalo. It was built in the summer and fall of 1878. The home was established in 1895 with the first member being housed at Fort D. A. Russell (now F.E. Warren AFB) in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The home and its resident were transferred from Cheyenne to the home's present location in 1903. It is located three miles west of Buffalo, one-half mile south of Highway 16, at the base of the majestic Big Horn Mountains. Clear Creek from the Big Horns runs through the center of the area surrounding the home and supplies the fresh water for the resident trout pond.

VHW provides a secure, independent lifestyle for veterans who voluntarily seek admission. VHW offers what is known as “domiciliary care,” which is similar to assisted living care and includes food, shelter and other support.

Our residents are able to maintain their own basic activities of daily living, but generally face challenges that prevent them from earning a living through employment. VHW offers more than just room and board; we strive to be a community of caring people. There are two-room suites for married couples and

private rooms for single residents for a total of 117 beds. There is plenty of transportation to and from VHW to get you where you need to go. Some residents have their own cars. All residents are free to come and go as they please.



Eligibility

To be eligible for admission to the Veterans' Home of Wyoming, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must be unable to earn a living by reason of wounds, disease, old age or other infirmities; or have no adequate means of support or are already domiciled in this state.
- Must be a dependent of a qualified veteran if admission is deemed proper.
- Valid in-state residence at the time of application, or the intent to permanently reside in the state if less than one year of state residence. The resident must not be in transit; temporary or seasonal residency is not acceptable.
- Persons who are not veterans or dependents of veterans may be admitted, if less than 90 percent of the home's capacity is occupied and a veteran's dependent application is not pending. Individuals must also be unable to earn a living with no adequate means of support and/or domiciled in this state.
- In all admission decisions, the facility will give preference to veterans first and their accompanying dependents second. The facility will have final authority for approving or disapproving all applications.

Admission & Fees

Veterans interested in joining the VHW community are encouraged to call VHW at 307-684-5511. They can request a pre-admission packet to fill out and return with copies of DD-214, recent history and physical, income verification, proof of Medicare A, B or D, and other documents. After these materials are returned to VHW, the potential resident is invited to VHW for a two-day trial stay. This step gives both the resident and facility a chance to see if the admission will be a fit on a full-time basis. Following the two-day stay, the facility will give permission to admit, ask for further information, or deny the admission. Residents' fees are based on an individual's ability to pay. Services included in the monthly maintenance fee include but are not limited to a furnished private room, meals, laundry services, social services, activities, and weekday transportation.

Amenities & Activities

Amenities include Private room, Cable television, , Library with current magazines and newspapers, Computer lab, Exercise equipment, Transportation or assigned parking for your own personal vehicle, Activity areas (woodshop, paint room, greenhouse, exercise room), Chapel, Fishing pond, and Walking paths. The VHW has two full time employees who plan a full slate of activities both away from the facility as well as within. Residents are invited to attend exercise classes and participate in healthy activities, which include hiking in the surrounding foothills, walks on our footpaths, bike riding, or using our exercise machines. Our beautiful grounds include a fishing pond where residents can fish or relax. Many people enjoy watching the deer, antelope, geese, and an assortment of other birds and animals that regularly visit the location. Picnics are regularly planned down by our fishpond or in our adjacent gazebo. Residents are encouraged to visit the many historical places Wyoming offers, as well as to enjoy the nearby Bighorn Mountains during fishing trips, scenic drives or picnics. Weather permitting, daily outings are planned to visit local restaurants, coffee shops, as well as the Senior Center and YMCA.

Skilled Nursing Services

Wyoming is one of two states that do not have a state-funded nursing home for veterans. Instead, veterans in need of skilled nursing services in Wyoming receive those services from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) in Sheridan, Cheyenne, the Wyoming Retirement Center in Basin, Wyoming (which also services non-veterans), or from private providers. In addition, veterans can receive services through the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) or Long Term Care (LTC) waivers, although those waivers are typically capped (215 and 1,750 respectively) and have waiting lists.

For more information on the Veterans' Home of Wyoming visit the Wyoming Department of Health website <https://health.wyo.gov/aging/veteranshome> .

For more information on Veteran Housing Programs contact the Wyoming Veterans Commission website at: <http://wymilitary.wyo.gov/veterans/commission> Wyoming Veterans Commission, 5410 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82009 Tel : (307) 777-8152 Fax:(307) 777-8150 "OR" refer to the Wyoming Depart of Health website <https://health.wyo.gov/aging/veteranshome>.

Wyoming Financial Assistance Programs

Wyoming Veterans Tax Exemption

The exemption applies to taxes on a Veteran's primary residence lowering the assessed value by \$3,000. The \$800 cap was removed in 2007. Veterans should check with their County Assessor each year prior to the 4th Monday of May deadline as the reapplication process may vary. If the exemption is not used on property, it may be applied to a vehicle's licensing fee. Veterans must be residents of Wyoming three or more years prior to claiming the tax exemption and must have a DD 214 or equivalent from their branch of service. Additionally, one of the following must apply:

- Served in the Armed Forces during one of the following periods:
World War II December 7, 1941 thru December 31, 1946
Korean War June 27, 1950 thru January 31, 1955
Vietnam War February 28, 1961 thru May 7, 1975
OR
- Must have served overseas during an armed conflict and received an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or equivalent.

OR

- Be a disabled Veteran with a compensable service connected disability as certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States. VA or DOD agency disability letter required.

OR

- Be the surviving spouse of a qualifying Veteran who resides in Wyoming and does not remarry.

Family Support Grant Program

Wyoming Guard, Reserves and Active personnel have available a newly created trust fund administered by the Adjutant General from which grantor of last resort funds are available for service members and their family members in need of assistance.

Wyoming Veteran Employment Programs

State Employment

Veterans receive a 5 point advantage over any nonveteran competitor for the same position, and if the veteran has a service connected disability of 10% or more the advantage given is 10 points. This section applies only to bona fide residents of Wyoming at the time of their entry into the military and who are at the time of taking the examination bona fide residents of Wyoming

Wyoming Department of Workforce Services

The Department of Workforce Services (DWS) is Wyoming's newest state agency, dedicated to developing a demand-driven workforce that is responsive to Wyoming's businesses, citizens, and economy. Veterans Services ensure assistance is provided or targeted to veterans, including services for veterans who are disabled or have employment issues. A variety of employment and training services are available through DWS and can be easily accessed at: www.wyomingworkforce.org

Employment Assistance

The Wyoming Military Department also has a program to help traditional Guard members and their family members find civilian employment opportunities within their communities. The Wyoming National Guard Jobs Coordinator can assist with resume writing, job interview skills and other tips. Contact the coordinator at (307) 772-5942.

Wyoming Education Assistance Programs

Free tuition and fees for education of War Orphans and Veterans

10 semesters of free tuition and fees at UW or Community Colleges for those who meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Resident of Wyoming for at least 1 year before application
- Discharge other than dishonorable
- Vietnam Veteran from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975
- Overseas combat Veteran who received an Expeditionary Medal or equivalent
- Surviving Spouse or dependent of an eligible Veteran who died in active service (Dependent must be 22 years of age or less at time of application)

To apply bring your DD-214 to the educational institution's financial aid office - Wyoming Veteran's Education Consultant - Phil O'Connor (307) 772-5053.

Wyoming National Guard 100% State Educational Assistance Plan

The 100% State Educational Assistance Plan is for Wyoming National Guard members that want to pursue higher education. The plan pays 100% of the tuition and mandatory fees at Wyoming Junior colleges and at the University of Wyoming. The plan pays a determined amount each year for those private schools in Wyoming that are VA approved.

Guard members can use the state educational assistance to complete one degree or certificate program. This includes: Certificates, Associate, Bachelors, Masters, or PhD program. The combination of Certificate, Associate to Bachelor counts as one degree.

Members can use the GI Bill and kicker if qualified with the 100% State Educational Assistance Plan.

Education Benefits For National Guard Family Members: Matriculation fees and tuition paid in the University of Wyoming or any junior college or vocational training institution in Wyoming for child or spouse of Wyoming National Guard member who dies or sustains permanent total disability from duty as guardsman while on state active duty or any authorized training duty.

Operation Recognition (High School Diploma)

Any Veteran of WWII, Korea, or Vietnam who was not able to complete their high school education prior to entering the service may be eligible to receive their diplomas. Diplomas can also be awarded posthumously. Call 1-800-833-5987 or (307) 265-7372 for application.

Veteran Recreation Benefits

Free Fishing License for Disabled Veterans

50% Disabled Veteran, resident of Wyoming for not less than one year and submit a letter from the VA certifying the 50% level of service connected disability of the applicant.

Free Hunting and Fishing License for Purple Heart Recipients

Wyoming issues free lifetime game bird, small game and fish licenses to any Wyoming resident purple heart medal recipient

Free Bird, Small Game, and Fishing Licenses for Disabled Veterans

100% Disabled Veteran, resident of Wyoming for not less than one year and submit a letter from the VA certifying the 100% level of service connected disability of the applicant.

Active Duty Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Any Wyoming resident deployed to a combat zone on active duty and is home on leave can get a free resident general elk, resident general deer, resident game bird/small game and resident daily fishing license.

Special Limited Fishing Permit for Hospitalized Veterans

Hospital within Wyoming, Wyoming Department of Health or Wyoming Department of Family Services. Veteran must fish under the direct control of the institution.

Pioneer Veteran Bird, Small Game, and Fishing License

Any Wyoming veteran who is 65 or older and has lived in Wyoming for 30 or more continuous years can receive a Pioneer bird, small game, and fish license for free.

Free State Parks Pass

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources offers a 50% Disabled Veteran Annual Day Use and Camping Lifetime Permit. You must be a resident of Wyoming for not less than one year and submit a letter from the VA certifying the 50% level of service connected disability of the applicant

Other Wyoming State Veteran Benefits

Oregon Trail State Veterans' Cemetery

The Oregon Trail State Veterans' Cemetery has been established through the cooperative efforts of the Veterans Commission acting for the State of Wyoming and the National Cemetery Administration of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, successor to the Veterans Administration. The Wyoming Military Department supervises and controls the state veterans cemetery. Every veteran that received any discharge, other than dishonorable, from the Armed Forces of the United States is eligible for burial in the cemetery. The spouse, handicapped or minor child of an eligible veteran may also qualify for burial in the State Veterans' Cemetery, providing that the interment of the qualifying family member is in the same burial plot as that provided for the veteran. Apply through the local funeral home or call (307) 236-6673.



Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery Dr. Tom Walsh Memorial Chapel, Aerial view showing the approach road and bridge which leads to the cemetery, and Memorial Day flags

National cemeteries close to Wyoming are:

- Fort Logan, Colorado (near Denver) (303) 761-0117
- Fort Lyon, Colorado (near Las Animas) (303) 761-0117
- Black Hills, South Dakota (near Sturgis) (605) 347-3830
- Forest Lawn Soldiers Lot, Nebraska (near Omaha) (402) 451-8960
- Fort McPherson, Nebraska (near Maxwell) (308) 582-4433 or 1-888-737-2800
- Hot Springs and Fort Meade, SD are closed for new internments.
- There are no national cemeteries in Idaho, Montana, and Utah.

Payment for Burial Details

Payment of \$50 for services. All VSO funeral details that have pre-registered with the WVC are eligible. The Board of County Commissioners will provide for the preparation of and transmittal to and burial in the Veteran's cemetery of any other than a dishonorably discharged Veteran who dies leaving insufficient funds for funeral expenses. The amount expended is not to exceed \$500.00. Call 1-800-833-5987 or (307) 265-7372 for more information and application.

Burial of Indigent Veterans

Counties are obliged to provide up to \$500 for the burial of indigent veterans upon proof that the deceased veteran received a discharge other than dishonorable for service on behalf of the United States in World War II, or any preceding war, or the Korean or Vietnam wars. The indigent veteran must have died in the

county paying the expenses and proof must be shown that he/she left insufficient means to defray the expense.

Veterans' Guardianships

The Uniform Veterans' Guardianship Act has been adopted in Wyoming and governs the handling of guardianship estates of wards that are beneficiaries under the laws administered by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The VA is a party in interest in any proceeding brought under this Act. Guardians can have no more than five wards, and regular accountings must be made.

Free (Confidential) Recording of Honorable Discharges

Wyoming law grants all veterans who receive an honorable discharge from the military services of the United States the right of having his/her discharge papers, usually the DD 214 or the Honorable Discharge certificate bearing the DD 214 information on its reverse side, recorded free in the office of the county clerk if the documents have not been recorded previously in another county of the state. The County Clerk keeps this document confidential.

Special Veterans License Plates

Starting in 2017, the new plate design featuring the Lower Green River Lake and Squaretop Mountain will be on the state's 12 specialty plates, the prestige plates and the standard plates motorists receive at the county when registering their vehicles. WYDOT will contact all specialty plate customers three to six months prior to their plate's expiration, reminding them to reapply for the specialty plate. Most specialty plate customers who reapply in 2017 will have the option to keep their existing plate combination. (Guard plate numbers will be reassigned based on Rank and Date of Rank; some Veteran Plate numbers with a final alpha, will receive a 5 digit number.)

Veteran special license plates are processed by WYDOT in conjunction with the county treasurers' offices. Some of these plates require a county treasurer to approve them prior to submitting the application to WYDOT. In addition, some of the specialty plates require an extra fee to be remitted with the application. The following general provisions apply:

- Applicant must be a Wyoming resident. Vehicle must be owned or leased by the applicant. If owned by the applicant, vehicle must be titled in the name of the applicant or may be joint ownership with a member of the immediate family.
- Applications for choice DV license plates shall be presented directly to the county treasurer at least 30 days before registration of the vehicle expires.
- All special license plates are re-issued once in an eight-year period and must be renewed annually no later than the last day of the annual registration month. Annual renewals shall be presented to the Office of the County Treasurer.
- Upon transfer of ownership of the vehicle to which the plates were issued, the registration expires and the plates must be removed. After acquiring another vehicle, application may be made to transfer the license registration number to the newly acquired vehicle.

Go to http://www.dot.state.wy.us/home/titles_plates_registration/specialty_plates.html to download applications for the below special license plates. If approved, your license plates will be forwarded to the county treasurer's office you indicate on your application. Send your payment of \$50 made out to WYDOT in the form of a check or money order along with your application to: Wyoming Veterans Commission, 5410 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82009

- **Prisoner of War (POW)** License Plate - first plate is FREE, additional plates may be purchased



- **Purple Heart Recipient (PH)** License Plate - must be purchased



- **Disabled Veteran (DV)** License Plate - One FREE set of plates for Veterans at least 50% VA disabled, no additional plates may be purchased



- **Pearl Harbor Survivor (PHS)** License Plate - must be purchased



- **National Guard (NG)** License Plate - must be purchased



- **Veteran Plates** - To qualify, you must have served at least one period of honorable service which resulted in the issuing of a DD 214.



County Veteran Service Officer(s)

A new program that is in its early stages is the County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO) program. These are dedicated and trained volunteers that can help a veteran start the process of accessing State and Federal benefits. At the present time, Wyoming has only two southwestern counties participating in the CVSO program, but in surrounding states, there are literally hundreds of CVSOs that help their state veterans access benefits. To locate who your CVSO is and his/her contact info refer to <http://wyomilitary.wyo.gov/veterans-commission/service-officers>.

Wyoming's Veterans' Memorial Museum

Wyoming's Veterans' Memorial Museum was dedicated Memorial Day 2002 thereby making it the first state veterans' memorial honoring all veterans of all services of all wars. It accepts and displays donated war related memorabilia and artifacts, and it collects recordings and printed copy of veterans' experiences for history research scholars as well as books and other publications. The museum is located on the grounds of the Casper/Natrona County International Airport, formerly the WWII Casper Army Air Base where B-17, B-24 bomber crews trained and P-39 Airacobra fighter pilots flew. The Air Base was placed on the National Register in 2001 and in 2002, the museum was established in the original enlistedmens' club. Since its inception, it has been operated exclusively by volunteers. Today it houses a comprehensive collection of Veterans' memorabilia and the stories associated with the material. The museum participates in the Veterans' History Program. The museum is located at 3740 Jourgensen Ave., Casper, Wyoming 82604 Tel: 307-472-1857. Hours of operation are 9:00am-4:00pm Tues thru Sat. Closed Sun., Mon. and Holidays. Admission is free.



Wyoming National Guard Museum

The mission of the Wyoming National Guard Museum is to honor all who have served in the Wyoming National Guard and to collect, conserve, exhibit and interpret their history. The museum educates Guard members and the public about the heritage of Wyoming's Army and Air National Guard both in peace and in times of war. Its purpose is to showcase the history of the Wyoming National Guard. It houses Army National Guard artifacts starting from the year 1870, and Air National Guard artifacts beginning in 1946. The museum is a joint project between the Wyoming Military Department and the Wyoming Militia Historical Society. The building originally served as a warehouse and Armory for the Wyoming Army National Guard, which occupied the space until the late 1990s. In June 2007, the building was vacated by the Wyoming Department of Homeland Security. Control of the building then reverted back to the Wyoming Military Department. The building currently houses the Wyoming National Guard Museum collection. Since 1990 more than 22,000 artifacts, pieces of clothing and documents have been collected for display. The Wyoming Military Department utilizes the north end of the building for storage. Admission is free to all. Hours of Operation are Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 9 am to 4 pm and Thursday

by appointment 9 am to 4 pm. The museum is located at 624 E. Pershing Blvd. Cheyenne, WY 82001
Tel: (307) 432-0057.

Wyoming Veterans' Commission

The Commission is an agency created by state law in 1975 that is part of the Wyoming Military Department headed by the Adjutant General. It keeps informed on issues affecting Wyoming's 58,000 veterans and makes appropriate recommendations to the Governor and legislature. By statute, the Commission's duties include:

- Study all federal and state legislation affecting veterans, their spouses, dependents and beneficiaries;
- Establish liaison with agencies dealing with veteran's affairs;
- Make recommendations to the legislature and to the governor concerning veterans; and
- Adopt policies and procedures necessary to administer their veterans' burial team account pursuant to W.S. 19-14-109.

Visit <http://wyomilitary.wyo.gov/veterans/commission> for more information on any of the above programs or contact the Wyoming Veterans 5410 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82009 Tel : (307) 777-8152 Fax:(307) 777-8150 email: larry.barttelbort@wyo.gov .

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/wyoming-state-veterans-benefits.html>
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Military Discounts in Wyoming

1. There are close to 600 business locations in Wyoming that have discounts for military personnel and veterans. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state of Wyoming also provides discounts for those that have served. To find business discounts, enter your zipcode and category in the search box at <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/wyoming.html>

2. **Veterans Designation on drivers license:** No

3. **Discounted Fees and Taxes -**

- Free license plates for POW, and eligible disabled veterans; specific license plates for Purple Heart recipients, Pearl Harbor Survivors, National Guard, and Gold Star families available for purchase.
- Free and reduced fee hunting and fishing license to qualified veterans.
- Free hunting and fishing licenses while on leave for active duty US Military Wyoming residents.
- Free annual day use and camping lifetime permit for qualified disabled veterans.

4. **Property tax and Financial Benefits -** Property tax assessment reduction up to \$3,000 for eligible veterans.

5. Education Discounts -

- 10 free semesters of tuition and fees for overseas combat veterans at Wyoming Community Colleges and the University of Wyoming residents. Benefit extended to surviving spouses and dependent children if the military member died in combat.
- Wyoming National Guard members may receive 100% of tuition and mandatory fees at the seven community colleges, the University of Wyoming, and the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy. Partial payment for tuition at private colleges and institutions.

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/wyoming.html> April 2017 ++]