

Military Service Pass FAQs

Earlier this year, CTA began offering free rides for active duty military personnel in uniform. Now other eligible military personnel can ride for free on CTA buses and trains with a new CTA Military Service Pass (MSP). You can use your Military Service Pass on CTA buses and trains to take you to work, to schools, and area museums, sporting events and shopping all over Chicago and 40 suburbs.

Am I eligible for a Military Service Pass?

You are eligible for a Military Service Pass if you qualify as:

- Chicago area active duty military personnel and possess an Armed Forces ID Card;
- An actively drilling member of the National Guard and Reserves who possesses an Armed Forces ID card;
- A Chicago area disabled veteran who has a qualifying service-connected disability and can provide proof that: you are in receipt of United States Department of Veterans' Affairs (USDVA) disability compensation of 10% or greater; or you are receiving military disability retirement pay in lieu of USDVA compensation at a rate of 10% or greater.

What is required to confirm my eligibility?

- For active duty military personnel, an Armed Forces ID card.
- For disabled veterans, an official letter from the USDVA indicating eligibility for a qualifying service-connected disability payment as outlined above, along with a valid state ID card.

How do I obtain my Military Service Pass?

Beginning August 4, 2008, through December 30, 2008, in order to obtain a Military Service Pass you must go to one of the authorized CTA service centers on the select days of the month as listed below. CTA personnel will be on site to take your picture and issue your card.

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph, Room 5-570
Chicago, IL 60601
1st Monday and Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

General Jones Armory
5200 S. Cottage Grove, Room N100
Chicago, IL 60615
1st Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Evanston Veterans Center
565 Howard
Evanston, IL 60202
2nd Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Oak Park Veterans Center
155 S. Oak Park
Oak Park, IL 60302
3rd Thursday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Jesse Brown VA Hospital
820 S. Damen, Room 2446
Chicago, IL 60612
4th Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital
5000 S. 5th Ave., Bldg 1-C Lobby
Hines, IL 60141
4th Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

What if I am on active duty and in uniform?

You can ride for free and do not need to use your Military Service Pass. However, if you are on active duty but not in uniform, you must have a Military Service Pass in order to ride for free.

How do I use my Military Service Pass to get free transit?

Touch your Military Service Pass to the blue target on the bus or rail station turnstile. Do not insert the Military Service Pass into the slot.

Can I use my Military Service Pass on Pace or METRA?

The Military Service Pass can only be used on the CTA. The Military Service Pass is not valid on Pace or METRA.

I am retired from the military. Am I eligible for a Military Service Pass?

No. Only active duty military personnel and disabled veterans who have a qualifying service-connected disability (as outlined above) are eligible for the Military Service Pass. If you are 65 years of age or older, you are eligible for the RTA Seniors Ride Free Program. Contact the RTA at 312-836-7000 or go to rtachicago.com for details.

How do I replace my lost or stolen MSP?

Step 1.

Click [here](#) to print out a Request for Replacement Form or contact the CTA at 1-888-YOURCTA (1-888-968-7282) (1-888-CTA-TTY1). Please make sure you print neatly and include a telephone number. Do not submit a photo as we have one on file.

Step 2.

Enclose a money order or check payable to the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). The fee is \$5.00 for the first replacement and \$10.00 for all subsequent replacements.

Step 3.

Mail your application with money order or check to the CTA Military Service Pass Program, P.O. Box 7563, Chicago, IL 60680-7563. Please do not mail cash. Your pass will be mailed to you within five to seven business days of receipt of your replacement request.