



Visiting West Point Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)



General

- Why is this new policy being implemented?
 - West Point is a U.S. Military Service Academy and a working military installation that, as a national treasure, is in a unique position where we are able to welcome non-DoD visitors and guests to enjoy the many educational, historical, entertainment and sports offerings and activities at our Army home. In order to continue opening our gates to visitors, we must maintain certain security measures to keep our Cadets, Soldiers, Staff, Faculty and Families safe at West Point.
- I am a grad and donate money to West Point. Why do I have to go through this complicated process to visit my alma mater?
 - Many people call West Point home. Besides being a U.S. Military Service Academy and national treasure, it is also a working military installation. Unlike other installations, though, we are in a unique position where we are able to welcome non-DoD visitors and guests, but we still must maintain certain security measures to keep our Cadets, Soldiers, Staff, Faculty and Families safe in our Army home.

Eligibility

- Who is allowed to visit West Point and be on post?
 - Any U.S. citizen who has cleared a background check at the Visitor Control Center or is visiting with a qualified escort will be granted entry to West Point. Foreign visitors must be escorted at all times.
- Who is a “qualified escort”?
 - A qualified escort has: a DoD identification card OR a Common Access Card (military, civilian, government employees and contractors) OR Teslin identification card (retirees, their spouses and military dependents aged 16 and older).
- Who is an “escorted visitor”?
 - Escorted visitors are persons who enter West Point accompanied by a qualified escort. Escorted visitors do not need to visit the Visitor Control Center but must remain with the qualified escort and have in their possession an approved form of identification at all times.
- Who is an “unescorted visitor”?
 - An unescorted visitor is an individual 17 years of age or older who is not in possession of a DoD ID, wishing to enter West Point, and who does not have a qualified escort. Generally, unescorted visitors are football game attendees, civilians attending shows at Ike Hall, parents of cadets, etc.
- What do I do if I have a DoD ID?
 - If you have a DoD ID, you may proceed to Thayer Gate or Stony Lonesome Gate for access to West Point.

Visitor Control Center

- Where is the Visitor Control Center located?
 - The Visitor Control Center is located at 2107 New South Post Rd., West Point, NY 10996.
- When is the Visitor Control Center open?
 - The Visitor Control Center is open Monday – Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- What if I arrive at West Point when the Visitor Control Center is closed but need to get on post?
 - If you arrive to West Point when the Visitor Control Center is closed, proceed to Thayer Gate or Stony Lonesome Gate, and you will be provided with instructions from the guards on duty.
- How do I contact the Visitor Control Center?
 - The Visitor Control Center can be reached at 845-938-0390 or 845-938-0392 Monday – Friday from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- What do I need to bring when I go to the Visitor Control Center?



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- Visitors 17 years of age or older will need to bring a valid photo ID that contains biographical information such as name, address, gender, eye color and height. In order to expedite the process, you are also encouraged to bring the Local Area Credential Request form (<http://www.westpoint.army.mil/documents/LACRequest.pdf>) already completed.
- What if I do not have a driver's license?
 - Visitors must show an alternate form of identification that includes a photo and biographical information. Acceptable alternate forms of identification include: State-issued identification card; United States Passport or United States Passport Card; Permanent Resident Card/Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551); Foreign passport with a temporary (I-551) stamp or temporary (I-551) printed notation on a machine readable immigrant visa; Employment authorization document that contains a photograph (Form I-766); U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Cards; Transportation Worker Identification Card; Native American Tribal Document. In the case of a non-immigrant alien authorized to work for a specific employer incident to status, a foreign passport with Form I-94 or Form I-94A bearing the same name as the passport and containing an endorsement of the alien's nonimmigrant status, as long as the endorsement has not yet expired and the proposed employment is not in conflict with any restrictions or limitations identified on the form.
- My driver's license is from a state that does not comply with the REAL ID Act of 2005. What do I do?
 - While a driver's license from a state that does not comply with the REAL ID Act of 2005 is not an acceptable primary source of identification, a secondary form of identification may be presented and can include: United States Passport or United States Passport Card; Permanent Resident Card/Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551); Foreign passport with a temporary (I-551) stamp or temporary (I-551) printed notation on a machine readable immigrant visa; Employment authorization document that contains a photograph (Form I-766); U.S. Military or draft record; U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Cards; Transportation Worker Identification Card; Native American Tribal Document; Select university, library, or school cards containing a photograph, name, and expiration date; Non-government photo identification with a person's name and address; Birth certificate or document with a person's full name and date of birth; Utility bill or other documentation showing the person's name and address of principal residence; Vehicle registration with name and address. In the case of a non-immigrant alien authorized to work for a specific employer incident to status, a foreign passport with Form I-94 or Form I-94A bearing the same name as the passport and containing an endorsement of the alien's nonimmigrant status, as long as the endorsement has not yet expired and the proposed employment is not in conflict with any restrictions or limitations identified on the form.
- How do I know if my state's driver's license is not acceptable?
 - Please visit the following website for a complete list of state's with acceptable driver's licenses and IDs: <https://www.dhs.gov/current-status-states-territories>.

Local Area Credential (LAC)

- What is a Local Area Credential?
 - A Local Area Credential (LAC) allows access to West Point for non-DoD personnel and civilians who do not possess a DoD identification card OR a Common Access Card (military, civilian, government employees and contractors) OR Teslin identification card (retirees, their spouses and military dependents aged 16 and older).
- Who needs a Local Area Credential (LAC)?
 - A Local Area Credential is required for anyone who is not in possession of a DoD identification card OR a Common Access Card (military, civilian, government employees and contractors) OR Teslin identification card (retirees, their spouses and military dependents aged 16 and older).
- How long is a LAC valid?



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- For local residents and personnel who return on a regular basis (e.g., Army football games, Ike Hall season ticket holders), they will be issued a LAC valid for one year. Other visitors to West Point will be given a LAC that will be valid for the duration of their stay. Cadet parents who want to obtain a LAC should contact the West Point Parent Club Coordinator at <http://www.usma.edu/parents/SitePages/Contact.aspx>.
- Where do I obtain a LAC?
 - A LAC can be obtained at the West Point Visitor Control Center located at 2107 New South Post Rd., West Point, NY 10996.
- How long does it take to get a LAC?
 - The length of time it takes to receive a LAC differs. On higher volume days such as special occasions on post, it can take as long as 30 minutes. If there is not a special event and less requests, it can take as little as five minutes.
- Are there different types of a LAC?
 - There are two types of credentials issued at the Visitor Control Center. For local residents and personnel who return on a regular basis (e.g., Army football games, Ike Hall season ticket holders), they will be issued a LAC valid for one year. Other visitors to West Point will be given a LAC that will be valid for the duration of their stay. Cadet parents who want to obtain a LAC should contact the West Point Parent Club Coordinator at <http://www.usma.edu/parents/SitePages/Contact.aspx>.
- What is being checked when I apply for a LAC?
 - When you submit your acceptable forms of identification as well as the Local Area Credential Request, a basic background check will be conducted.
- If I have a LAC, can I escort other people on to West Point?
 - No. Possessing a LAC does not make you a qualified escort on the installation. Everyone visiting West Point, who does not have a qualified escort nor has a DoD identification card OR a Common Access Card (military, civilian, government employees and contractors) OR Teslin identification card (retirees, their spouses and military dependents aged 16 and older), needs their own LAC.
- Can I get a LAC issued to me before I arrive at West Point to save time?
 - At this time, due to the personal identifiers submitted for the background check, there is no pre-sign-up. However, to expedite the process upon arrival to the Visitor Control Center, you are encouraged to bring the Local Area Credential Request form (<http://www.westpoint.army.mil/documents/LACRequest.pdf>) already completed.
- If I am an “escorted visitor,” do I need a LAC?
 - No. As an escorted visitor, your qualified escort is assuming responsibility for your actions. However, you are expected to have an appropriate form of primary identification at all times.
- I am a qualified escort and have friends visiting. If I enter the gate with them, do they need a LAC?
 - No. As a qualified escort, you are assuming responsibility for your visitors’ actions. However, your visitors are expected to have an appropriate form of primary identification at all times.
- If I have a DoD ID, do my guests need a Local Area Credential to visit West Point?
 - No. By having a DoD ID, you are considered a qualified escort, and your guests do not need special exception to visit West Point.
- What access does a DoD retiree card get me?
 - With a DoD retiree card, you have access West Point and do not need to visit the Visitor Control Center.
- I have a government contractor ID. Do I need a Local Area Credential?
 - If you have a government contractor ID, you do not need to obtain a Local Area Credential. You may proceed to Thayer Gate or Stony Lonesome Gate for access to West Point.
- I am not a U.S. citizen. How do I get a LAC?
 - Non-U.S. citizens will not be granted a LAC. A non-U.S. citizen may visit West Point if he/she has a qualified escort. If a non-U.S. citizen does not have a qualified escort, it is



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recommended to take a bus tour with an assigned guide, provided the bus tour agency presents a valid legible manifest.

What If... (Situational)

- We have friends visiting from out of the country. How do they get on post?
 - U.S. citizens will need to proceed to the Visitor Control Center to obtain a LAC, or you may escort them. However, without a LAC, they will not be allowed to leave post and return unless you escort them. Non-U.S. citizens must be escorted at all times by a qualified sponsor in order to enter the installation.
- My husband and I live on post and work all day, but our out-of-town guests want to do some local sightseeing. Can they freely come and go from post?
 - If they receive a LAC, your out-of-town guests can come-and-go on their own. The LAC will be issued for the duration of their stay.
- I've already gone through a background check, finger printing, etc. through a program like the TSA's Global Entry. Do I still need to get a LAC?
 - Yes. The Global Entry card is issued by the Department of Homeland Security. The LAC is issued by the Department of Defense. You will still need to obtain a LAC if you do not have a Department of Defense-issued form of identification.
- I have a DoD retiree card. If I come to West Point do I need a LAC? Do any guests with me need a LAC?
 - As the holder of a DoD retiree card, you are an authorized escort and are allowed on West Point. You are also considered a qualified escort so your guests do not need a LAC if they are arriving in the same car. If the spouse of a DoD retiree wishes to obtain a retiree ID card, he/she may do so by making an appointment here: <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/appointment/default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>
- I am having furniture delivered on post. What do I tell the delivery driver?
 - For deliveries made Monday – Friday from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m., those persons will need to obtain a LAC from the Visitor Control Center. All delivery trucks are to enter through Stony Lonesome Gate.
- I am having my wedding at West Point. We are providing bus transportation for guests, but other guests are driving themselves. How do they get on post?
 - Contact the Visitors' Center at 845-938-0390 or 845-938-0392 to discuss your individual situation to ensure your guests will be able to enter West Point.
- I am a football season ticket holder. Isn't this going to make game days a hassle and deter football supporters from coming?
 - West Point is a working military installation, and we must maintain certain security measures to keep our Cadets, Soldiers, Staff, Faculty and Families safe in our Army home.
 - For local residents and personnel who return on a regular basis (e.g., Army football games, Ike Hall season ticket holders), you will be issued a LAC valid for one year so you will be able to immediately proceed to Thayer Gate or Stony Lonesome Gate on game days.
 - If you have additional questions, contact the Army Athletic Association.
- I am returning for a reunion weekend. There will be a lot of people requesting a LAC in a short amount of time. Is this really necessary?
 - West Point is a working military installation. Unlike other installations, we are in a unique position where we are able to welcome non-DoD visitors and guests. However, we still must maintain certain security measures to keep our Cadets, Soldiers, Staff, Faculty and Families safe in our Army home.
 - Everyone visiting West Point, who does not have a qualified escort nor has a DoD identification card OR a Common Access Card (military, civilian, government employees and contractors) OR Teslin identification card (retirees, their spouses and military dependents aged 16 and older), needs their own LAC.
 - If you have additional questions, please contact the Association of Graduates.