Veterans Day 2026 Freebies

A practical list for veterans and military families | Wednesday, November 11, 2026 | Olympia / South Sound plus national offers

START LOCAL: Great Clips offers free haircuts at U.S. salons, and the Olympia Capitol Rotunda ceremony is free to attend. Federal public-land entrance fees are also waived on Nov. 11 at participating sites.

Olympia and South Sound

Free community ceremony: Thurston County Veterans Council lists a Veterans Day celebration at the Capitol Rotunda, Olympia, 11 a.m.–noon. Confirm event details before heading out. Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs event page.

Free haircut: Great Clips says veterans and active-duty service members can get a free haircut or a haircut card at any U.S. salon on Nov. 11. Nonmilitary customers can also pick up a card to give a veteran; cards are redeemable through Dec. 4. Great Clips offer details.

Free public-land entrance: National Park Service fee-charging sites waive entrance fees on Nov. 11 for U.S. citizens and residents. Timed-entry reservations and other fees may still apply. BLM sites also list Veterans Day as a fee-free day for covered day-use and standard amenity fees. NPS dates and conditions | BLM fee-free days.

Free food and drinks

The VA's 2026 roundup lists the following chain offers. Many are dine-in only, require proof of service, and depend on participating locations. Check the restaurant's current page or call your nearest location before you go. Open the VA's full offer roundup.

Offer	What is listed	Key condition
Applebee's	Free entrée from a special Veterans Day menu	Dine-in; proof of service
Aspen Creek Grill	Free $15 meal voucher	11 a.m.–6 p.m.; dine-in; voucher redeemable later
Bar Louie	Free burger (Big Louie excluded)	Dine-in; Nov. 10–11
Biscuit Belly	Free breakfast biscuit sandwich plus coffee or fountain drink	Dine-in
Bob Evans	Free entrée from an 11-item menu; future biscuits-and-gravy offer	Dine-in; proof of service; 2026 details
Bonefish Grill	Free Bang Bang Shrimp entrée and nonalcoholic beverage	Proof of service
Chili's	Free entrée from a limited menu	Dine-in; call first because the company page may still show prior-year details
Denny's	Free Original Grand Slam	5 a.m.–noon; dine-in; proof of service
Freddy's	Free combo-meal card	Pick up Nov. 11; redeem by Nov. 25
Golden Corral	Free buffet and beverage	Military Appreciation Night; dine-in
In-N-Out	Free burger, fries and beverage	Proof of military service
Red Lobster	Free Shrimp & Chips meal	Dine-in; proof of service
Red Robin	Free Red's Big Tavern Burger and bottomless fries	Dine-in; proof of service

Offer	What is listed	Key condition
Ruby Tuesday	Free selected entrée, Garden Bar and bottomless drink	Dine-in; participating locations
Sizzler	Free lunch and nonalcoholic beverage	Open until 4 p.m.; selected entrées
Smashburger	Free All-American Smashburger	Participating locations; ID
Torchy's Tacos	Free taco and drink	In-store; proof of service
WOB Bar & Kitchen	Free Smash Burger and fries	Participating locations
Yard House	Free appetizer	Ask server for details

Free food through an app

Pilot and Flying J: Veterans and active-duty service members can claim a complimentary sandwich and coffee or fountain drink through the Pilot app at participating locations after ID.me verification. Check the app for location participation and redemption steps. Pilot announcement.

Veterans Canteen Service: The VA roundup lists a free breakfast combo at PatriotCafé and free brewed value coffee at PatriotBrew on the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 10 (the day before Veterans Day), no purchase required. Check for a participating VA facility nearby. VA roundup.

Offers that are not completely free

Chipotle: Free chips with guacamole, queso or salsa require a $5 in-restaurant purchase. **Rubio's:** Buy one entrée, get one free. These are discounts or purchase-linked offers rather than no-purchase freebies. Chipotle terms | VA roundup for Rubio's terms.

Before you go

Bring a VA or military ID, Veteran designation on state ID, DD-214, or other proof accepted by the business. Ask whether the deal is available at that specific location, whether it is dine-in only, and whether drinks, tax, tip or add-ons are excluded. Offer details can change. This list reflects information available October 31, 2026.

Sources

VA News: 2026 Veterans Day discounts and free meals (roundup marked verified Oct. 22). Direct announcements: Great Clips, Bob Evans, National Park Service, BLM, Pilot, Washington State DVA.