

Veterans - Podcast Transcript

Host 1: Let's talk about veterans. Okay. You've served our country and now Space Coast Area Transit is serving you right back.

Host 2: Yeah.

Host 1: With some perks designed to make your life a little easier.

Host 2: That's right. Space Coast Area Transit has a couple of great programs to honor and support veterans both year round and on Veterans Day.

Host 1: Okay, let's unpack this.

Host 2: Yeah.

Host 1: What can you tell me about how Space Coast Area Transit helps Veterans year round?

Host 2: Well, what's fascinating here is that they offer a reduced fare program.

Host 1: Okay.

Host 2: So, whether you're active or inactive duty, you can ride for half the regular price all year long. Wow. For a veteran who relies on the bus to get around.

Right. This could mean saving enough for an extra trip to the grocery store or even a doctor's appointment each month.

Host 1: That's a significant difference. Oh. What's the actual cost for veterans?

Host 2: The reduced fare is just 75 cents. And if you're a frequent rider, there's a reduced fare 30 day pass available for only \$21.

Host 1: That makes a lot of sense for someone who uses Space Coast Area Transit regularly. Are there any other fare details riders should be aware of?

Host 2: Of course, it's always good to remember that children under 5 ride free. And transfers to other routes are also free.

Host 1: Good to know. Anything else?

Host 2: Actually, there's a unique perk for City of Melbourne residents.

Host 1: Oh.

Host 2: Thanks to a city grant, you can ride for free on routes 21, 24, and 29.

Host 1: That's great for veterans living in Melbourne.

Host 2: Yeah.

Host 1: So to take advantage of this reduced fare program, what do veterans need to do?

Host 2: You'll need a reduced fare ID card.

Host 1: Okay. How do you get one of those?

Host 2: You have a couple of options.

Host 1: Okay.

Host 2: You can apply online or go in person to one of the Space Coast Area Transit terminals. Thanks.

Host 1: Let's start with the online. What does that look like?

Host 2: It's pretty straightforward. You'll need to upload documents to prove your veteran status. Things like your VA car driver's license or discharge papers.

Host 1: While convenient for some, could this be a barrier for veterans who might not be as comfortable with technology?

Host 2: That's a good point. Space Coast Area Transit does offer the option to apply in person, which might be preferable for some, but going back to the online process, Once you submit your documents, You'll receive an email confirmation within five business days, letting you know if you're eligible.

Host 1: What happens after you get the confirmation?

Host 2: From there, you can choose instant mobile ticketing through Token Transit, or have a physical card mailed to you.

Host 1: Good.

Host 2: That usually takes about five business days.

Host 1: So for those who'd rather handle things face to face, can you walk me through the in person process?

Host 2: Absolutely. You'd simply visit one of the Space Coast Area Transit Bus Trolley terminals. And present your documentation there.

Host 1: And those documents are the same ones required for the online application, right?

Host 2: Exactly. Whether you go the online or in person route, make sure to have your documentation ready.

Host 1: So, we've covered the year round reduced fare program.

Host 2: Right.

Host 1: But I understand Space Coast Area Transit also has something special for Veterans Day.

Host 2: Yes. On Veterans Day, November 11th. Okay. All veterans ride free on Space Coast Area Transit as a gesture of appreciation for your service. You don't need a reduced fare ID card for the free rides on Veterans Day.

Got it. Simply show the driver your VA card, driver's license, or military ID.

Host 1: That's great. So to be extra clear, any of those forms of ID would be accepted for the free rides on Veterans Day?

Host 2: That is correct.

Host 1: Okay. That makes sense. Now we've talked about fares and how to get an ID. Right. But I'm wondering about the actual experience.

Host 2: Yeah.

Host 1: How easy is it for veterans, particularly those with mobility devices? To use the buses.

Host 2: That's an important consideration. And we can definitely dive into the accessibility features. Space Coast Area Transit has put a lot of thought into making their services accessible for everyone, including veterans with mobility devices.

Host 1: That's good to hear. What are some of the things they've done to make the buses easy to use for people with mobility challenges?

Host 2: All of their buses are equipped with ramps or lifts, so you can easily get on and off the bus, regardless of your mobility needs.

Host 1: So someone using a mobility device. can board and disembark the bus without any hassle.

Host 2: Exactly. And once on board, there are designated spaces where mobility devices can be secured safely.

Host 1: It sounds like Space Coast Area Transit is committed to creating an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome.

Host 2: I think they've done a commendable job. And as a reminder, if you ever have questions about accessibility or need assistance, their ride line is always available to help.

Host 1: Right. You mentioned the ride line earlier. Listeners can call 321-633-1866. for general questions or 321-952-4672 if they're in the South Mainland area. Right. Now skipping back a bit, what does Space Coast Area Transit's commitment to veterans tell us about their role in the community?

Host 2: These programs show that Space Coast Area Transit recognizes the sacrifices veterans have made and wants to give back.

back.

Host 1: It's like they're saying, we value your service, and we're here to support you.

Host 2: Precisely. It's a way of showing respect and appreciation. And since veterans are such an integral part of our community, it reflects Space Coast Area Transit's commitment to serving the community as a whole.

Host 1: Absolutely affordable and accessible transportation can make a huge difference in a veteran's life.

Host 2: Think about it. It can impact their ability to get to work, go to medical appointments, stay connected with loved ones, and just be a part of the community. Transportation isn't just about getting from point A to point B. It's about connecting people to the things that matter most.

Host 1: That's a great point.

It's about enabling veterans to live full and meaningful lives.

Host 2: Exactly. And it reminds us that even seemingly small acts of kindness or advocacy can have a significant impact.

Host 1: It's inspiring to think that we can all contribute to creating positive change in our communities.

Host 2: It is. And on that note, I think we've covered a lot of ground in this deep dive.

We've learned about the way Space Coast Area Transit supports our veterans with reduced fares and free rides on Veterans Day. And we've explored the accessibility features they've implemented, but beyond the specifics.

Host 1: It's been a truly thought provoking conversation.

Host 2: I agree. It's been a pleasure discussing this with you and to our listener, thank you for joining us on this deep dive.