

Getting Your Taxes Done – Visiting a Free Tax Preparation Site

The IRS partners with various local and community organizations to provide free tax preparation services to qualified individuals.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people whose income falls below the maximum earnings allowable to qualify for an Earned Income Tax Credit. See Publication 596, Earned Income Tax Credit for the current year limits. Volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. VITA sites are generally located at community centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other convenient locations.

The Tax Counseling for the Elderly program provides free tax help for persons aged 60 or older. Trained volunteers from non-profit organizations provide free tax counseling and basic income tax return preparation for senior citizens. Volunteers are often retired individuals associated with the organizations that receive grants from the IRS.

These sites **cannot** complete tax returns with casualty losses or gains. They can, however, provide information about casualty loss deductions and can refer you to available sources that can help you complete your casualty loss return. They can also assist you in replacing any Form W2 you may need to file your return.

What do you need to bring to an IRS sponsored free tax preparation sites?

When visiting a free tax preparation site you should bring the following items with you (if available):

- Valid photo identification for yourself and/or your spouse
- Social Security cards for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a social security number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents
- Current year's tax package if you received one
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Form 1099-INT or 1099-DIV)
- A copy of last year's federal and state tax return
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers for Direct Deposit
- Other relevant information about income and expenses
- Total amount paid for day care and the day care providers' tax identification number (the individual's Social Security Number or the business' Employer Identification Number)

**To find a volunteer location near you, contact the
IRS at 1-800-829-1040.**



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