



GOV CLARITY

How to Renew Global Entry in 2026

Beat the backlog, protect your benefits, and avoid the mistakes that cost members their fast lane.



WHAT'S INSIDE

- ✓ When to renew — and the 1-year early window
- ✓ The 24-month grace window that protects your benefits
- ✓ Step-by-step online renewal
- ✓ Fees, plus free renewals for kids under 18
- ✓ The 5 mistakes that cost people their membership



How to Renew Global Entry in 2026

GOVCLARITY GUIDE | 2026 EDITION

Your step-by-step guide to renewing Global Entry the right way — so your benefits never lapse, you avoid the backlog, and you don't pay for something you could get free. This guide expands on everything in the GovClarity video.

Renew Up to 1 Year Early

Start 364 days before your membership expires

24-Month Grace Window

File before expiry — keep benefits while you wait

Fee: \$120 / FREE

Adults pay \$120; children under 18 renew free

6–8 Month Processing

Current wait time — file early to avoid gaps

i New to Global Entry, or facing your first interview? This guide is about *renewing*. For first-time interview prep — what to bring, questions, and what gets people denied — see our companion **Global Entry Interview 2026** guide.



Who This Guide Is For

This guide is for current Global Entry members whose membership is expiring — or has recently expired — and who want to renew without losing their benefits or getting stuck in the backlog.

You'll get the most from this guide if you:

→ **Existing Member**

Have an existing Global Entry membership (active or recently expired)

→ **Need Clarity**

Want to know exactly when and how to renew

→ **Worried About Delays**

Are concerned about the current processing delays

→ **Protecting Benefits**

Want to protect your TSA PreCheck and fast-lane access while you wait

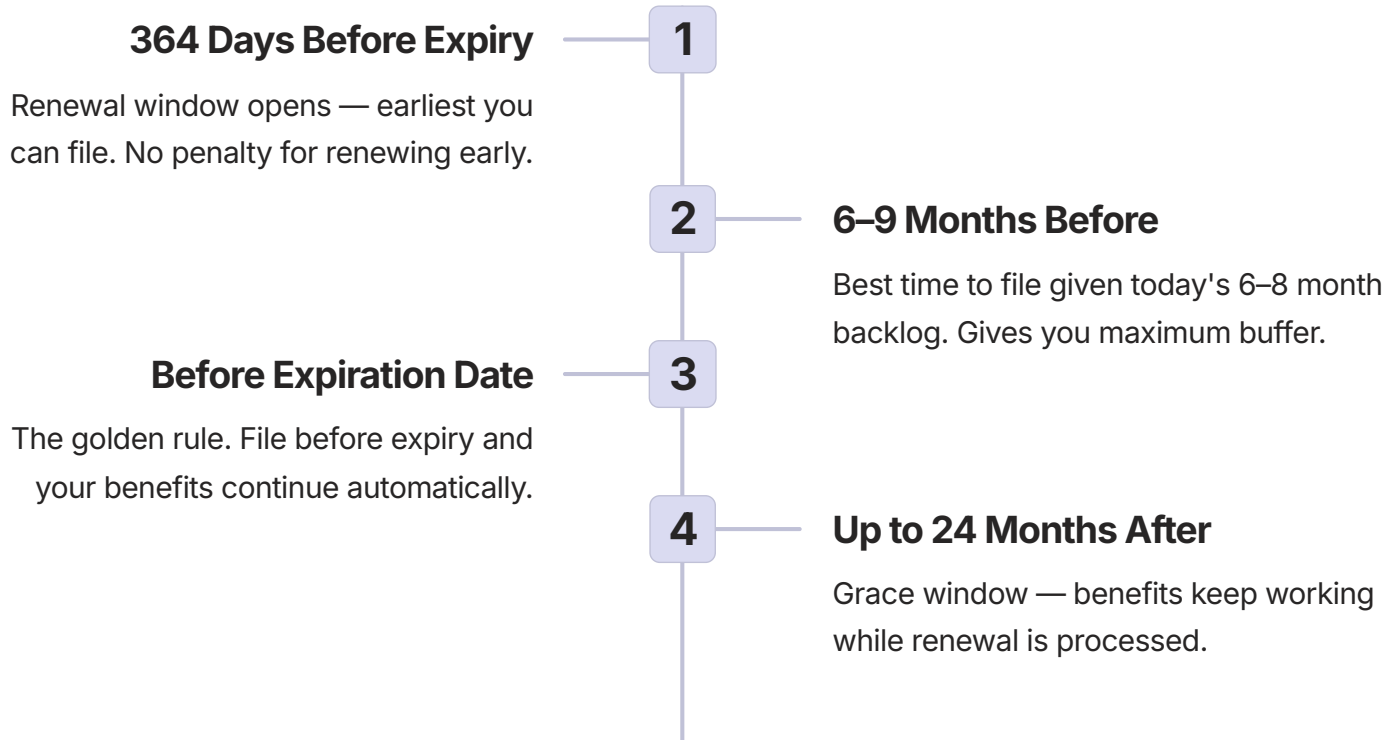
→ **Renewing for Family**

Are renewing for your family and want to avoid paying for your kids

If your membership lapsed a long time ago, you can still renew through your same account — this guide covers that too.

When to Renew: Timing Is Everything


The single most important decision in renewing is **when** you file. Get this right and everything else is easy.

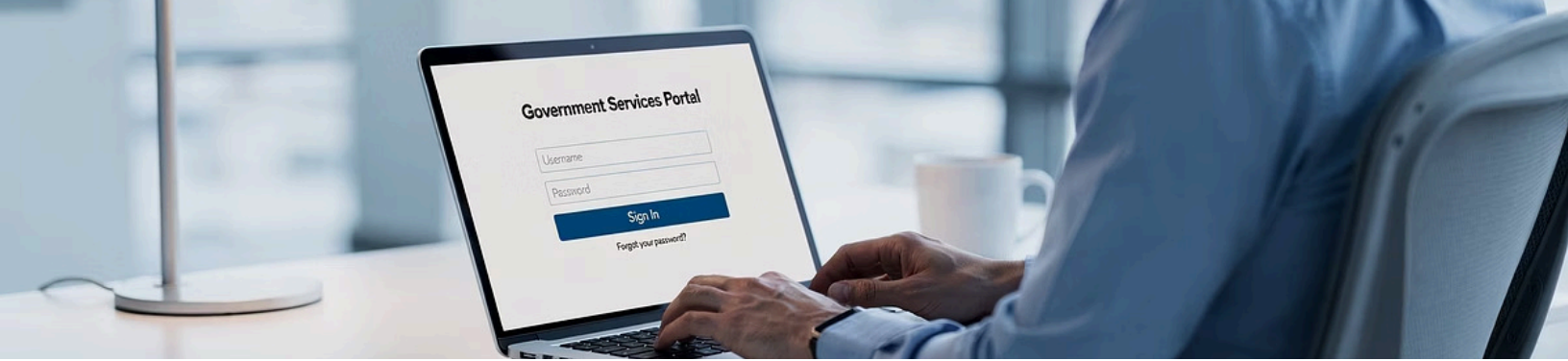


You can renew up to one year early. CBP lets you submit your renewal as early as 364 days before your membership expires. There is no penalty for renewing early, and given today's backlog, there's every reason to.

The golden rule: file before your expiration date. If your renewal is submitted *before* your membership expires, you keep using your Global Entry benefits while the renewal is processed — even if your card's printed date passes.

Why early matters right now: A large wave of memberships is up for renewal, and processing has slowed to roughly 6–8 months. Filing months ahead of your expiration date is the simplest way to avoid any gap in benefits.

 **Action:** Log into your account today and check your exact expiration date. If it's within the next year, start your renewal now.



Before You Start: Your Account & [Login.gov](https://login.gov)

Many longtime members hit a wall at the very first step — logging in. Here's how to avoid it.

The Trusted Traveler Programs (TTP) system now uses Login.gov. If you enrolled years ago, your old sign-in may no longer work directly. You may need to **link your existing TTP membership to a Login.gov account** before you can access your dashboard.

1

Go to ttp.dhs.gov

Navigate to the official Trusted Traveler Programs portal

2

Sign In via Login.gov

Sign in to (or create) your Login.gov account

3


Link Your TTP Profile

If prompted, link your existing TTP profile using your membership number (PASSID) and personal details

4

Confirm Your Dashboard

Verify you can see your Global Entry membership listed on your dashboard

 Sort this out before your renewal window gets tight — account recovery can take a day or two if something doesn't match.



What You Need to Renew

Renewing is mostly about confirming your information is current.

Have Ready

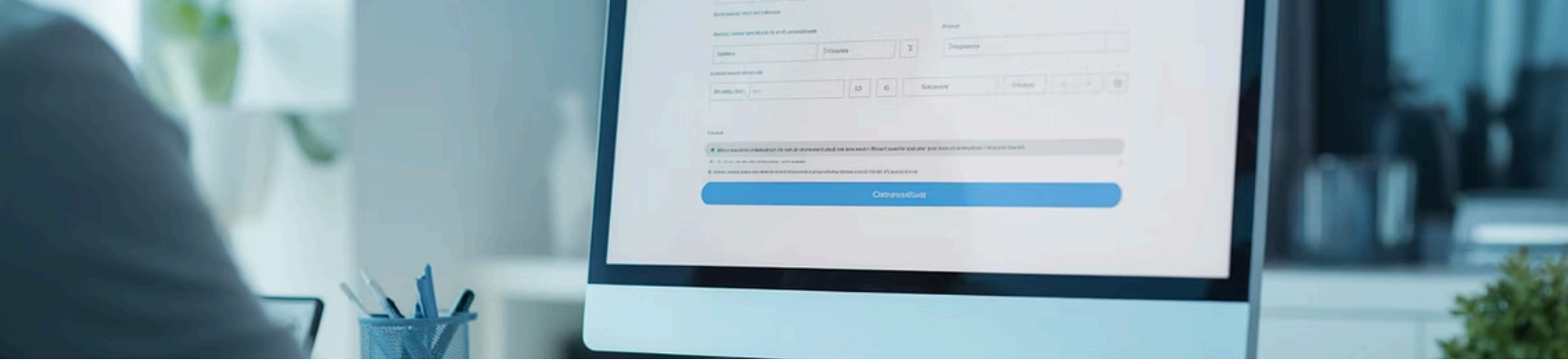
- Access to your TTP account (via Login.gov)
- Your **current, valid passport** — and updated passport details in your account
- Your membership number (PASSID), if you need it to link your account
- A payment method for the renewal fee

Keep your passport info current. If you renewed your passport since you last enrolled, update it in your TTP profile so it matches. Outdated passport data is a common reason renewals stall.

Special Situations

One important exception — legal name changes. If you've legally changed your name (marriage, divorce, court order), you **cannot** fix that online during renewal. You must visit an enrollment center to update your name before you can renew. Bring your updated passport plus supporting documents (marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court order).

Non-U.S. citizens: If you're a lawful permanent resident or enrolled through a partner country, a *new visa* generally must be verified **in person** at an enrollment center — unlike a routine passport update, which can be done online.



Step-by-Step: How to Renew Online

The renewal application is done entirely online. There's no mail-in form and no in-person renewal application.



Log Into Your Account

Go to ttp.dhs.gov via Login.gov



Go to Your Dashboard

You'll see your Global Entry membership listed



Select "Renew"

Click the Renew button next to your membership — *not* a new application



Move Through Each Section

Confirm personal details, address, passport, and answer eligibility questions



Update Changed Info

Update address or passport number (name changes require enrollment center first)



Review & Pay

Review carefully, then pay the non-refundable fee



Submit

Your application goes into vetting



Critical: Always use the **Renew** button on your existing account. Starting a brand-new application by mistake can mean paying the fee again and creating a duplicate profile. Renewing keeps everything tied to your current membership.



The Interview: You May Not Need One

Good news for renewing members: **many renewals are approved without an interview.**

After you submit, CBP runs your background through vetting. Whether an interview is required is decided by the vetting center — it's not simply about having a "clean record," and being asked to interview doesn't mean something is wrong.

If an interview IS required, you'll get *conditional approval* and an invitation to schedule. You have several options:

Option	How It Works	Where
Enrollment Center	Schedule an in-person appointment	Many locations nationwide
Enrollment on Arrival (EoA)	Interview when you land from an international trip — no appointment	~69 participating airports
Enrollment on Departure (EoD)	Interview before an international flight	A small number of airports (e.g., IAD, MIA) — check the current list
Remote Interview	Video interview from home, if eligible	Online (pilot program)

⚠ The 730-day rule: Once conditionally approved, you have **730 days (about 2 years)** to complete your interview. Miss that window and your application is canceled — with **no refund**.

For full interview preparation — documents, questions, and what gets people denied — see our **Global Entry Interview 2026** guide.

Fees, Family Savings & Processing Time

Renewal Fees

Who	Fee	Covers
Adults	\$120 (non-refundable)	5 years, including TSA PreCheck
Children under 18	FREE	5 years — when a parent/guardian is a member or applying at the same time

Each traveler renews separately. Every family member needs their own membership under their own account — even though kids renew at no charge. To get the \$0 child fee, the minor's application must be linked to the parent or guardian's membership.

Don't pay out of pocket if you don't have to. Many premium travel credit cards reimburse the \$120 fee as a statement credit (for example, certain American Express Platinum, Chase Sapphire Reserve, and Capital One Venture X cards). Check with your card issuer before paying.

Processing Time & the 24-Month Grace Window

6–8

Months Processing

Current typical wait time for renewal


24

Month Grace Window

Benefits continue if you filed before expiry

What "benefits continue" covers: Your Known Traveler Number stays active, so **Global Entry kiosks and TSA PreCheck keep working** at the airport during the grace window.

One nuance for land-border travelers: the *physical* Global Entry card is what you use in SENTRI and NEXUS lanes at land crossings. Even during the grace window, a card printed with a passed expiration date may not be accepted at a land lane — so plan around your air travel, where your digital membership carries you.

 **Bottom line:** File on time and you're covered at the airport for up to two years while you wait. File late and you lose that automatic protection.



Common Renewal Mistakes (and How to Avoid Them)

1. Waiting Too Long to Start

This is the big one. If you file *after* your membership has expired, you don't get the automatic 24-month extension — so your benefits can lapse while you wait. **Fix:** File before your expiration date, every time.

2. Counting on a Reminder That Never Comes

Many members assume an email will tell them when it's time, then discover their membership already lapsed. **Fix:** Check your own expiration date and put it on your calendar a year out.

3. Starting a New Application Instead of Renewing

Clicking into a fresh application instead of the "Renew" button can mean paying twice and creating a duplicate profile. **Fix:** Always use the **Renew** button on your existing account.

4. Panicking When the Card Date Passes

If you filed on time, your benefits keep working during the grace window — there's no need to re-apply or panic. **Fix:** Check your TTP dashboard for your real status instead of assuming the worst.

5. Forgetting That Each Traveler Renews Separately

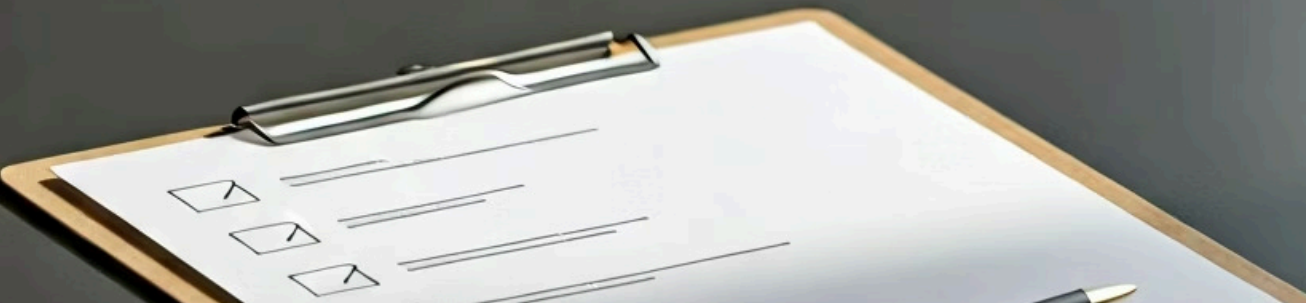
A family membership isn't one account — each person, including children, renews under their own login. **Fix:** Renew each family member individually; link kids to a parent for the free fee.



Your Renewal Timeline, Checklist & FAQ

Renewal Timeline at a Glance

When	What to Do
12 months before expiration	Renewal window opens — earliest you can file
6–9 months before	Best time to file, given the current backlog
At submission	Pay \$120 (adults), pass into vetting
A few weeks–2 months	Possible conditional approval (if interview needed)
Up to 730 days after conditional approval	Complete any required interview
Up to 24 months after expiration	Benefits continue automatically <i>if</i> you filed on time
~6–8 months (typical)	Renewal finalized for another 5 years



Printable Renewal Checklist

Before you file:

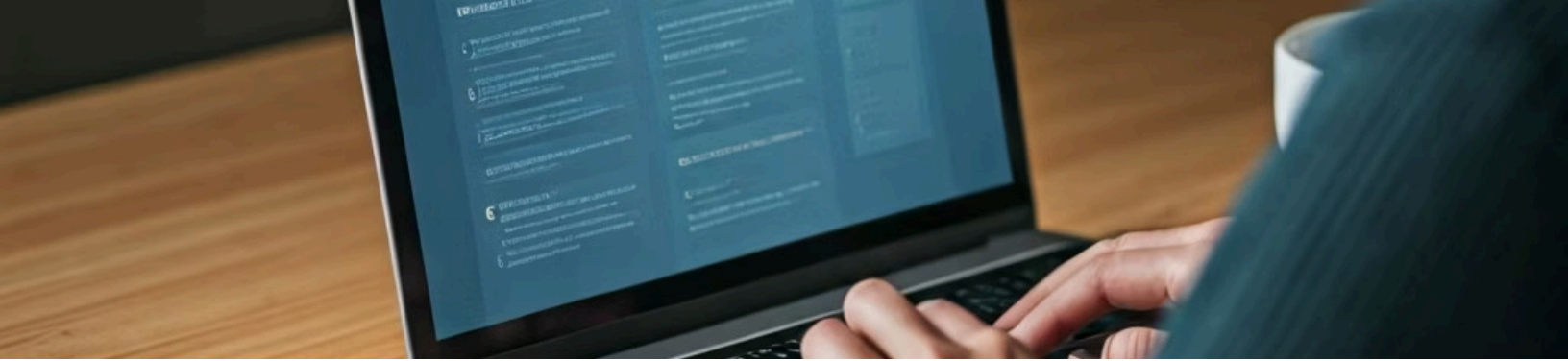
- Found my exact membership expiration date
- Confirmed I can log in via Login.gov (linked my old account if needed)
- Passport is valid and details are current in my TTP profile
- Handled any legal name change in person at an enrollment center (if applicable)
- Have a payment method ready (or a card that reimburses the fee)

Filing:

- Used the Renew button — not a new application
- Confirmed/updated address, passport, and eligibility answers
- Reviewed everything before paying (fee is non-refundable)
- Submitted before my expiration date

After filing:

- Saved my confirmation
- If conditionally approved: scheduled my interview (or planned EoA/EoD) well within 730 days
- Renewed each family member separately (kids linked to a parent for the free fee)
- Set a calendar note to check my dashboard status periodically



Renewal FAQ

Q: My membership already expired — can I still renew?

A: Yes. You renew through your same account. But once expired, you no longer have the automatic benefit extension, and a long lapse means you're without benefits until your renewal clears.

Q: Do I get a new card?

A: Global Entry has largely moved to mobile and facial-recognition processing. You may not need a physical card at the airport at all — though the card still matters for SENTRI/NEXUS land lanes.

Q: Will renewing reset my membership number?

A: No — renewing keeps your existing membership (PASSID). That's why you should always use "Renew" rather than starting fresh.

Q: Do my benefits really keep working after the card expires?

A: Yes — if you filed before expiration. Your Known Traveler Number stays active for up to 24 months while the renewal is pending, so TSA PreCheck and Global Entry kiosks keep working.

Q: Can I renew if my passport is about to expire?

A: Renew your passport first if it expires soon, then update the new passport details in your TTP profile. Your membership runs five years, so a soon-to-expire passport can raise questions.



Official Resources

Global Entry Official Page

cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/global-entry — Program overview, eligibility, and renewal info

Link: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/global-entry>

Trusted Traveler Programs (TTP) Account

ttp.dhs.gov — Renew, schedule interviews, check status, and manage your account

Link: <https://ttp.dhs.gov>

Login.gov Help

login.gov/help — Account setup and linking issues

Link: <https://login.gov/help>

CBP INFO Center

Phone: 1-877-227-5511 — Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM – 8:00 PM ET

CBP Help Center

help.cbp.gov — 500+ answers about CBP policies and procedures

Link: <https://help.cbp.gov>



All information is current as of June 2026. Government policies, fees, and processing times change — always verify with the official source (cbp.gov / ttp.dhs.gov) before taking action. This guide is for educational purposes only. GovClarity is an independent resource and is not affiliated with U.S. Customs and Border Protection or any government agency.