



GovClarity

THREE PROVIDERS THREE PRICES ONE MEMBERSHIP

TSA PreCheck 2027: Enroll, Renew, and Stop Overpaying

What's Inside:

- The full price table for all three enrollment providers
- Why CLEAR's "free renewal" still costs you
- The six-month renewal window and the sixty-day rule
- Which children need the indicator on their own boarding pass
- The military ID number that replaces the fee entirely
- The one booking field that sends you to the regular line



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What Changed, and Why It Matters

For years the Transportation Security Administration set one price for everyone. The last flat rate was \$78.

That ended when TSA authorized additional enrollment providers. There are now three, and TSA lets each set its own fees and run its own locations. TSA still decides who is eligible and runs the vetting. The provider only handles enrollment and pricing.



The practical consequence: the link in your renewal email goes to one provider. It is not the only one, and it may not be the cheapest.

A naming quirk worth knowing

TSA lists one of the three providers as **IDEMIA**. Its consumer enrollment operation is branded **IDENTOGO**, and its enrollment centers, website and paperwork all say IDENTOGO.

They are the same company. If you go looking for "IDEMIA" and land on something called IDENTOGO, you are in the right place.



The Full Price Table

Every figure below is a five-year membership. Verify current pricing on TSA's own pages before you pay, because providers set these independently and they have moved.

Provider	New Enrollment	Renewal Online	Renewal In Person
IDEMIA (IDENTOGO)	\$76.75	\$58.75 ✓ Cheapest	\$66.75
Telos	\$85.00	\$69.95	\$58.75 ✓ Cheapest
CLEAR	\$84.95	\$72.95	\$84.95

Price Gap

The cheapest renewal and the most expensive are more than **\$26 apart** for exactly the same membership.

Telos Exception

Telos charges **less in person than online**. If you assume online is always cheaper, that assumption costs you \$11.20 with Telos.

New Enrollment Is Never Fully Online

The "online versus in person" split applies to **renewals only**. Every new enrollment requires an in-person appointment for identity documents and fingerprints, whichever provider you choose. The online portion is just the application form.



Where You Can Enroll

There are more than 1,300 enrollment locations nationwide across the three providers.

Provider	Approx. Locations
Telos	512
IDEMIA (IDENTOGO)	511
CLEAR	348

 Location counts change as providers open and close sites. Check each provider's locator before driving anywhere.

1,300+

Total Locations

Nationwide across all three providers

3

Authorized Providers

Each with independent pricing and locations



What the CLEAR Plus Offer Actually Costs

CLEAR advertises a free TSA PreCheck renewal when you join CLEAR Plus. Here is the actual mechanism.

1 Complete Your Renewal

You complete your PreCheck renewal and pay CLEAR's fee.

2 Receive a Code

CLEAR issues you a one-time code.

3 Join CLEAR Plus at \$146

That code lets you join CLEAR Plus for **\$146** rather than its usual price.

4 You've Paid for Two Products

CLEAR Plus is a separate, privately run identity service. It is not part of TSA PreCheck and it is not a government program.

✓ When This Is a Good Deal

You already wanted CLEAR Plus. The credit is real and you come out ahead.

❓ When It Is Not

You only want PreCheck. A standalone renewal at IDEMIA costs \$58.75. The CLEAR Plus route costs you the renewal fee plus \$146 on top.



Who Can Apply

Direct enrollment in the TSA PreCheck Application Program is limited to:



U.S. Citizens

United States citizens may apply directly through any of the three enrollment providers.



U.S. Nationals

United States nationals are eligible for direct enrollment.



Lawful Permanent Residents

Green card holders may apply through the standard enrollment process.



If you hold a temporary visa, you cannot apply through the three enrollment providers. That is a limit on this specific program, not on expedited screening generally.

The route that does work for other nationalities

U.S. Customs and Border Protection runs Trusted Traveler Programs that accept a wider range of nationalities, including **Global Entry**, **NEXUS** and **SENTRI**.

Approval in any of those assigns you a PASS ID. That number functions as a Known Traveler Number with participating airlines, which gets you the PreCheck mark on domestic boarding passes. Same lane, different door in.

What Disqualifies You

TSA separates disqualifying offences into permanent bars and time-limited bars. Do not assume an old conviction is automatically cleared, and do not assume any felony bars you forever. Both assumptions are wrong.

Permanent Disqualifiers

These bar you regardless of how long ago they occurred:

- Espionage, sedition, treason
- Federal crimes of terrorism
- Transportation security incidents
- Improper transport of hazardous materials
- Unlawful use of explosives or destructive devices
- Murder
- Bomb threats and infrastructure hoaxes
- Certain racketeering offences
- Attempt or conspiracy to commit any of the above

Interim Disqualifiers

These bar you if you were **convicted within the last seven years, or released from incarceration within the last five years**. Either window can catch you.

- Unlawful possession or distribution of a weapon
- Extortion
- Fraud or misrepresentation
- Bribery
- Smuggling
- Immigration violations
- Distribution or trafficking of a controlled substance
- Arson
- Kidnapping or hostage taking
- Rape or aggravated sexual abuse
- Assault with intent to kill
- Robbery
- Voluntary manslaughter



Outstanding warrants: An active warrant or open indictment for any listed offence blocks approval until it is resolved. TSA applies the legal definitions of these offences, which do not always match everyday language. If your situation is close to a line, read TSA's own disqualifying offences page rather than guessing.

Children and Teenagers

This is where families get caught out, and the rules split by age.

Age	Needs Their Own Number?	Needs the Mark on Their Pass?	Must Be on Your Reservation?
12 and under	No	No	No
13 to 17	No	Yes	Yes
18 and over	Yes, their own enrollment	Yes	No

Children 12 and under can walk into the PreCheck lane with an enrolled parent or guardian. Nothing needs to appear on their boarding pass.

Teenagers 13 to 17 are different. The PreCheck indicator has to print on their own boarding pass, and that only happens when they are booked on the same reservation as the enrolled adult. Book them separately and they get the standard lane while the rest of the family walks through.

Leave the number field blank for a child

Do not put your own Known Traveler Number in a child's booking. It is a violation, and it stops the indicator printing rather than making it appear. The teenager is covered by being on your reservation, not by carrying your number.

Children who fly alone

A child who regularly travels without you should have their own enrollment, or their own Trusted Traveler membership. Relying on the family rules only works when the family is actually travelling together.



How to Apply, Step by Step

01

Compare All Three Providers First

This is the step that saves money and it takes two minutes.

02

Complete the Online Application

About five minutes. Name, date of birth, address.

03

Book Your In-Person Appointment

More than 1,300 locations nationwide.

04

Attend the Appointment

Usually about ten minutes.

05

Bring Your Documents

Proof of identity and proof of citizenship or lawful status. A valid U.S. passport satisfies both at once, which makes it the simplest thing to bring.

06

Give Fingerprints

Taken at the appointment.

07

Wait for Vetting

Most applicants get their Known Traveler Number in three to five days. Some take up to 60 days.

08

Add Your Number to Every Reservation

See the next card. This is the step people skip.



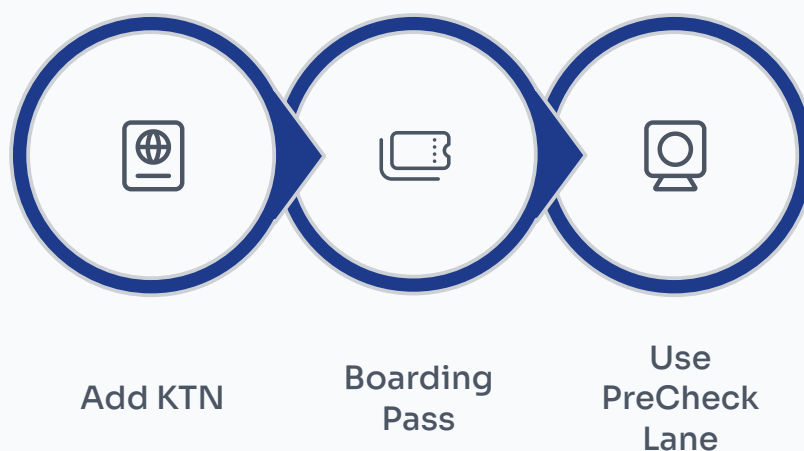
Do not book travel around an approval date. The 3-to-5 day figure is typical, not guaranteed, and the 60-day case is real.



The Step That Actually Decides Whether You Get the Lane

Your membership does not follow you around. It has to be attached to each booking.

Your **Known Traveler Number** goes in the KTN field of every reservation you make with a participating airline. You can also store it in your frequent flyer profile so it populates automatically, but check it anyway.



⊗ No number in the field → no PreCheck indicator on the boarding pass → you stand in the standard lane whether you hold a membership or not.

Fixing bookings you already made

If you booked before your number arrived, go back and add it. Most airlines let you edit the traveler details on an existing reservation, or you can call. Do it more than 24 hours before departure so the boarding pass generates correctly.



Renewal Timing

You can renew **up to six months before** your membership expires.

Renewing early costs you nothing. The new five-year term begins when the current one ends, so you do not forfeit unused time.

i **TSA recommends renewing at least 60 days out.** That buffer exists because some applications go to extended review.

Why the timing matters more than it sounds

What counts is your membership status **on the day you fly**, not the day you booked.

If you book a flight in March while your membership is active, and it expires in April, and you fly in May, the indicator will not print. Secure Flight checks status at the time the boarding pass is issued.

Name changes

If your legal name changed, update it with your enrollment provider. A mismatch between your reservation and your enrollment record breaks the indicator. Updating the record requires submitting legal documentation and can take up to 45 days, so do it well before you travel.



Active Duty Military and Defense Department Civilians

Uniformed Service Members Pay Nothing

This covers Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force and Coast Guard, plus Reserve, National Guard and service academy cadets. It applies to both official and personal travel.

How to Use It

Enter your **ten-digit Department of Defense ID number**, printed on the back of your Common Access Card, into the Known Traveler Number field when you book. There is no application, no appointment and no fee.

DoD Civilian Employees

Defense Department civilian employees are the exception: they must opt in through the ID Card Office Online before their number works. No opt-in is required for uniformed members.

⊗ **The mistake that strands people at the checkpoint:** Showing your Common Access Card to the officer does not get you into the lane. The card proves who you are. It does not grant lane access. Checkpoint access is read off the barcode on your boarding pass. If the number was not in the reservation before the pass was generated, there is no indicator, and the officer will direct you to the standard lane.

Family members

Adult dependents aged 18 and over do not inherit the benefit and must enroll and pay separately, though some providers offer military spouse discounts. Children 12 and under may accompany the service member under the normal family rules.



What PreCheck Still Gets You

Routine shoe removal ended for **all** travelers in July 2025, so that is no longer what you are paying for.

What remains exclusive to the PreCheck lane:



Electronics Stay In Your Bag

Laptops and other electronics do not need to be removed and placed in a bin.



Liquids Stay In Your Bag

Your quart-size liquids bag stays inside your bag — no removal required.



Belts Stay On

No need to remove your belt before walking through the checkpoint.



Light Jackets Stay On

Light jackets and outerwear do not need to be removed.

TSA reports that roughly 99% of PreCheck passengers wait under ten minutes. That is historical performance across the network, not a guarantee for your airport on your day.



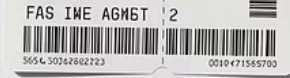
One caveat that applies everywhere. Screening equipment varies by checkpoint, and any traveler can be selected for additional screening. Follow the signs and do what the officer tells you. Shoes that alarm still come off, in either lane.



Common Pitfalls, and Why They Happen

1	The Number Never Makes It Into the Booking People pay, get approved, feel finished, and never complete the last step. The membership feels like a status you hold. It is actually a number you have to supply each time.
2	The Name Does Not Match Your reservation has to match your enrollment record. A maiden name on one and a married name on the other breaks it. So does a missing middle name if your record includes one.
3	Letting It Lapse Once it expires you are a new applicant again, at the higher new-enrollment price, with a new in-person appointment. The six-month early window exists precisely to prevent this.
4	Taking the Link in the Renewal Email That link goes to whichever provider you used last time. It is convenient and it may cost you \$26 more than the alternative.
5	Booking a Teenager Separately Often done for seat selection or a fare difference. It quietly removes the teenager's PreCheck access and splits the family at security.

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Your Checklist

Print this or keep it open while you work through it.

- ☐ Find your current expiration date
- ☐ If you are within six months, you can renew now
- ☐ Compare the price at all three providers before clicking anything
- ☐ Check whether your credit card reimburses the fee
- ☐ Check whether you qualify free through military service
- ☐ Complete the application
- ☐ Book and attend the in-person appointment if required
- ☐ Bring proof of identity and citizenship or lawful status
- ☐ Wait for your Known Traveler Number
- ☐ Add the number to every reservation you have already booked
- ☐ Add it to your frequent flyer profiles
- ☐ Check the indicator is on your boarding pass at check-in
- ☐ For teenagers 13 to 17, confirm they are on your reservation and their pass shows the mark

Ways to Pay Nothing



Travel Credit Cards

Many cards reimburse the application or renewal fee as a statement credit, usually once every four or five years. Check your card's benefits before you pay out of pocket, and pay with that card so the credit triggers.



Military Service

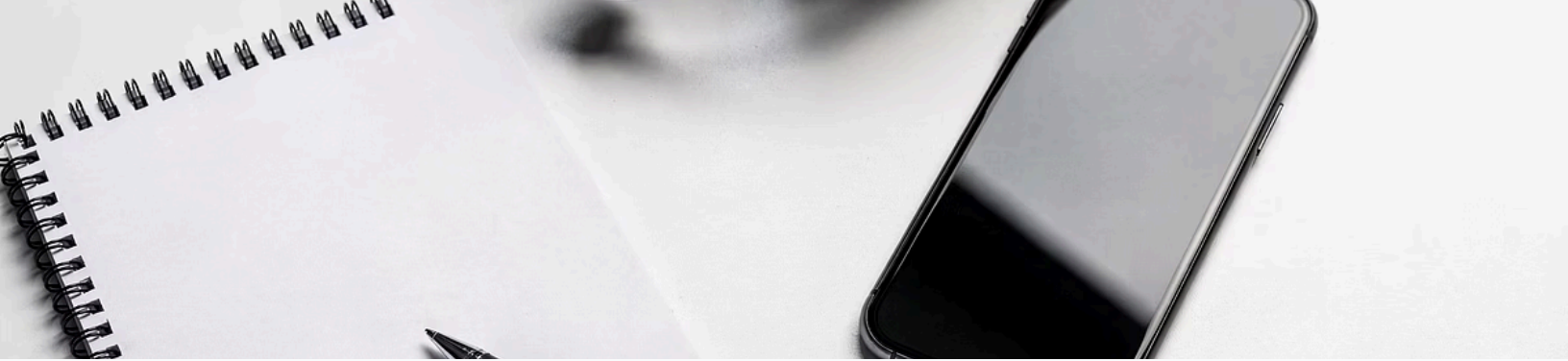
Covered above. Free for uniformed members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard, Reserve, National Guard and service academy cadets.



Employer Programs

Some employers reimburse the fee for staff who travel often. Worth asking your HR or travel department before paying out of pocket.





Official Resources and Contact Information

Transportation Security Administration

- **TSA PreCheck main page:**
tsa.gov/precheck
- **Renewals:** tsa.gov/precheck/renew
- **Frequently asked questions:**
tsa.gov/precheck/faq
- **Disqualifying offences:**
tsa.gov/disqualifying-offenses-factors
- **Enrollment centers:**
tsa.gov/precheck/enrollment-centers
- **Military travelers:**
tsa.gov/precheck/military
- **TSA Contact Center:** 866-289-9673
- **Text TSA questions:** send to 275-872

The Three Authorized Enrollment Providers

- **IDEMIA / IDENTOGO:**
tsaenrollmentbyidemiasa.dhs.gov
- **Telos:** tsaprecheckbytelos.dhs.gov
- **CLEAR:** tsaprecheckbyclear.dhs.gov

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

- **Trusted Traveler Programs:** ttp.cbp.dhs.gov
- **Global Entry:** cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/global-entry
- **CBP Info Center:** 877-227-5511

Department of Defense

- **ID Card Office Online:** idco.dmdc.osd.mil



Prices, location counts and processing times change. Confirm anything that matters on the official pages above before you pay.



About This Guide

GovClarity makes government paperwork clear. We publish free step-by-step guides on passports, Social Security, Medicare, taxes, veterans' benefits and travel programs.

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