

## Passports

Did you know that only 36-38 percent of Americans have passports? I'm using both figures as both are widely used on the internet. Compared to Europeans this is a very small amount as they average 71%. Granted they travel shorter distances to use the passports. Americans have hours long flights over the Atlantic or Pacific oceans. Until 2007 Americans could cross into Canada and Mexico without a passport. A passport card is also available for Canada and Mexico. A passport or a card is required for re-entry into the states.

Besides getting a passport it would be advantageous for you to get a global pass. This pass enables you to go to a special line that expedites the security lines. The pass can be obtained by applying at **GOES** U. S. Customs and Border Protection, Global Entry ... [globalentry.gov](http://globalentry.gov).

After the initial online application (which is a background check) you are required to go to a personal interview at one of the enrollment centers. The following is from the enrollment center letter.

“You must bring the following original documents with you to the enrollment center:

- A valid passport. *If you travel using more than one passport, please bring them to the interview so that the information can be added to your file. This provides you with the ability to use either passport at the Global Entry kiosk;*
- A permanent resident card (if applicable);
- Documents providing evidence of residency. Examples are: driver's license (if the address is current), mortgage statement, rental payment statement, utility bill, etc.

When you visit the Enrollment Center, we will review your application and any additional information you provide at that time. We will verify your identity, review your documentation, and take your fingerprints and photograph. Finally, we will explain the terms and conditions of the Global Entry program and answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Your Global Entry membership number is, xxxxxxxxxxxx, if your account is approved, this will become your Known Traveler Number for your TSA Pre-Check benefit. “

For more information on the TSA Pre-Check program please visit their web site at [www.tsa.gov/tsa-precheck](http://www.tsa.gov/tsa-precheck)

If you are interested in traveling it is highly recommended to get a passport early.