

Disabled American Veterans



What is Second Life?

Second Life is an online 3D virtual world developed by Linden Lab. It provides an immersive environment where users are able to create a digital character, or 'avatar', and interact with people from around the world.

Second Life allows users or 'residents' to come together to engage in a range of activities including socializing, attending musical events, playing games, shopping, running businesses, building, collaborating, attending meetings and presentations and undertaking training and education.

What makes Second Life unique is that the world is 100% user-generated - that is, everything you see and experience in the world is created by the residents – and residents retain intellectual property rights over everything they create.

Why is DAV Using Second Life?

Today's DAV membership is a new generation; one who enjoys different forms of social interaction. The notion of attending a fraternal meeting in a chapter hall does not always appeal to these new members. So how do we get them more involved?

One way will be through our new Virtual DAV. Created online in Second Life, this social networking tool will provide the DAV with a new avenue of outreach, social interaction and advocacy. This type of newer technology reaches a younger generation since it supports a networking structure with which they are familiar. More importantly, it will provide an opportunity for physically disabled members to get involved using a virtual environment to interact and collaborate.

We are hopeful that our members who physically cannot get to chapter meetings will have a greater sense of participation and belonging to the organization. Through illustrative scenery, and some very cool graphics, DAV members will have areas for training, viewing presentations or merely brainstorming together as a group.

Key Features

- Provides members with a great sense of participation and belonging to the organization.
- Provides an opportunity for physically disabled members to get more involved through a graphical and highly interactive environment.
- Six DAV Islands are available to explore; four are open to the public and two for DAV Members only.
- Social gatherings can be conducted in a variety of areas throughout the islands, such as in a typical office building, a beach house, or even at a campfire.
- Multiple channels of communication exist, including images, audio, video, text and voice, for both groups and individuals.
- A recreation of the concept plan for the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial can be found on DAV Island.



PLACES TO VISIT on the DAV ISLANDS

DAV Welcome Area

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/DAV/136/12/29>

Services and Outreach

Winter Sports Clinic

American Disabled for Life Memorial

NSO Offices

Grand Hall

Legislative Center

The DAV Bridge

DAV Members Only

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/DAV5/217/253/30>

To enter this location, please Instant Message (IM) Reanae Burnstein or Annee Hotshot with your Membership Number, Last Name and City. Once Verified, you will receive a message in Second Life to join the DAV Members group and access the Members Only area of the islands.



GETTING STARTED IN SECOND LIFE

1. Check that your computer meets System Requirements:

Second Life has specific software and hardware requirements. Check the website for further information - <http://secondlife.com>. If your computer doesn't meet these requirements, you may not be able to participate in Second Life effectively.

2. Visit the Second Life Homepage:

Go to 'Join Now' where you will find an online form to fill out.

3. Choose a Name for Your New Avatar:

You don't need to use your real name... be creative. Choose a first name of your own creation, and a last name from a drop-down list of choices.

4. Choose from Some Basic Avatar Options:

New users need to choose a basic setup for their new avatar. There are a number of male and female options on the website to choose from. Don't worry too much about this, as you will be able to modify and create your own avatar later on.

5. Complete the Registration Form:

Add the required details to the final registration form (name, password, email address etc) and submit. Once completed, you will receive a confirmation email and steps for the activation process. Now you are ready to go!

6. Optional - Premium Accounts:

If you're interested in owning land or engaging in the Second Life economy, you may wish to sign up for a Premium account. However - to join our tours in Second Life, you do not need to spend any money - simply skip this step.

7. Download and install the Second Life client:

Users need to download and install the Second Life software onto their computer. (About 30MB for Windows users and 62MB for Mac users). You must have this software installed in order to access Second Life.

8. Log in to Second Life and Start Exploring!:

That's it! You're ready to start your Second Life. Launch the Second Life software and login. You will arrive on Orientation Island where you will be able to use the resources there to familiarize with the Second Life interface.

9. Instant Message Us!:

We'd love to hear from you! To contact us, you can use the Instant Message tools within Second Life. Simply click on the Search button, and under 'people' search for Annee Hotshot or Reanae Burnstein. Press the Instant Message button at the bottom of the Profile to send us direct messages.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

The following hardware and software is REQUIRED to run Second Life successfully. If your computer doesn't meet these requirements, you may not be able to participate in Second Life:

PC Minimum System Requirements:

- Internet Connection: Cable or DSL
- Operating System: Windows 2000, XP or Vista
- Computer Processor: 800MHz Pentium III or Athlon, or better
- Computer Memory: 512MB or better
- Graphics Card: nVidia GeForce 2, GeForce 4mx or better OR ATI Radeon 8500, 9250, or better, OR Intel 945 chipset
- Screen Resolution: 1024 x 768

Macintosh Minimum System Requirements:

- Internet Connection: Cable or DSL
- Operating System: Mac OS X 10.4.11 or better
- Computer Processor: 1 GHz G4 or better
- Computer Memory: 512MB or better
- Graphics Card: nVidia GeForce 2, GeForce 4 OR GeForce 5000 Series and above, OR ATI Radeon X Series OR ATI Radeon 9200 and above
- Screen Resolution: 1024 x 768

For further information see Second Life - System Requirements at: <http://secondlife.com/support/sysreqs.php>

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Basic Accounts Are Free!

- If you have a verified Basic account (credit card or PayPal), you'll also receive \$L250 upon verification.

- Premium accounts are required to own land (to build permanent structures). Premium accounts give you an initial grant of L\$1,000 and a weekly grant of L\$300 (even if you don't log in).

- Payment options:

- Basic: Free

- Monthly: US\$9.95

- Quarterly: US\$22.50 (US\$7.50 month)

- Annual: \$72.00 (US\$6.00 month)



LINKS OF INTEREST

The Wall - Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall in Second Life:

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/The%20Wall/57/76/26>

U.S. Military Veterans Center - Created by and for Veterans:

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Asha/25/46/41>

College of Scripting, Music and Science – Helpful Tips:

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Horsa/46/243/85>

Veterans Health Administration:

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/depo%20business%20hub/155/168/39>