

Special License Plates

Department of Transportation

Program Summary

Program Overview

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) provides special license plates to owners of registered vehicles in the state. Each special license plate is created through statute for a designated cause or entity. The statute also details whether funding is deposited into the Statewide Special Plates Fund or if a separate special plate fund is created. Owners of the special license plates are required to pay a \$25 annual fee.

Background

In order to establish a special plate, a statutorily designated entity typically must pay a \$32,000 implementation fee as outlined in statute. The special license plates require an annual fee of \$25, which is split between the state and a specified charity. In general, of the \$25 annual fee for the special plate, \$8 is deposited in the State Highway Fund and \$17 is donated to the specified charity.

Program Funding

Table 1 below displays the total number of special license plates issued in FY 2024 and categorizes them by those that are included in the ADOT Statewide Special Plates Fund and those that are not. In FY 2024, the special plate program generated \$7,419,600 for charities, \$5,595,300 for state agencies including universities, \$11,400 for HURF and \$6,642,400 for the State Highway Fund, for total revenues of \$19,668,700. As shown in *Table 1*, there are currently 86 special plate types with 960,865 vehicles supporting special plate charities, excluding 4 special plates which are listed in Footnote 1 in *Table 1*. These 4 plates are excluded from the table because no additional fee is collected (above the standard license plate fee) and/or ADOT is not issuing a new plate style but rather is adding a tag onto a standard license plate. For instance, the "Hearing Impaired" license plate is a standard license plate that begins with the letter "H".

In addition, the following special plates were established in 2024:

- Alice Cooper's Solid Rock
- Arizona Realtors Homes for All
- Cancer Support for Families
- Diné College Warriors
- US Army

The following plates saw redesign:

- Arizona Coyotes
- Honoring Fallen Police Officers (formerly known as Families of Fallen Police Officers)

ADOT also reports that the following pending plates from the 2022 and 2023 legislative sessions launched in August 2024:

- Hualapai Tribe
- Phoenix Rising FC
- Rotary International

Table 1

Special License Plates ^{1/}

<u>Included in Statewide Special Plates Fund</u>		<u>Not Included in Statewide Special Plates Fund</u>	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Plates Issued in FY 2024</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Plates Issued in FY 2024</u>
First Responder	117,751	Veterans	120,354
Historic Vehicle ^{2/}	68,984	Arizona Highways Magazine	79,858
Energy Efficient (alternative fuel) ^{3/}	59,208	Collegiate - Arizona State University	32,749
Arizona Professional Football Club	56,156	Collegiate - University of Arizona	21,888
Military Support/Scholarship	53,120	Families of Fallen Police Officers	19,032
Historic Federal Highway	46,858	In God We Trust	15,082
Health Sciences Education	21,769	Science Education	14,910
Arizona Professional Basketball Club	13,686	Environmental	14,822
Arizona Professional Baseball Club	10,916	Golden Rule	14,537
Agricultural Youth Organization	9,804	AZ Sportsman for Wildlife Conservation	14,355
Arizona Centennial	9,271	Spaying and Neutering of Animals	12,394
State Forty Eight	5,638	Empower	11,874
Arizona Motorsports Commemorative	4,977	Veterans Plates (Military Scholarship)	9,071
Transplantation Awareness	4,314	Child Abuse Prevention	8,233
Cancer Support for Families	4,130	Breast & Cervical Cancer	7,889
Keep Arizona Beautiful (anti-litter)	4,097	Military Installation Support	5,362
Alice Cooper's Solid Rock	4,068	Women Veterans	4,784
Arizona Professional Hockey Club	3,946	Professional Fire Fighters	4,323
All in for Arizona Schools	3,475	AZ Historical Society	3,779
AZ Rodeo	2,141	Collegiate - Northern Arizona University	2,794
Congenital Heart Defect Awareness	2,110	Navajo Nation	2,694
Arizona Professional Golf	2,087	Collector Car Auction	2,619
Volunteer Firefighters	1,769	U.S. Army	1,883
Childhood Cancer Research	1,575	Amateur Radio	1,258
Share the Road	1,358	Choose Life	1,152
Classic Car ^{3/}	1,357	Character Education	1,125
Thunderbirds Charities	1,320	AZ 4-H	1,047
Regionally Accredited Institution	1,288	Alzheimer's Disease Research	875
Play Unified	1,267	Veterans of Foreign Wars	868
Hunger Relief	999	Fraternal Order of Police	700
Make-A-Wish AZ	949	Farm Plates	695
Arizona Masonic Fraternity	871	Gold Star Family	635
Arizona Realtors Homes for All	639	San Carlos Apache	591
Collegiate Football Bowl Game	606	White Mountain Apache Tribe	572
Global Graduate Management	502	Purple Heart Medal Recipient ^{2/}	454
In Loving Memory	416	Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Arizona	115
Arizona Public Broadcast Television	401	University of Phoenix	112
Youth Development Organization	362	National Guard	109
Affordable Home Ownership	328	Distinguished Flying Cross	54
Street Rod	246	Veteran's Plates (Distinguished Flying Cross)	43
Girls' Youth Organization	170	Legion of Valor	9
Midwestern University	168	Former Prisoner of War ^{2/}	1
Horseless Carriage ^{3/}	<u>67</u>	Pearl Harbor Survivor ^{2/}	<u>0</u>
Total	525,164	Total	435,701
		Total - All Special License Plates	960,865

^{1/} Other special plates excluded: Disability, Hearing Impaired, Congressional Medal of Honor, and Honorary Foreign Consul.

^{2/} These plates differ in the amounts charged for the initial fee and renewal fee.

^{3/} Only an initial \$8 fee is collected and deposited into the State Highway Fund. Represents a combined list of alternative fuel and energy efficient vehicles.