



North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement Presents:

# Paths To Creative Retirement

Thursday, October 4, 2007

I remember my father, at 70, being insulted when the young car wash attendant gave him the senior discount; he didn't want to be considered a "senior" even if it saved him money.

Years later my husband kept telling me that he couldn't wait until he was 70 so he could ski for free; he was happy to be considered a "senior" because it would save him money. To his great disappointment, we vacationed at a ski resort that year that decided to change the ski-for-free age to 75.

I have a book titled *Unbelievably Good Deals and Great Adventures That You Absolutely Can't Get Unless You're Over*

50, which claims to be "a guide to the perks, privileges, discounts and special adventures to which you have become entitled simply because you've been around for 50 years or more." Curiously, the book goes on to say that those "over 50 control most of the nation's wealth, including half of the discretionary income...and almost 80 percent of its financial assets."



How does that strike you? Do you deserve a discount because you have lived for 50 years or should you pay more (or at least the same as everyone else) because your age cohort controls a substantial portion of the nation's wealth?

Some of the participants at the recent September *Paths to Creative Retirement* workshop were interested in learning more about "great adventures" where they could use their expertise and interests to help others while traveling to a new location – regardless if those adventures might also cost them. Sure, they might consider deducting expenses they incur while volunteering (including transportation, meals, sometimes even lodging). But really they were looking for ways to make a difference in the lives of others and in their own lives – whether they are 50+, 60+, still working or "retired." Some of the resources they shared included:

- Elderhostel Service Learning Programs <http://www.elderhostel.org/>
- Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Programs <http://www.habitat.org/>
- International Executive Service Corps [www.iesc.org/](http://www.iesc.org/)
- National Executive Service Corps [www.nesc.org/](http://www.nesc.org/)
- National Park Service [www.nps.gov/](http://www.nps.gov/)
- Volunteers for Prosperity <http://www.volunteersforprosperity.gov/>
- Peace Corps [www.peacecorps.gov/](http://www.peacecorps.gov/)

If you have tried any of these volunteer experiences, give us your review. If you have other suggestions that combine adventure and volunteering, e-mail those to me and I'll pass them along.

Sincerely,

Denise Snodgrass  
[snodgrass@unca.edu](mailto:snodgrass@unca.edu)

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