



POSTAL NEWS

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202-268-2155
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DELIVERING THE SWEETEST HOLIDAYS EVER ***Postal Service prepares for the season, dedicates 2005 Holiday stamps***

Washington, DC - The U.S. Postal Service is dedicated to delivering the sweetest holidays ever to its customers across the country and around the world.

Innovative solutions for holiday shopping, shipping and mailing needs can be found online at **usps.com** or in the 38,000 retail centers and Post Offices, decked out in the season's best.

The season kicks off on Oct. 20 with the dedication of the 2005 holiday stamps, celebrating the child in everyone and evoking favorite memories from the simple pleasure of decorating cookies of the season. The stamps, featuring cookie-shaped gingerbread men, Santa Claus, snowmen and an angel, will be dedicated at a special ceremony in the Pillsbury Test Kitchens in Minneapolis. Anita Bizzotto, USPS Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer, will be the dedicating official.

"What would the holidays be without cookies? These cookie stamps are a great way to share the joy of the season," Bizzotto said.

The official 2005 holiday stamps can be purchased at Post Offices, online at **usps.com**, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

But the Postal Service's holiday plan extends beyond creative stamps. Innovative solutions for holiday shopping, shipping and mailing needs. A Holiday Guide with tips to allow customers to spend more time with friends and family. Whether it's online or in person, the Postal Service is ready to help answer the toughest holiday questions and challenges.

Don't have time to make one more trip? Log on and step into a Post Office at a time that works for you. Buy gifts, send cards, ask for a package to be picked up and delivered, print labels, buy insurance. All available online at **usps.com**.

"We're ready to deliver sweet messages of peace and joy around the world. We've connected friends and families during the holidays for years," Bizzotto said. "This is an important time of year for us at the Postal Service. We plan on delivering the holiday season for our customers again this year."

Since 1775, the Postal Service and its predecessor, the Post Office Department, has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits 142 million homes and businesses every day, six days a week and is the only service provider delivering to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$69 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mailing and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume-some 206 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year-and serves seven and a half million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide. Its website, **usps.com**, attracts more than 21 million visitors each month.

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