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UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE: YOUR HOLIDAY RESOURCE

Holiday Shipping and Mailing Guide delivered to 110 million households

Washington, DC – Whether it's shipping labels or shipping overseas, the U.S. Postal Service has a solution.

Almost all of those solutions can be found in the 2005 Holiday Shipping and Mailing Guide, being sent to every residential household in America. The guide provides clear, concise information on services, shipping options and Postal Service products, with an emphasis on convenience to the customer.

The eight-panel, brightly colored guide builds on the theme of this year's holiday stamps, and features a series of decorated cookies to highlight each shipping and mailing tip. The Pillsbury Doughboy™ also makes an appearance, providing some creative tips for decorating the perfect holiday cookie.

The Postal Service issued its first guide last year. Independent consumer research showed that nearly 40 percent of those surveyed remember receiving and seeing the guide and that more than two-thirds of those consumers used the information in the guide.

"Everyone can use a little extra time around the holidays. We know that customers want more choice and convenience to manage their busy lives," said Mike Spates, Acting Vice President and Consumer Advocate. "The Holiday Guide is one more way for us to help families enjoy the best the season has to offer."

The guide is filled with helpful information on the Postal Service's most popular products, services and features, including Carrier Pickup, Click-N-Ship labels and postage, options for mailing across the country and overseas, and a series of recommended shipping deadlines so cards and packages arrive on time.

Customers also can follow easy-to-understand tips on how to create individualized holiday cards and purchase gift cards online at usps.com.

“Almost anything you can do at a Post Office you can do *usps.com*,” Spates said. “We are dedicated to delivering the sweetest holidays ever this year. That includes providing services that are quick and easy at a time that’s convenient for our customers.”

<http://www.usps.com/holidayguide/>

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.