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OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS

Shipping and mailing options provide choices for holiday gifts and cards

Washington, DC – Over miles. Over continents. Overnight. No matter where gifts are being shipped this holiday season, the U.S. Postal Service has a way to get them there.

“Santa won’t be the only one making deliveries on Christmas,” said John E. Potter, Postmaster General and CEO. “The Postal Service is committed to doing everything we can to help make the holidays easier for our customers.”

Express Mail delivery to most major American cities is scheduled for Christmas Day this year.

A new international mailing option is available this year as well. Business mailers now can benefit by using a date-certain, guaranteed delivery service to the Pacific Rim with Global Express Mail.

Other shipping options include:

- **Express Mail** service delivers overnight, guaranteed, 365 days a year to most U.S. cities.
- **Priority Mail** service delivers in two to three business days. The Postal Service also offers flat-rate priority boxes and envelopes. Customers pay one price regardless of weight or destination.
- **Global Priority Mail** service is designed for delivery in four to six days to more than 50 countries. Economical way to send packages weighing up to 4 pounds.
- **Global Express Mail** service is guaranteed to be delivered in three to five days to nearly anywhere in the world. Now available to businesses in the Pacific Rim through an agreement with postal administrations for Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, the United States and the Republic of South Korea.
- **Global Express Guaranteed** service delivers in one to three days to more than 190 countries.
- **Premium Forwarding Service** lets customers take their mail with them. Mail is forwarded weekly to a temporary address for up to a year.

The peak mailing day is expected to be Monday, Dec. 19, when an estimated 280 million cards and letters will be mailed, nearly three times that of an average day. The peak delivery day will be Wednesday, Dec. 21, followed closely by Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Families sending those year-end holiday newsletters should consider using Mailing Online, a powerful printing and mailing service that combines the speed of the Internet with the effectiveness of traditional mail. Mailing Online offers an array of printing and mailing options to customize orders. A few clicks of the mouse uploads the newsletter and the Postal Service takes care of the rest.

With this service, the mailing can be scheduled up to 30 days in advance and can be sent using First-Class Mail and Standard Mail mailing options. Color printing options also are available with full color highlights in red, blue, green and magenta as well as black and white.

More information on Mailing Online and all shipping options can be found at www.usps.com.

“No matter what your shipping and mailing needs might be, the Postal Service has a solution,” Potter said.

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.