



POSTAL NEWS

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WE'RE READY FOR YOU

In person or online, Postal Service has solutions for holiday challenges

Washington, DC – Today marks the busiest mailing day for the U.S. Postal Service this holiday season and the message is simple: “We’re ready for you.”

More than 280 million cards and letters will be cancelled today — nearly three times that of an average day.

“Whether it’s online or in person, we’re ready for you. Postal ambassadors, retail clerks, letter carriers and call center operators are ready to help answer shipping and mailing questions so our customers will have more time with family and friends this holiday season,” said Susan Plonkey, Vice President, Customer Service.

Retail centers offer colorful, decorative packing and shipping supplies. Gifts and collectible items also can be purchased in many Post Offices. More than 7,400 have extended evening and weekend hours to better serve customers. Almost 2,500 Automated Postal Centers (APCs) in Post Office lobbies allow customers to ship and mail quickly, without having to wait in line. And many are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Just as an ATM is a virtual, stand-alone bank, the APC is a virtual, stand-alone Post Office. The APC does everything short of face-to-face transactions, including dispensing stamps, weighing packages and calculating postage for Express Mail, Priority Mail, First-Class Mail and Parcel Post items. APCs also provide extensive mailing information and ZIP Code locators.

“It doesn’t matter where you’re mailing. Over miles, over continents or overnight. If the destination is around the corner, across town or overseas to members of the armed forces, the Postal Service will deliver this holiday season,” Plonkey said.

Post Offices have been decked in the season’s finest and Ready Post® items mirror the festive atmosphere. Brightly colored bubble wrap for packing, various size

boxes to hold holiday gift items, and decorated boxes that can be placed directly in the mail are available for customers with last-minute shipping and packing needs.

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

One of the most frequently visited federal websites, ***usps.com***, receives more than 23.5 million visits each month. The most popular areas on the site Track & Confirm, ZIP Code Lookup, Rate Calculator, Click-N-Ship and Carrier Pickup.

Click-N-Ship allows customers to print labels, pay for postage and insurance from laptops or desktops and request Carrier Pickup. Customers can take advantage of the personal convenience and service of having packages picked up at their home or office, saving a trip to the Post Office, regardless of the weather. Unlike other shipping companies, there is no fee for the service.

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.