



National Stamp Collecting Month began in 1981 by the Council of Philatelic Organizations and the United States Postal Service.

# Holiday Stamp Issued 2026



Winter Wreath Global Forever  
*Issued in September*



Christmas Cookies  
*Issued in September*



Hanukkah  
*Issued in September*



Kwanzaa  
*Issued in September*



Madonna and Child  
*Issued in September*



Diwali  
*Issued in September*

# Education via Philatelics

Various methods have been used to promote learning. I have chosen the path of philatelic, the largest hobby in the world.

Over the years I have learned history from each stamp I have collected. Using philatelic in the classroom can be a rewarding experience for students.

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Young students who have not yet begun to read and those students that find reading difficult, find it interesting to look at stamp posters, a variety of covers and numerous stamps in various shapes, colors, from different countries and various topics. The novelty of the concept makes the educational exposure a joy and not an undesirable task.

Students that are readers will find interesting subjects on stamps that range from people (culture), to places (geography), to things (dinosaurs), to events (history), etc. This will normally result in a sincere attempt at researching in geography, history, culture, etc.

Boys Scouts use stamps to earn badges.

# When was the first stamp issued

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Since the Penny Black, the first pre-paid postage stamp, was issued in Great Britain 1840, people have found delight and wonder in stamp collecting. As miniature windows into the world, stamps introduce collectors to art, culture, history, science, geography, and so much more.

# When was the first stamp issued in U.S.?



Ben Franklin and George Washington

The first U.S. stamps were both issued on July 1, 1847. One honored George Washington, the other Benjamin Franklin. Benjamin Franklin was the first Postmaster General.



Queen Isabella of Spain  
1893



Martha Washington  
1902



Admiral David Farragut  
1903



Pocahontas  
1907



Booker T. Washington  
1940



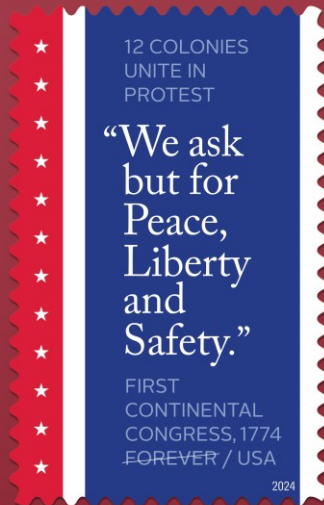
Harriet Tubman  
1978

# How is someone chosen for a stamp?

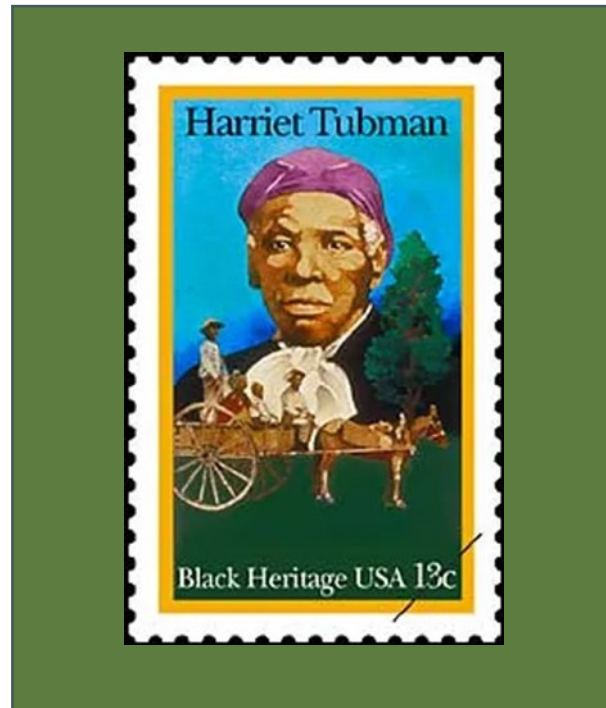
- Established in 1957, the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) serves the Postmaster General of the United States (PMG).
- Stamp are chosen each by The U.S. Postal Service, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee. The committee consist of 12 from all different background of expertise. Using their collective expertise in history, science, technology, art, education, sports, and other areas of public interest, CSAC members consider and then recommend stamp subjects to the PMG for final approval.
- A person must be deceased of 3 years. It use to be 10 years. No living individual can be on a stamp. One exception: A stamp for a specific subject can have a living person as long as they were not being honored.



Stamps from the U.S. Postal Service® are a record of American life, showcasing the people, places, events, and activities that shape our shared national identity. Whether you love superheroes or space exploration, music legends or landscapes, cats or the Civil War, there's a stamp that captures your unique interest.



# You could also collect stamps by series:

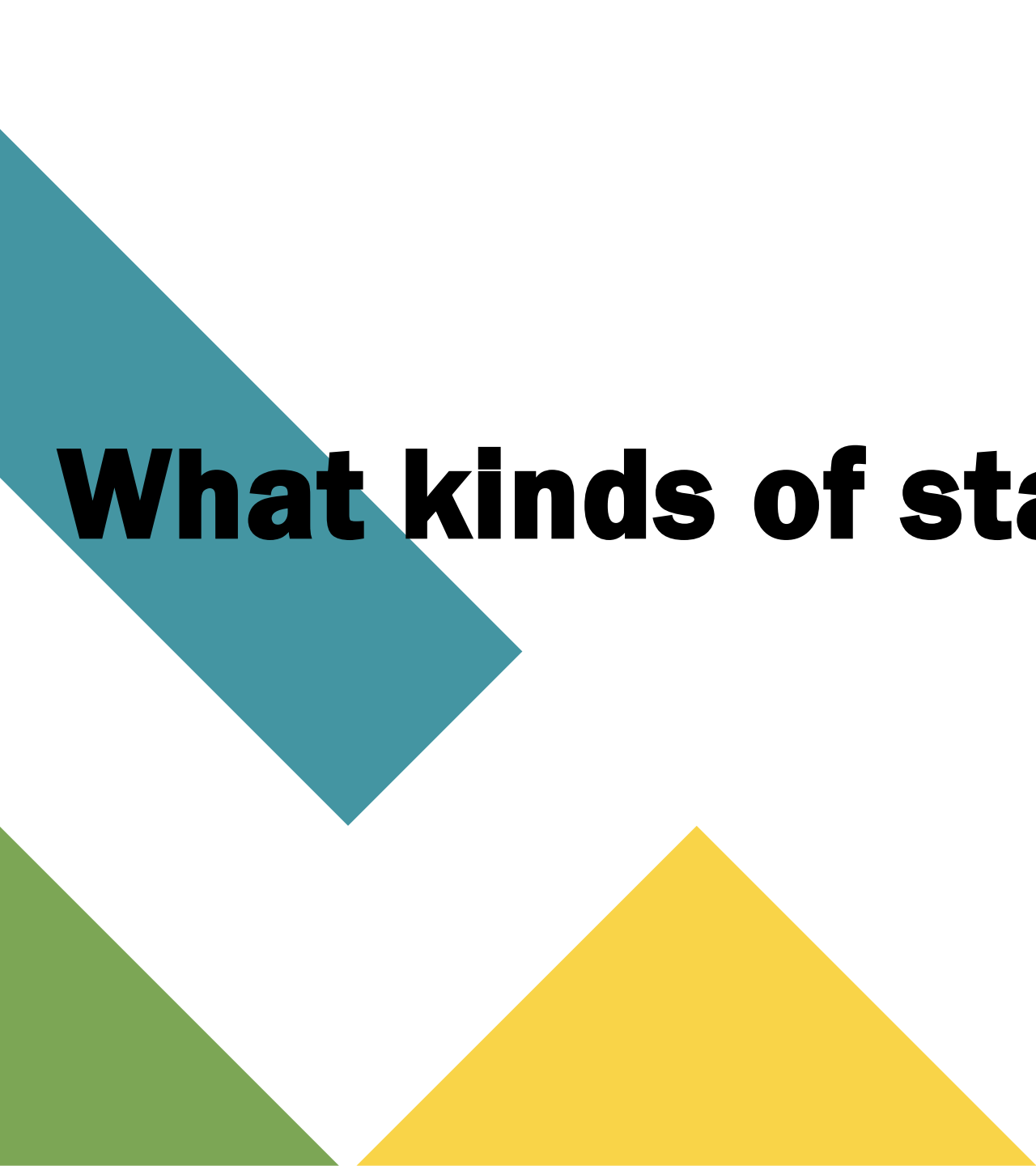


Black Heritage Series  
Started in 1978



Music Icons Series  
Started in 2013

For example, you could collect all of the stamps in the Black Heritage® series or in the Music Icons® series.



# **What kinds of stamps are there?**

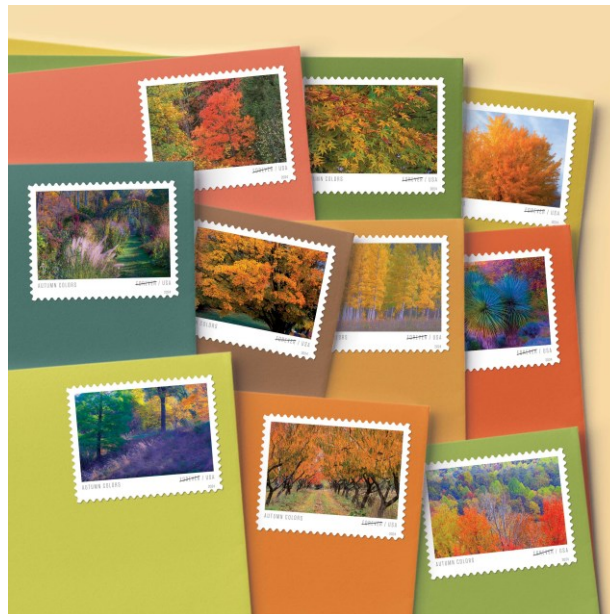
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# Commemorative stamps

These stamps honor people, events, and subjects of importance to American life and culture. They are printed in smaller quantities as part of an annual program and usually only once. Larger than mail-use stamps, many commemoratives are printed in “semi-jumbo” size, the largest standard size in use.



Horse Stamps



Autumn Colors Stamps



The Underground Railroad

# Special stamps

Such as stamps for holiday celebrations and the Love series stamps — are larger and typically on sale for a limited time.

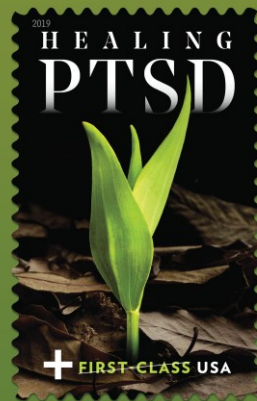


# Semipostal stamps

Are a type of special stamp sold at a price above the First-Class™ rate, with the overage going to support a particular cause, such as breast cancer research.



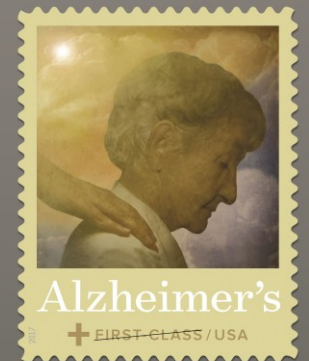
Breast Cancer Research semipostal stamp  
2014



Healing PTSD semipostal stamp



Save Vanishing Species semipostal stamp



Alzheimer's semipostal stamp

# Low-denomination stamps

Some stamps, especially older issuances, have water-activated adhesive (“lick-and-stick”) and may require careful storage to avoid having the adhesive adhere to an album page or to other stamps. Today’s stamps are typically issued as self-adhesive or pressure-sensitive (“peel-and-stick”).



# What sizes, shapes, and formats do stamps come in?

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Rectangular: Stamps in this shape are the most common. They range in size from 0.870" wide by 0.98" tall to 1.255" wide by 1.59" tall. Depending on the actual dimensions, the specific rectangular sizes range from definitive to jumbo.





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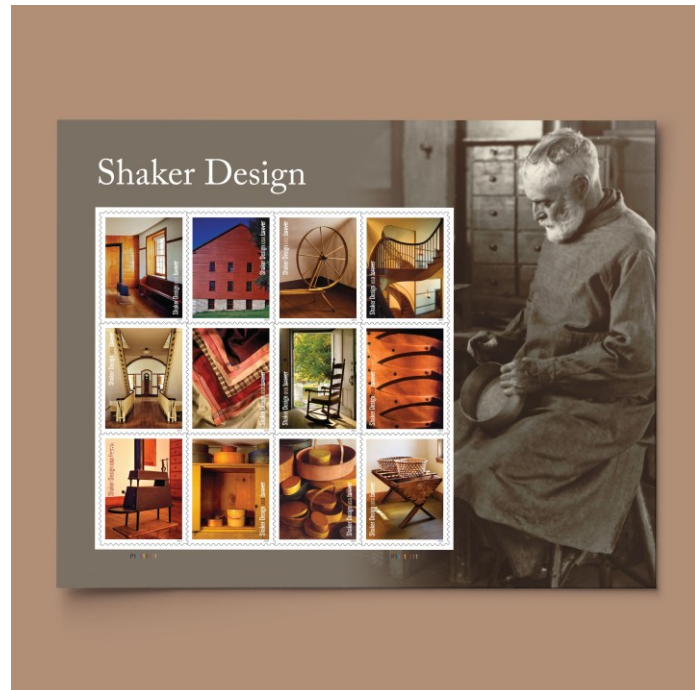
**Square:** These stamps are used for specific designs and have included stamps in the Music Icons® series. They are also used for stamps with unique rates, such as those designed to be sent on square, nonmachinable envelopes.

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Round: The newest stamp shape has been used in the Pinback Buttons stamps and for international rate stamps to showcase unique designs.



**Stamps are sold in a variety of different configurations. Panes are “sheets” of stamps cut from the original press sheet, coils are strips of stamps (one stamp wide) sold in rolls, and booklets are the most easily portable option, commonly employed for mail-use stamps**



Panes



Booklets

# What else can I collect?

First Day Covers are envelopes bearing stamps postmarked on the first day of sale, either in black ink or with a colorful digital design inspired by the artwork.



# First Day of Issue Ceremony Programs

First Day of Issue Ceremony Programs contain information about a stamp's dedication ceremony, including a list of participants and background on the stamp subject. The actual stamp is attached and cancelled on the program's envelope.



AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVE PANELS®



## Carnival Nights

CARNIVAL NIGHTS are an especially magical experience: the bright, colorful lights; the smell of spun sugar in the air; and the distant whoosh of a thrill ride careening down the track—nothing says nostalgic fun quite like it!

Whether young or young at heart, everyone loves spending an evening at a carnival. As the sun sets, the air cools, and the crowds thin out, a panoply of lights blink on giving the rides a whole new dimension. From the

neon glow of the Ferris wheel to the cascade of colored bulbs on the carousel, nighttime offers a unique sense of beauty, excitement, and adventure.

Many of the rides at a carnival take on a different character at night, creating a whole new level of intrigue. The experience of hurtling through the dark on a thrill ride is an adrenaline rush that can't be replicated during the day. The view from the top of a gondola wheel can be equal parts exciting and romantic.

Carnivals at night also offer a variety of entertainment options that can't be found during the day. Fireworks, live music, and light shows entertain into the late hours. These events can be a great way to cap off a summer evening and create lasting memories with your family and friends.

Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamps using existing photographs.



Background: Photograph by Bob D'Amico/Getty Images

Stamps printed by Banknote Corporation of America (BCA) No. 1097 in a series / June 6, 2024 / Printed in U.S.A. / © 2024 United States Postal Service



# Commemorative Panels

Commemorative Panels are printed on a single sheet of cardstock and feature a narrative about the stamp subject and design. They come with the relevant stamps affixed

# Collectible Folios



The Underground Railroad collectible product

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Folios open to reveal creative extensions of the stamp artwork, along with in-depth explorations of the stamp subject and design. They include the relevant stamps and mounts for preserving them.

# Stamp Yearbooks



Stamp Yearbooks provide imagery and information related to every stamp released in a given year, along with the stamps themselves and mounts.



# How to Start Your Stamp Collection



# How do I begin?



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- Getting started as a stamp collector couldn't be easier! Start your collection by saving stamps from letters, packages, and postcards. Also visit your local Post Office™ facility or search online to purchase older stamps.
- To focus your collecting, you might consider choosing a favorite subject as the theme of your collection. Or, you might select a significant time in history or a cause you're passionate about. Then, start searching for stamps that feature your chosen topic and work on building your collection



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# What else could I need?

You don't need much to get started, but here are a few other tools that many stamp collectors find useful:

- Glassine envelopes: Thin, transparent, moisture-proof envelopes that protect stamps from air and grease.
- Perforation gauge: A tool that measures the number of perforations along the edges of your stamps.
- Magnifying glass: Used to inspect stamps for tiny details and condition.
- Stamp catalog: A handy reference book with stamp values and illustrations.
- Stamp tongs: A tool used to pick up and move your delicate stamps.

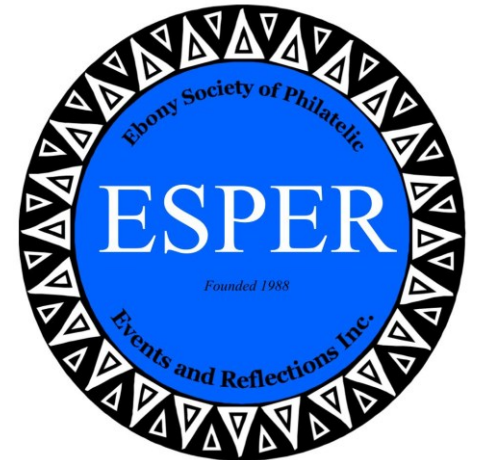
# Where can I learn more?

**American Philatelic Society:** America's national stamp society, APS offers a variety of membership benefits, including seminars, online courses, mentor programs, and access to special publications.

**American Stamp Dealers Association:** The website of the ASDA, an international association of stamp dealers, provides an extensive database searchable by dealer name, location, and specialty.

**Smithsonian National Postal Museum:** Located in Washington, D.C., the museum houses more than 6 million postal-related items for exhibition and study purposes.

**Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections;** ESPER is an international stamps society dedicated to promoting of stamps and philatelic material depicting people and events related to the African diaspora and to encouraging and supporting the interest and participation of Black people in philately.



Created by Clarence McKnight, ESPER'S webmaster