

**CELEBRATE THE CENTURY**  
**Questions and Answers**

**Q: What is *Celebrate the Century*<sup>TM</sup>?**

**A:** *Celebrate the Century*<sup>TM</sup> is a new stamp program sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service designed to give Americans a chance to vote on the most notable events, people, places, and trends of the 20th century. Subject matter for the first five decades (1900s to 1940s) has been recommended by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC), while the American public will vote on subject matters from the 1950s to the 1990s.

The American public has had the opportunity to vote on a stamp design once before-- the public was asked to vote for a "young" Elvis or a "mature" Elvis. The Elvis stamp is the most popular stamp ever issued by the U.S. Postal Service.

**Q: How will the stamps be issued?**

**A:** Beginning in February 1998, the Postal Service will issue two sheets of 15 stamps commemorating the 1900s and the 1910s. At the same time, a ballot identifying the people and events that shaped the 1950s will be presented to the American public. The public will have one month to mail their ballot. An independent firm will be handling voter tabulation for the Postal Service. A timeline for the next two years is enclosed, which outlines voting periods for the American public, as well as stamp issue dates for the Postal Service. Over the next two years, the Postal Service will issue special commemorative stamps honoring the first half of the century, while the American public will be voting on stamp subjects for the latter part of the century.

**Q: What types of stamp subjects will voters choose from?**

**A:** The following five categories for stamps are: People and Events, Arts and Entertainment, Lifestyles, Sports, and Science and Technology.

**Q: What is the voting procedure?**

**A:** *Celebrate the Century™* ballots will be available at all post offices, special promotions, via a planned website and in selected publications. Only ballots with affixed postage qualify. An independent firm will be charged with voting tabulation. There are no age limits to voting. You may vote more than once, provided each ballot has postage and is submitted in accordance with balloting rules.

**Q: How are you involving children with this historic event?**

**A:** Education is the cornerstone of this program. Currently the Postal Service is working with the Department of Education, the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Association of Elementary School Principals and other leading educational associations to develop classroom materials.

The Postal Service anticipates reaching more than 18 million students. In addition, children ages 8 to 12, will have the opportunity to participate in Stampin' the Future. Winning designs will be selected from each country and issued in the year 2000. Winners from the participating countries and kids throughout the U.S. will attend the first World Kids Congress to be held in the year 2000.

**Q: Who or what are the candidates for the stamps?**

**A:** Designs for 1900s and 1910s stamp subjects will be presented in January 1998 through a series of special events. The stamp subjects for the 1950s will be presented February 1998. Subject matter for subsequent decades, from the 1960s through the 1990s, will be announced every few months thereafter. (See Timeline)

**Q: Will *Celebrate the Century™* replace the Postal Service's traditional commemorative stamp program?**

**A:** No. *Celebrate the Century™* stamp issues will be in addition to the traditional commemorative stamp program by the Postal Service each year.

**Q: Why is the Postal Service doing this program?**

**A:** Since the 18th century, stamps have been an historical archive of the major events, people and achievements that have shaped this country. Stamps have been a tool to teach our country's history to every generation of Americans. The Postal Service has developed the *Celebrate the Century™* program as an educational way to commemorate the 20th century through the issuance of new postage stamps. In addition, *Celebrate the Century™* will allow every American a way to commemorate this historic event by voting on significant events of their lifetime.

**Q: Are tax dollars being used to promote *Celebrate the Century™* ?**

**A:** No government funds are used to support *Celebrate the Century™* or any other Postal Service program. In fact, the last time taxpayer dollars supported the Postal Service was in 1982. Postal operations today are entirely self-sufficient. (Congress does appropriate funds that cover the cost of free or reduced postage for certain mailers designated by law.) The additional revenue generated for programs, such as *Celebrate the Century™*, has a positive long-term effect on the Postal Service's future by helping to hold postage rates steady.

**Q: How were the stamp subjects chosen?**

**A:** Stamps representing the years 1900-1949 (five decades) have already been recommended by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC), a group of citizens appointed by the Postmaster General to review all stamp suggestions and make recommendations for future stamps. Stamp subjects representing the years 1950-1999 (5 decades) will be voted on by the American public. Subjects to appear on each decade's ballot will be recommended by CSAC.

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CELEBRATE THE CENTURY™ TIMELINE

DATE	VOTING	ISSUED
February 1998	1950's	1900's, 1910's
May 1998	1960's	1920's
September 1998	1970's	1930's
October 1998	"STAMPIN' THE FUTURE" DESIGN CONTEST	
January 1999	1980's	1940's
April 1999	1990's	1950's
June 1999		1960's
September 1999		1970's
January 2000		1980's, 1990's
April 2000	"STAMPIN' THE FUTURE" ISSUANCE -- WORLD STAMP EXPO II	