2018 United States Postage Stamps

Year of the Dog
January 11
Ring in the new year with gifts, noise, and celebration! An arrangement of lucky bamboo (Dracaena braunii) and a red, lozenge-shaped Lunar New Year decoration highlight the 2018 Year of the Dog stamp from the U.S. Postal Service*, 11th of 12 in the Celebrating Lunar New Year series. The Year of the Dog began February 16, 2018, and ended on February 4, 2019. Combining original artwork by Kam Mak with two elements from the previous series of Lunar New Year stamps—Clarence Lee's intricate cut-paper design of a dog and the Chinese character for “dog,” drawn in grass-style calligraphy by Lau Bun—art director Ethel Kessler has created a culturally rich stamp design that celebrates the diversity of the American experience.

Meyer Lemons
January 19
The artist, John Burgoyne, used pen and ink and watercolor to create the stamp art, depicting a whole Meyer lemon next to two wedges of the cut fruit. Sometimes smaller and rounder than true lemons, Meyer lemons have a smooth skin and range in color from deep yellow to light orange, with a dark yellow or orange pulp. Moderately acidic, they are very juicy and somewhat sweeter than true lemons, with hints of mandarin and sweet lime. Their rinds have a complex scent, slightly herbal and spicy. The bitter pith layer found in regular lemons is quite thin in the Meyer, so the fruit can be used in its entirety. Though stories vary about who is responsible for making the fruit a culinary superstar, Meyer lemons are sought by chefs and home cooks for their aromatic, slightly sweet quality.

Sleeping Bear Dunes
January 21
Marvel at the grandeur and serene natural beauty of the dunes, Lake Michigan, and the surrounding park. Dune grasses mark the beach in the foreground, as gulls dive and soar in the breeze. The history of the dunes began 12,000 to 14,000 years ago when the last glaciers in the Great Lakes region melted and began to retreat. Ice from the glaciers ground up the ancient bedrock, carving out basins that became the Great Lakes and leaving thick mounds of sediment between them. These deposits—known as moraines—form the 300-foot-thick, four-square-mile plateau upon which the Sleeping Bear Dunes grew. Designed by art director Greg Breeding, the stamp features an illustration created by artist Dan Cosgrove.

Love Flourishes
January 18
Love Flourishes is the latest stamp in the Love series. This fanciful garden of hand-painted, colorful flowers—includes stylized roses, peonies, and dahlias alongside berries and leaves—surrounding the word “Love” in elegant script.

Byodo-in Temple
January 21
Surrounded by peaceful gardens, a meditation pavilion, a reflecting pond, and other areas for contemplation and remembrance, the Byodo-In Temple is located in Valley of the Temples Memorial Park, a private cemetery in Hawaii. This ornate building is a smaller-scale concrete replica of the wooden Byodo-In Temple built in Uji, Japan, which dates to the middle of the 11th century. However, the Hawaiian version of this stunning site is a non-practicing Buddhist temple open to the public for ceremonies such as weddings and funerals as well as concerts, classes, and other events. Well known to locals and tourists alike, the temple has played memorable roles in episodes of several television shows. Art director Greg Breeding designed this stamp with original art by Dan Cosgrove.

Lena Horne
January 30
The 41st issuance in the Black Heritage series honors the achievements of legendary performer and civil rights activist Lena Horne (1917–2010). Remembered as one of America’s great interpreters of popular songs, Horne also was a trailblazer in Hollywood for women of color. She used her personal elegance, charisma and fame to become an important spokesperson for civil rights. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp.

Descriptions furnished by the United States Postal Service

2018 United States Postage Stamps

Year of the Dog
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2018 United States Postage Stamps

2018 U.S. Flag
February 9
For more than half a century, U.S. stamps have depicted the American flag in vivid red, white, and blue. This eye-catching new issuance continues that tradition with a striking graphic design of a flag. The digital illustration by Kit Hinrichs shows a flag with crisp folds and a contemporary look, with a shadow on the small, visible portion of the back to suggest a sense of depth. Ethel Kessler served as art director for this stamp.

Bioluminescent Life
February 22
Bioluminescent Life stamps celebrate the phenomenon of bioluminescence – the ability of some species to glow – with a pane of 20 stamps featuring ten life-forms that create their own light. The different images on this pane of stamps include photographs captured by some of the world’s top explorers of the bioluminescent ocean realm as well as photos of two terrestrial bioluminescent life-forms.

Descriptions furnished by the United States Postal Service
2018 United States Postage Stamps

2018 U.S. Flag
February 9

Bioluminescent Life
February 22
Illinois Statehood  
March 5

This graphic illustration commemorates Illinois statehood. An outline of the state map contains a series of yellow beams radiating upward like the rays of a rising sun. The colors on the map begin at the bottom with a deep yellow, which represents the sun. The color fades upwards to pale yellow and then into pale blue, with increasingly deeper blues rising to the top of the map; the yellows and blues reflect the dawning of a new day as the state joins the Union. At the top of the stamp twenty stars, ten on each side of the map, are arranged in triangular patterns, reminiscent of the state's centennial flag. The stars represent the first 20 states in the Union and the rising sun symbolizes the new state's place on the American flag as the 21st star. Illinois artist Michael Konetzka designed the stamp and created the artwork. Antonio Alcalá was the project's art director.

Mister Rogers  
March 23

A photograph of Rogers in a red cardigan with puppet King Friday XIII, depicts a beloved Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood character. Fred Rogers (1928-2003) was known as a treasured television neighbor to generations of children. His ground-breaking public television series “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” inspired and educated young viewers with warmth, sensitivity and honesty. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamp.
2018 United States Postage Stamps

Illinois Statehood
March 5

Mister Rogers
March 23
2018 United States Postage Stamps

STEM Education
April 6
In an increasingly competitive world, proficiency in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields is more critical than ever. Concerned about government studies that project a lack of qualified citizens to fill STEM jobs in the years ahead, a coalition of federal agencies, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and educators has called for improving and expanding education in these fields. Citizens proficient in STEM make valuable contributions to society in areas as diverse as commerce, health care, the environment, and national security. Proponents of wider access to STEM education also point out these fields directly benefit individuals by fostering valuable problem-solving and critical-thinking skills that apply to everyday life. Artist David Plunkert worked with art director Antonio Alcalá to create these stamps.

Peace Rose
April 21
Admire this photograph in miniature of a beautiful Peace rose blossom, featuring details of the creamy yellow petals touched at the edges with pink. Development of what was to become the Peace rose began with a famous rose-breeding family in mid-1930s France. In 1935, the Meilland family had crossbred hundreds of roses hoping to create new commercially viable varieties. One of the crosses yielded a unique bloom with yellow petals delicately edged with pink, which they named Madame A. Meilland. Years later, as World War II escalated in Europe and France was threatened with invasion, two packages of the new rose's budwood were sent to plantsmen in Germany and Italy. A third package was entrusted to the U.S. consul, who took it with him as he left France promising to send it on to American grower Conard-Pyle. This U.S. breeder cultivated the rose and sent cuttings to other growers to test the plant in various climatic zones and soil conditions. The trials were so successful that the rose was introduced on April 29, 1945, and made available for sale to the public. With war still raging across the globe, American growers selected a new name for the rose as a reflection of the world's most fervent desire: peace.

Peace has become one of the most popular roses in history. It revolutionized hybrid tea roses with its unique coloring, hardiness, and disease resistance. Peace has been the parent of hundreds of popular hybrids, and millions of the original variety have been planted in gardens worldwide. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp, which features an existing photograph taken by Richard C. Baer.
2018 United States Postage Stamps

STEM Education
April 6

Peace Rose
April 21
Airmail Centenary  
May 1

On May 15, 1918, in the midst of World War I, a small group of Army pilots delivered mail along a route that linked Washington, Philadelphia, and New York—initiating the world's first regularly scheduled airmail service. The United States Post Office Department took charge of the “U.S. Air Mail Service” later that summer, operating it from August 12, 1918, through September 1, 1927. This issue honors the 100th anniversary of the beginning of airmail service and commemorates the pioneering spirit of the brave Army pilots who initiated airmail service on May 15, 1918. Rendered in blue and printed in intaglio, the stamp features a drawing of the type of plane typically used in the early days of airmail, a Curtiss JN-4H biplane.

Sally Ride  
May 23

America's first woman in space, Dr. Sally Ride (1951-2012), inspired the nation as a pioneering astronaut, brilliant physicist, and dedicated educator. This stamp's image features a colorful portrait of Ride in her light blue space suit with a dramatic depiction of a space shuttle lifting off in the background. Sketched first in charcoal and then rendered in oil paint, artist Paul Salmon's design reflects her positivity and confident spirit, as well as the excitement and danger of space travel.

On June 18, 1983, at 7:33 a.m., Ride realized her ultimate adventure when she launched through Earth's atmosphere aboard space shuttle Challenger, becoming the first American woman to reach space. For six days, she worked closely with her four male crewmates, proving to the world below that women were just as adept as men in the final frontier. She completed a second successful trip to space the next year, breaking another barrier as a member of the first flight crew with two women. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp.
2018 United States Postage Stamps

Airmail Centenary
May 1

Sally Ride
May 23
2018 United States Postage Stamps

Flag Act of 1818
June 9

The Flag Act of 1818 set the design for the current American flag: 13 stripes symbolizing the original 13 colonies, plus one star for each state in the Union. This stamp displays crisp folds and a layering effect that conveys some of the dynamism of the young nation.

Frozen Treats
June 20

Cool off with Frozen Treats, a U.S. Postal Service® stamp issuance featuring frosty, colorful, icy pops on a stick. The tasty, sweet confections come in a variety of shapes and flavors.

This booklet of 20 scratch-and-sniff stamps showcases Margaret Berg’s whimsical watercolor illustrations of ten different designs. The stamps are printed with a coating that evokes a sweet, summer scent.

Statue of Freedom
June 27

The design features the head of the statue that tops the United States Capitol dome, in a modern interpretation based on an engraved vignette created for a 1923 stamp ($5 Head of Freedom Statue). The original engraved artwork was created for the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing by John Eissler (1873-1962). The tightly cropped enlargement highlights the solid and dashed lines and the crosshatching characteristic of engraved illustration.

American sculptor Thomas Crawford (1814-1857) created the allegorical Statue of Freedom during the mid-1850s. She wears a variation on a Roman helmet circled by stars, topped with an eagle head, and embellished by feathered plumes meant to evoke a Native American headdress. The statue’s installation onto the new Capitol dome was completed in 1863. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp.

Descriptions furnished by the United States Postal Service
2018 United States Postage Stamps

Flag Act of 1818
June 9

Frozen Treats
June 20

Statue of Freedom
June 27
O Beautiful
July 4

Each of the twenty O Beautiful stamps features a photograph showcasing the country’s extraordinary natural beauty and illustrating one of five phrases from the famous first verse of America the Beautiful: “Spacious Skies,” “Waves of Grain,” “Mountain Majesties,” “The Fruited Plain,” and “Sea to Shining Sea.”
2018 United States Postage Stamps

O Beautiful
July 4
Scooby-Doo!
July 14

“Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!” For nearly 50 years, this call has summoned the beloved animated Great Dane wherever help is needed. This Forever® stamp issuance highlights the popular canine sleuth and his new Scooby-Doo DOO GOOD Campaign. Issued in a 12-stamp sheet Scooby-Doo is shown helping out by watering a blossoming plant in a flowerpot—a simple act symbolizing a component of the DOO GOOD Campaign's effort to provide young people with tools and activities geared toward enriching the environment.

The campaign, launched in 2018 in partnership with generationOn, the youth division of Points of Light, also focuses on helping the hungry and acting as animal allies. The lovable and iconic Great Dane Scooby-Doo has solved mystery after spooky mystery since his 1969 debut. With his teenage friends—Fred, Daphne, Velma, and Shaggy—Scooby is at the heart of one of the most enduring cartoon franchises in television history. The charismatic canine has now fronted more than a dozen TV series, plus direct-to-video animated films, comic books, and live-action cinematic releases. Art director Greg Breeding of Charlottesville, Virginia, worked closely with Warner Bros. Consumer Products, to design this stamp.

World War I: Turning the Tide
July 27

Millions of Americans, both at home and abroad, participated in World War I, the seminal conflict of the twentieth century. The United States, despite remaining neutral until 1917 and not engaging in major combat until 1918, helped end the four-year global conflict (1914-1918) and emerged from it as a major world power.

This issue features a close-up of a member of the American Expeditionary Force holding the U.S. flag. Barbed wire can be seen in the background, as well as an airplane in flight and smoke rising up from the battlefield. Mark Stutzman painted the artwork in airbrush on illustration board, a technique that evokes the propaganda posters used during World War I. Art director Greg Breeding designed the issuance.

Descriptions furnished by the United States Postal Service
2018 United States Postage Stamps

Scooby-Doo!
July 14

World War I: Turning the Tide
July 27
The Art of Magic
August 7
Celebrate magic, an art form that has entertained America for centuries, with stamps that feature digital illustrations of five classic illusions: a rabbit in a top hat (production), a fortune teller using a crystal ball (prediction), a woman floating in the air (levitation), an empty bird cage (vanishing), and a bird emerging from a flower (transformation). Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamps and Jay Fletcher created the illustrations and served as the typographer.

The Art of Magic Souvenir Sheet
August 7
Each of the three identical stamps on this souvenir sheet features an effect that mimics a classic illusion. By rotating each stamp, you can see a white rabbit popping out of a black top hat. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp, while Jay Fletcher created the illustration and served as the typographer.
2018 United States Postage Stamps

The Art of Magic
August 7

The Art of Magic Souvenir Sheet
August 7
2018 United States Postage Stamps

Dragons
August 9

Each of these four stamps showcases a different dragon: a green fire-breathing dragon towering over a medieval-inspired castle; a purple dragon with orange wings and sharp black armor on its back snaking around a white castle; a black dragon with green wings and green armor on its back swooping past a ship on the sea; or a wingless orange dragon weaving its way around a pagoda. Throughout history and across the globe, from Europe to the Middle East to Asia to the Americas, people have enjoyed tales of dragons.

Though these legendary animals vary in shape, size, and color, they’re often described as lizard-like with four legs, sharp claws, scales, wings, and spiky tails.

The creatures, from cute and cuddly to big and ferocious, have appeared in popular board games, books, television programs, and movies. Today, through the power of our imagination, dragons continue to roar. The stamps feature digital illustrations created by artist Don Clark of Invisible Creature studio. Art director Greg Breeding designed the issuance.

United States Airmail Red
August 11

On May 15, 1918, in the midst of World War I, a small group of Army pilots delivered mail along a route that linked Washington, Philadelphia, and New York—initiating the world's first regularly scheduled airmail service. The United States Post Office Department took charge of the “U.S. Air Mail Service” later that summer, operating it from August 12, 1918, through September 1, 1927. The second design to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of airmail service, United States Air Mail Red, is identical to the May 1, 2018 issue except for being rendered in red. Both stamps pay tribute to the foresight of those who fostered airmail service and made it a success. Greg Breeding was the Art Director.

Global Poinsettia
August 26

The photo that appears on this stamp captures the beauty of a poinsettia's green leaves, the red bracts, and center yellow flowers. The plant was named in honor of Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first American ambassador to Mexico, who sent cuttings of the exotic plant back to the U.S. in the early years of the 19th century. National Poinsettia Day is observed on December 12, the day that Dr. Poinsett died. The art director was William J. Gicker. Greg Breeding designed the stamp with an existing photograph by Betsy Pettet.
2018 United States Postage Stamps

Dragons
August 9

United States Airmail Red
August 11

Global Poinsettia
August 26
2018 United States Postage Stamps

John Lennon
September 7

The newest stamp in the Music Icons series honors singer and songwriter John Lennon (1940–1980), a rock-and-roll hero successful both as a founding member of the Beatles and as a solo artist. Still beloved around the world, Lennon's music remains an anchor of pop radio and continues to speak for truth and peace. The stamp design features a photograph of Lennon taken by noted rock-and-roll photographer Bob Gruen in August 1974 during the photo session for Lennon's 1974 album Walls and Bridges. For the stamps, the original black-and-white image has been treated in gradations of color. Art director Antonio Alcalá worked on the stamp sheet with designer Neal Ashby.

First Responders
September 13

First Responders stamps recognize the men and women - including firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical service professionals - who respond to critical situations with skill, dedication, and uncommon bravery. The digital illustration on this stamp is a symbolic scene that shows three first responders in profile, facing right, as they race into action. From left to right, the first figure is a red firefighter carrying an axe. The second figure is a grayish-white EMS worker, with the EMS Star of Life visible on her cap, upper arm, and emergency bag. The third figure is a blue law-enforcement officer shining a flashlight toward unknown danger ahead. The dark background and signs of smoke in around the figures suggest the wide range of situations that demand the immediate attention of a first responder. Artist Brian Stauffer worked with art director and designer Antonio Alcalá and designer Ricky Altizer to create this stamp.

Birds in Winter
September 22

Four of winter's winged beauties are shown on the Birds in Winter Forever® stamps: the black-capped chickadee (Poecile atricapillus), the northern cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis), the blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), and the red-bellied woodpecker (Melanerpes carolinus). In the dead of winter, when trees have shed their leaves and snow has blanketed the ground, the lively sights and sounds of resident birds can be a welcome relief. For serious birders or casual nature lovers alike, spotting these beautiful creatures in backyards, parks, and forests is a treat during the year's coldest months. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamps with original artwork by Nadia Taylor.

Descriptions furnished by the United States Postal Service
2018 United States Postage Stamps

John Lennon
September 7

First Responders
September 13

Birds in Winter
September 22
Hot Wheels
September 29

Hot Wheels, the iconic die-cast cars that for the last 50 years have ignited the imaginations of generations of children around the world are celebrated with this issuance. Today, kids and adults alike still play with and collect these outrageously speedy scale models. Arranged in diagonal rows, the 20 stamps showcase photographer Len Rizzi’s images of ten Hot Wheels cars—two of each design—speeding along a bright orange track. Each stamp features the name of the vehicle shown in either the top left or top right corner and the words “USA” and “Forever” in either the bottom left or bottom right corner. The iconic curvy Hot Wheels logo appears in the top right corner of the pane. The back of the pane displays the Hot Wheels 50th anniversary logo. William J. Gicker was the project’s art director. Greg Breeding designed the stamps and was the typographer.
2018 United States Postage Stamps

Hot Wheels
September 29
“Madonna and Child” by Bachiacca
October 3

Five centuries ago, Francesco d’Ubertino Verdi (1494–1557), the Italian Renaissance painter known as Bachiacca, proved himself to be a versatile and popular Florentine artist. Today, his work still vividly evokes the timeless traditions of Christmas. This Christmas stamp features a detail of Bachiacca’s oil-and-gold-on-panel painting “Madonna and Child”, which dates from the early 1520s, showing the Christ child clutching a bouquet of jasmine, a symbol of divine love, alongside the Virgin Mary’s profile, left shoulder, and right hand. This painting is part of the Jack and Belle Linsky Collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. William J. Gicker served as art director for this issuance, and Greg Breeding was the designer.

Kwanzaa
October 10

This stamp is the seventh stamp since 1997 designed for the annual Pan-African holiday, Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa takes place over seven days from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, and brings family, community and culture together for many African-Americans. The stamp depicts a man, woman and child adorned in a mixture of western and traditional clothing, paying tribute to the holiday’s focus on the contemporary African-American experience, while also drawing on African roots. The family is gathered around a kinara (candleholder), the warm light from seven candles (mishumaa saba) illuminating their faces. Several other important Kwanzaa symbols sit on the table — a few ears of corn (muhindi) and various fruits and vegetables (mazao); the kikombe cha umoja (unity cup); and the mkeka, a straw mat on top of which everything is placed. Artist Floyd Cooper worked with art director Derry Noyes, who designed the stamp.

Sparkling Holidays
October 11

Four stamps feature classic images of Santa Claus painted by famed commercial artist Haddon Sundblom. Each stamp portrays a close-up of Santa’s face; the four images are details from larger paintings created by Sundblom and originally published in ads for The Coca-Cola Company from the 1940s through the early 1960s. Sundblom is the man credited with refining the modern image of Santa Claus. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamps.

Hannukah
October 16

The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah is celebrated with a stamp issued jointly with Israel Post. The stamp features a Hanukkah menorah created using Jewish folk art papercutting techniques. Artist Tamar Fishman made a pencil sketch of the design, then cut the two-dimensional image on white paper with a fine blade. She chose blue-purple and green papers for the background to highlight the central design. Behind the menorah is a shape reminiscent of an ancient oil jug that represents the heart of the Hanukkah miracle. Additional design elements include dreidels — spinning tops used to play a children’s game during the holiday — and a pomegranate plant with fruit and flowers. Art director Ethel Kessler was the designer. Tamar Fishman created the original art for the stamp.

Descriptions furnished by the United States Postal Service
2018 United States Postage Stamps

“Madonna and Child” by Bachiacca
October 3

Kwanzaa
October 10

Sparkling Holidays
October 11

Hannukah
October 16
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