

United States Postal Service®

# INDUSTRYALERT

November 1, 2021

## USPS Operation Santa Is Now Accepting Letters for 2021 Program

*Do you need magic this holiday season or know someone who does?*

Starting today, the Postal Service is accepting letters for the 109-year-old USPS Operation Santa program. Letters must be postmarked by Dec. 10, and will be uploaded to [USPSOperationSanta.com](https://www.usps.com/operation-santa) through Dec. 15 for potential adoption.

Every day can be a challenge for some families simply trying to make ends meet.

Holiday expectations put extra pressure on those same families who want to make it a special time, but just can't. That's where the USPS Operation Santa program — and generous Postal Service customers — can help make the holidays a joyous and magical time. Since the program began, hundreds of thousands of less-fortunate children and their families have been helped by the kindness of others.

### Program Details

USPS Operation Santa was established by the Postal Service to help those in need during the holidays. The nondenominational program is intended to help as many deserving families as possible experience a happy holiday season. And that can only happen if there are letters to post on [USPSOperationSanta.com](https://www.usps.com/operation-santa).

Participation in USPS Operation Santa is simple - write a letter with your wish list, put it in an envelope affixed with a First-Class Mail Forever stamp, and make sure you **include your full return address** — apartment number, directional information (i.e., E Main St, Apt 103) and ZIP Code — and send it to Santa's official workshop address:

Santa Claus  
123 Elf Road  
North Pole, 88888

### Adopting a Letter

Adopter registration, ID verification and letter adoption will open in the next few weeks. Until then, there are a few things to know for those who plan to adopt a letter.

Potential adopters, once approved, can visit [USPSOperationSanta.com](https://www.usps.com/operation-santa), read through the posted letters, pick one or more that they'd like to fulfill, and follow the directions on how to grant that special wish for a child. For security reasons, all potential adopters must be vetted through a short registration and ID verification process before they can adopt any letter. If you've adopted letters in the past, you must still be verified each year.

Businesses also get into the spirit of the season by creating teams to adopt letters — all the better to help grant those special wishes to deserving families and kids.

## USPS Operation Santa History

USPS Operation Santa started more than 109 years ago when the Postal Service began receiving letters to Santa from kids across the country. It wasn't until 1912 that Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock authorized local Postmasters to allow postal employees and customers to respond to the letters. That simple act of kindness has led to a very successful holiday program benefitting deserving kids and families throughout the United States.

The complete Operation Santa history can be found online at the Postal Service [Holiday Newsroom](#).

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