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Contact: Arielle Garcia

Phone: 520-623-6652 x102

Email: education@phftucson.org



General Media Release

History in the Mail:

POSTAL HISTORY FOUNDATION OPENS NEW EXHIBIT ON NATIONAL STAMP DAY (JULY 1) TO MARK AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY

(TUCSON, Arizona, June 17, 2026) — July 1 is National U.S. Postage Stamp Day, and the Postal History Foundation (920 N. 1st Avenue) wants you to celebrate by visiting its Library and Museum for a day of free, family-friendly fun.

A little history worth knowing: The first official U.S. stamps were issued on July 1, 1847 — Benjamin Franklin on the 5¢, George Washington on the 10¢. Stamp collecting (also called philately) has since captivated everyone from Queen Elizabeth II to John Lennon to FDR.

New Exhibit: "July 4, 1776 — Interpreting the Moment Through Postal History" *On display at the Postal History Foundation July 1 – December 31, 2026*

To mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Postal History Foundation opens a special exhibit tracing how Americans have celebrated the nation's founding through stamps and postal history. Exhibit visitors will discover iconic imagery of the Declaration of Independence, prominent figures of the revolutionary era and more — in displays highlighted with Bicentennial souvenir sheets, First Day Covers, Revolutionary War-themed stamps and material spanning 250 years of commemoration.

In conjunction with the exhibit, **select commemorative issues are available for purchase** through the Postal History Foundation's on-site Contract Post Office. Available issues include the *Figures of the American Revolution* stamp sheet and *Bald Eagle* stamps showcasing one enduring symbol of freedom and national identity.

While Touring the Exhibit...

Visitors may step into the Postal History Foundation's reconstructed 1800s post office, a one-room mini museum featuring vintage stamp vending machines and other artifacts from the historic Naco, Arizona post office. The Foundation is also home to a specialized research library containing more than 30,000 titles related to stamps and postal history. Visitors can explore exhibits throughout the museum and learn about the Foundation's archival collections, including rare Civil War materials available for research by request. Young visitors can participate in a stamp scavenger hunt and enjoy fun activity sheets. The Postal History Foundation's museum and library are free and open to the public — and house the only youth stamp-education program in the country, with free resources for educators, homeschoolers, and families.

Young Tucson Artists Wanted: Turn Creativity into a Collector's Piece

2026 Tucson's Birthday Art Contest for ages 5 - 17

The Postal History Foundation is also excited to announce the return of the Tucson Birthday Art Contest for 2026. Students are invited to create an original artwork inspired by Tucson, its history, culture, landscapes, or community—the grand prize winner will be featured on a postcard, and winning artwork will become commemorative envelopes. Visit our website for more information: postalhistoryfoundation.org

Submission deadline: July 17, 2026, 2:30 p.m.