

U.S. Postal Inspection Service

Delivering a World of Career Opportunities

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Who we are...

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is the law enforcement arm of the U.S. Postal Service®. Our mission is to protect the Postal Service™, secure the nation's mail system, and ensure public trust in the mail. We investigate criminal, civil, and administrative violations of postal-related laws, often using forensics and cutting-edge technologies. We work closely with other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and, over our long and storied history, have become recognized as one of the country's most efficient and effective law enforcement organizations.

In fact, the history of the Postal Inspection Service goes back further than that of any other federal law enforcement agency, all the way to August 7, 1775, when Benjamin Franklin appointed the first Surveyor of Post Roads (the forerunner to the modern Postal Inspector). From solving stagecoach robberies over two hundred years ago to investigating cybercrime and identity theft today, the Postal Inspection Service has always been an integral part of American commerce and communication. Today, we continue to evolve—to meet new crimes and threats, to implement new crime-fighting technologies, and to catch the criminals who attack or misuse our nation's mail system.

The United States Postal Inspection Service® is seeking self-motivated individuals who possess personal integrity, sound judgment, a sense of pride and loyalty, and a desire to be challenged.

Does this describe you? Keep reading to learn more about joining our team as a Postal Inspector, a Postal Police Officer, or a professional, technical, or administrative specialist.



Postal Inspectors

Postal Inspectors enforce over 200 federal laws covering crimes that attack or misuse the postal system. Like other federal agents, Postal Inspectors carry badges and firearms, make arrests, execute federal search warrants, and serve subpoenas.

U.S. Postal Inspectors have investigative jurisdiction in all criminal matters involving the integrity and security of the U.S. Postal Service. Because the U.S. Mail™ is such an essential part of American commerce and culture, Inspectors work an impressive range of criminal cases involving narcotics, fraud, organized crime, identity theft, burglary, armed robbery, explosives, terrorist threats, child pornography, assaults, and homicides.

“As a Postal Inspector, the opportunity to serve others and truly make a difference is the most rewarding aspect of the job for me. The variety of investigations and the partnerships formed with other federal, state, and local agencies make this job exciting and new each year.”

— *Postal Inspector, Pittsburgh Division*

Are you up to the challenge?

A career as a Postal Inspector is not for everyone. Postal Inspectors are required to carry firearms, make arrests, provide testimony, serve subpoenas, execute search warrants, and prepare comprehensive reports. Postal Inspectors must be in sound physical condition and be capable of performing vigorous physical activities on a sustained basis. Inspectors must be able to conduct searches, pursue and restrain suspects, and protect themselves and others from imminent danger.

“Being a United States Postal Inspector is the best job in the world. Every day is different and brings new challenges, but rising to meet those challenges has been fun and incredibly rewarding. At the end of the day, I know I have made a difference. I am so proud to contribute to the legacy of the nation’s oldest federal law enforcement agency!”

—Postal Inspector, Detroit Division

Postal Inspectors are also on call 24/7, work long and irregular hours, and must be willing to relocate.





Benefits to being an Inspector:

- Competitive pay and benefits (comparable to any other federal law enforcement agency).
- Diverse, challenging, and exciting work environment.
- Plenty of opportunity for advancement.
- Investigative autonomy—follow cases across the country to completion.
- Opportunity to protect our society's most vulnerable (children and older Americans).
- Chance to serve your country by safeguarding one of America's most essential and time-honored institutions—the U.S. Mail.
- Opportunity to fight against the opioid epidemic.
- Pride in belonging to one of the oldest, most elite federal law enforcement agencies.



“The greatest moments of my career are the times I help restore the lives of victims ravaged by identity theft. The long hours spent investigating are worthwhile when I tell the victims, ‘We arrested the guy.’”

—Postal Inspector, San Francisco Division

You can apply to become a U.S. Postal Inspector if you:

- Are a U.S. citizen between the ages of 21 and 37.
- Possess a four-year degree from an accredited college or university.
- Have no felony or domestic violence convictions.
- Are in good physical condition.
- Possess a valid driver’s license for at least two (2) years.
- Have strong communication skills.
- Write and speak English clearly.
- Are willing to relocate.

Postal Police Officers

Our Postal Police Officers (PPOs) are a crucial part of the Inspection Service team. Stationed in critical postal facilities across the nation, they stand on the frontlines in the fight to protect postal employees, customers, and property.

PPOs create a sense of security and safety for employees and the American public. Their presence keeps employees free from danger in the workplace and our customers feeling safe. And if disaster strikes on postal property—whether it’s natural or man-made—PPOs are often the first to respond.

Do you have what it takes?

You may be eligible to become a Postal Police Officer if you:

- Are a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.
- Have no felony or domestic violence convictions.
- Are in good physical condition.
- Write and speak English clearly.
- Have a valid driver’s license and a safe driving record for at least two (2) years.



“Over the years, my job as a Postal Police Officer has given me opportunities to learn new things and to meet new people. I enjoy visiting the local Post Offices™ where everyone is appreciative and expresses that they feel safer knowing we are around.”

—Postal Police Sergeant, Los Angeles Division





“In my current position, I have had the pleasure to serve and provide protection to Postal Service employees, customers, and contractors. I especially enjoy the interactions between myself and the public; they are continuously showing their appreciation for our service.”

—Postal Police Supervisor, Memphis, TN

Professional, Technical, and Administrative

Our professional, technical, and administrative (PTA) personnel give essential support to Inspection Service efforts nationwide and at the National Forensic Laboratory. PTAs in the field and at Inspection Service headquarters in Washington, DC, work behind the scenes to collect and analyze data, provide administrative and logistical support, create reports, and provide technical guidance. PTAs bring to the Inspection Service a wide range of specializations, including information technology, analytics, project management, and communications.

At our National Forensic Laboratory, our highly trained forensic scientists and technical specialists play a key role in identifying, apprehending, prosecuting, and convicting individuals responsible for postal-related offenses. They analyze evidentiary material needed for identifying and tracing criminal suspects and provide scientific and technical expertise that is critical to our criminal and security investigations.

“I get to serve with some of the best scientific and analytical minds in the nation who assist Postal Inspectors in keeping the nation’s mail, customers, and employees safe.”

—Forensic Chemist Sr., Forensic Laboratory Services





Are you ready to stand with the oldest federal law enforcement organization?

You may be eligible to join our professional, technical, and administrative support team if you:

- Are a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.
- Can successfully complete a background investigation.
- Write and speak English clearly.
- Possess required specialized skills (requirements vary by position).

“When I was studying communications in college, I never imagined I would end up working in federal law enforcement, but the Postal Inspection Service turned out to be the perfect fit for me. I may not carry a badge or gun, but I’m proud every day to use my skills and training to fight crime and protect people from the bad guys.”

—Program Specialist, National Headquarters,
Washington, DC



The U.S. Postal Inspection Service recruits the best and trains the best...to be the best.



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For more information about the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, call toll-free 1-877-876-2455, or visit our website at www.uspis.gov.

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