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POSTAL NEWS

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Sally Ride Stamp Launches Tomorrow *America's First Female Astronaut to Soar on Forever Stamp*

SAN DIEGO — Sally Ride, America's first woman in space, a pioneering astronaut, brilliant physicist and dedicated educator who inspired the nation, will be commemorated on a Forever stamp tomorrow. Share the news using the hashtags **#SallyRideForever** and **#AstronautStamps**.

The [Sally Ride Forever stamp](#) 5 p.m. PDT dedication ceremony, free and open to the public, will take place at the [Price Center, University of California San Diego](#). Ride served as a professor of physics at the university, which also is home to [Sally Ride Science @ U C San Diego](#), a non-profit organization she co-founded to inspire young people in science, engineering, technology and math (STEM) and to promote STEM literacy.

Followers of the U.S. Postal Service's Facebook page can view the ceremony live at [Facebook.com/USPS](https://www.facebook.com/USPS). The stamps may be pre-ordered now at this [link](#) for delivery shortly after tomorrow's issuance.

"Sally Ride's history-making journey has made it easier for young girls to dream of one day being an astronaut, an engineer, a physicist or a mathematician. Today, girls don't just dream. Because of trailblazers like Sally Ride, they have been empowered to do!" said U.S. Postal Service Chief Information Officer and Executive Vice President [Kristin Seaver](#).

Scheduled to join Seaver are [Pradeep K. Khosla](#), chancellor at UC San Diego; [Becky Pettit](#), vice chancellor for equity, diversity and inclusion at UC San Diego, who will serve as master of ceremonies; [Billie Jean King](#), tennis legend, champion of social justice and Ride's friend; [Ellen Ochoa](#), the first Hispanic woman in space, director of NASA's Johnson Space Center, and another friend of Ride; and [Tam O'Shaughnessy](#), co-founder and executive director of [Sally Ride Science @ U C San Diego](#) and

Ride's widow.

"Sally started collecting stamps when she was a girl, and she continued to do so her whole life — especially stamps of the Olympics and space exploration," said O'Shaughnessy. "Sally would be deeply honored to have her portrait on a U.S. stamp."

"I admired Sally for her intellect that she applied as a scientist, her focus and passion for STEM education, and her astounding competence in so many areas, including her critical contributions to NASA and the nation," said Ochoa. "As much in demand as she was, she always made time to meet with young women who dreamed of becoming astronauts. I am thrilled to be part of the Sally Ride Forever stamp dedication, continuing her legacy of inspiring people across the country, and indeed around the world."

The stamp art 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](#) of Burke, VA, reflects her positivity and confident spirit, as well as the excitement and danger of space travel. Art director Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, MD, designed the stamp.

Her Legacy

Ride galvanized the country with her pioneering space flight and inspired generations of students as a physicist, astronaut and champion of science education.

After completing her doctorate in physics, Ride joined NASA's 1978 class of astronaut candidates for the agency's new space shuttle program. She was the first woman to serve as a capsule communicator for Columbia's second flight in 1981, communicating from the ground with both the shuttle crew in space and the flight director at Mission Control. In spring 1982, NASA assigned her to her first flight crew as a mission specialist.

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 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.

Ride was the only person to sit on the investigative panels for both the Challenger and Columbia accidents. As a professor, she used her experiences in space to explain complicated physics concepts. She also co-authored six children's books about science with O'Shaughnessy. In 2001, Ride and O'Shaughnessy joined three friends to start a science education company, Sally Ride Science, with the goal of narrowing the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and math.

The Sally Ride stamp is being issued as a Forever stamp. This Forever stamp will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.

Stamp ideas welcome

The public is encouraged to submit stamp suggestions. Visit the [Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee](#) website for details on the stamp selection process and instructions for submitting suggestions in writing. Due to the time required for research and approval, ideas for stamp subjects should be received at least three years prior to the proposed release. Each submission should include pertinent historical information and important dates associated with the subject.

Ordering first-day-of-issue postmarks

Customers have 120 days to obtain first-day-of-issue postmarks by mail. They may purchase new stamps at Post Office locations, at The Postal Store usps.com/shop or by calling 800-782-6724. Customers must affix the stamps to envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes to themselves or others and place them in larger envelopes addressed to:

FDOI – Sally Ride Forever Stamp

USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services
8300 NE Underground Drive, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64144-9900

After applying the first-day-of-issue postmark, the Postal Service will return the envelopes through the mail. There is no charge for postmarks up to a quantity of 50. For more than 50, customers are charged 5 cents each. All orders must be postmarked by September 23, 2018.

Ordering first-day covers

The Postal Service also offers first-day covers for new stamps and stationery items postmarked with the official first-day-of-issue cancellation. Each item has an individual catalog number and is offered in the *USA Philatelic* publication and online at usps.com/shop. Customers may register to receive a free *USA Philatelic* publication online at usps.com/philatelic.

Philatelic products

The following Philatelic products are available at usps.com/shop.

- 477306, Press Sheet with Die-cut, \$90
- 477310, Digital Color Keepsake, \$11.95.
- 477316, First-Day Cover, 94-cents.
- 477321, Digital Color Postmark, \$1.65.
- 477330, Ceremony Program, \$6.95.

You may view many of this year's other stamps on Facebook at facebook.com/USPSStamps or via Twitter [@USPSstamps](https://twitter.com/USPSstamps). All postage stamps are available for purchase at Post Office locations, online [at usps.com](https://usps.com) and by toll-free phone order at 1-800 STAMP-24.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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