

Stamps Are Making News

On May 14, the cost of mailing a letter will increase from 39 cents to 41 cents. The price of mailing other things, such as postcards, will go up too.

A new price means the post office needs to issue some new stamps. Among the first 41-cent stamps will be a set of 15 *Star Wars* stamps. Those stamps, which celebrate the 30th anniversary of the first *Star Wars* movie, go on sale May 25.



Each of the new *Star Wars* stamps features a character or scene from one of the six *Star Wars* movies. Characters on the stamps include Luke Skywalker, Darth Vader, Obi-Wan Kenobi, Han Solo, and the little robot, R2-D2. You can see the stamps online at www.uspsjedimaster.com. Which of the 15 *Star Wars* stamps is your favorite?

For the second time in its 256-year history, the post office is asking people over 18 years old to pick a favorite stamp. The first time they put a stamp up for vote was in 1993, when the people chose a picture of singer Elvis Presley for a stamp. The *Star Wars* stamp with the most votes will be re-released in late summer or early fall on its own stamp sheet.

NEWS WORD BOX

released issue
anniversary future
increase decrease

For the first time ever, the post office is selling a new kind of stamp called a “Forever” stamp. You can buy the stamp now for 41 cents, and it will be good forever -- even when stamp prices go up in the future.

MORE FACTS ABOUT STAMPS IN THE NEWS

- The new 41-cent rate is for letters that weigh one ounce or less. The cost of mailing letters that weigh more than an ounce will decrease. For example, the cost of mailing a 2-ounce letter will go from 63 cents to 58 cents.
- The last time postage rates increased was January 2006.
- Have you seen R2-D2 on a street corner near you? The post office decorated 400 mailboxes to look like R2-D2 when it announced plans for the *Star Wars* stamps.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Who (or what event) do you think should be honored on a stamp? Write a letter to the Post Office to explain your reasons for wanting that new stamp.