



UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

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STAMP FLASHES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE USLHS PASSPORT CLUB

<http://uslhs.org/fun/passport-club>



Holiday Flashes - 2020

2020 - The Year Many Lighthouses Remained Dark

As the year of Covid draws to a close, we anxiously look forward to better times in 2021. This has been a tough year for many individuals, businesses and families. In the lighthouse world, our ability to visit our favorite navigational aids was restricted and lighthouse revenues and funding greatly diminished. USLHS helped by providing 26 grants to struggling lighthouses but all of our tours, except one, were cancelled. In addition, very few commercial lighthouse trips operated and many locations never opened. The inability to visit lighthouses has resulted in an increase in the number of stamp by mail requests. We certainly hope you are donating at least \$2 per stamp received. This is a great opportunity to provide some extra dollars at a time when funds are in short supply. In spite of all of the restrictions, we certainly hope that you and your families have a safe and healthy holiday season.



What Qualifies a Location to Carry a Passport Stamp?

We often receive requests and suggestions to add a lighthouse to our list of approved stamps. Currently, some of the criteria we use include:

1. The lighthouse should be a recognized current active or historical aid to navigation. It should also be listed on one or more of the following recognized lighthouse reference sites: Lighthouse Friends, Lighthouse Explorer Database and Lighthouse Directory.
2. Stamp donations should be earmarked to support lighthouse preservation efforts.
3. The stamp should be made easily accessible to the public on a regular basis at the lighthouse or at a nearby location. Stamps by mail only will be included only under special circumstances.
4. Other locations which may qualify are maritime museums with significant lighthouse displays, Life Saving Stations and Coast Guard Stations (current and former). Currently the only lens stamps we are considering are for first order Fresnel lenses.

If you are interested in helping to add a location, make sure you provide us with a contact at the organization that would be willing to pay for and make the stamp readily available to visitors.

Stamp Collecting Reminders

Those Pesky Second Stamps

As we have reported before, more than one stamp is often available at a given location. They may have a new and an older design provided by the USLHS or often there is a locally made stamp. We have also discovered that sometimes the by mail stamps are not the same as those collected in person. Unfortunately, it is not possible to keep track of or list all of these situations. We appreciate it when you inform us about those elusive stamps and if they fit the criteria for acceptable stamps, you can use them in your passport. However, due to the uncertain nature of their existence, our listings may not reflect the fact that they might be available.

NPS Cancellation Stamps

Remember the only National Park Cancellation stamps counting toward awards are the ones from Cape Hatteras and Bodie Island with an image of the lighthouse. The cancellation stamps without the image are not acceptable. We have had a report that these are what you receive if you request the stamps by mail. The stamps with the image are NOT available by mail.

Image Only Stamps

Stamps with only an image of a lighthouse listed as a participating location are acceptable if you (a) identify the lighthouse and (b) indicate where you obtained the stamp. This latter requirement is especially important because it can lead to the listing of the stamp which would be helpful to others.

Stamp Updates

New Point Comfort and Wolf Trap Lighthouses, Virginia

New stamps for both of these lighthouses are now available at the Mathews County Visitor & Information Center inside Sibley's General Store, 239 Main Street, Mathews, VA. A lightship marked the Wolf Trap Shoals until 1870 when it was replaced by a screwpile light, which floated away in 1893. The current caisson structure was lit in 1894 and is now privately owned. The New Point Comfort Lighthouse has a rich history of survival through wars, hurricanes, abandonment and erosion. Mathew County, as well as other local organizations, led the restoration efforts of the lighthouse in recent years. Stop by the Visitors Center for a complete guide on how to get to the lighthouse.



Gull Rock Lighthouse, Michigan

After going rogue for several years, the passport stamp for the Gull Rock Lighthouse located off the Upper Peninsula of Michigan has been found. It is now housed at the Minnetonka Resort Gift Shop in Copper Harbor. Many thanks to Club Member Nicole Grashik who did the detective work that uncovered its location. See the website listing for more information.



Cape Neddick Lighthouse, Maine

A stamp with a new design is now available for the Cape Neddick (Nubble or Cape Neck) Lighthouse. It is located at the Lighthouse Gift Shop, 11 Sohier Park Road, York, ME. During the winter months you can find it at the Grant House, 200 US Rt. 1, York. They also have one of the stamps for Boon Island Lighthouse. These stamps are NOT available by mail.

Barnegat Lightship Bell (LV-79/WAL-506)

The bell from the Barnegat Lightship is now on display at Bayside Pavilion Park (5th and Central) in Barnegat Light, NJ, not far from the Barnegat Lighthouse. The Barnegat Light Historical Society purchased and removed the bell from the deck of the deteriorating LV79/WAL506 Lightship. The stamp is available at the Barnegat Light Museum.



Absecon Lighthouse First Order Lens, New Jersey

In addition to the stamp for the Absecon Lighthouse itself, they also now have a stamp for their first order Fresnel lens.

Exclusive Holiday Stamp Offer - Good Until 12/31/2020

The USLHS Passport Program is proud to present their 2020 Christmas Ornament Stamp featuring the Point Arena Lighthouse celebrating their 150th anniversary. The holiday ornament stamp, which costs only \$5, can be used as part of an all stamp passport book. There is also an opportunity to obtain the two previous Holiday Stamps (2018-19) or the complete set of Holiday Stamps (2012-2019).

Just complete the attached order form and submit with your payment.

Please note that you must send a Self-Addressed Stamp Envelope with your request(s) and payment in order to receive your stamp(s) by return mail. All stamps will be mailed after the first of the year.



The United States Lighthouse Society



Passport Club – 2020 Holiday Offer Order Form

Please print, fill out, and mail the form below with your payment and SASE to:

U.S. Lighthouse Society
Passport Stamp – Holiday Offer
9005 Point No Point Road NE
Hansville, WA 98340

Holiday Stamp(s) Order Form

Quantity

- _____ 2020 Point Arena 150th Anniversary Stamp - \$5 each
- _____ 2018-2019 Holiday Stamps featuring the Lightship Memorial (2019) and Split Rock Lighthouse (2018) - Set of 2 for \$10 (Not sold individually).
- _____ Complete Previous Holiday Stamp Package featuring the Lightship Memorial (2019), Split Rock (2018), Bald Head Island (2017), Boston Harbor (2016), New Dungeness (2015), Block Island Southeast (2014), Cape Ann Twin Lights (2013) and Fire Island (2012). Set of all 8 - \$30 (Not sold individually)
- _____ Additional donation to support the Passport Stamp Program
- _____ Total Amount Enclosed

Remember to include a self-addressed stamped envelope to receive your stamps by return mail.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Check # _____ Cash Enclosed _____

Visa/MC # _____ Exp: _____ 3 Digit Sec. Code _____

**Order must be received by December 31, 2020.
All stamps will be mailed in early January 2021.**