



# POSTAL NEWS

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## Postal Service Previews 13th of 16 Stamps Celebrating National Park Service's Centennial *Stamp Highlights Mount Rainier National Park*

WASHINGTON — A stunning star trail photograph comprised from 200 images was previewed today to celebrate Washington's Mount Rainier as the 13th of 16 Forever Stamp images to be revealed over a three-week period to celebrate the National Park Service's 100th anniversary.

### **Mount Rainier National Park, WA**

Ascending to 14,410 feet above sea level, Mount Rainier stands as an icon in the Washington landscape. An active volcano, Mount Rainier is the most glaciated peak in the contiguous United States, spawning six major rivers. Subalpine wildflower meadows ring the icy volcano while ancient forest cloaks Mount Rainier's lower slopes. Wildlife abounds in the park's ecosystems. A lifetime of discovery awaits. Visit this [link](#) for more information about the park.

### **Creating the Star Trail Photo**

The stamp image is the creation of [Matt Dieterich](#) of Pittsburgh, PA. "This night was one I will never forget," said Dieterich, who worked at Mount Rainier as an intern with the National Park Service Geoscientist-in-the-Parks to educate the public on dramatic views of the stars and the effect of light pollution near highly populated areas. "After working with visitors at the Mount Rainier astronomy program on June 22, 2015, I noticed there was an aurora, so I drove down to Reflection Lake to capture it."

"The location was perfect as it contained a view of Mount Rainier and water for reflections," he continued. "To create this star trails image I took 200 photos in a two-hour window between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. with my Nikon D750 and 24mm lens set at F/1.4 and ISO 5000. Since the Earth is rotating, each 8-sec. exposure shows stars at slightly different locations. When the photos are combined into one image the stars create a circular pattern around the North Star, which is just out of view at the top of the image. The pink aurora spread throughout the background sky. Mountaineers can be seen with their white headlamps climbing Mount Rainier on the right side of the volcano."

"To capture star trails photos just like this," he added, "all you need is a digital single lens reflex camera, a wide angle lens, tripod and shutter release cable. So what are you waiting for? Grab your gear and get out under the stars!"

Other National Park Forever Stamps previewed to date include [Acadia National Park](#), [Arches National Park](#), [Assateague Island National Seashore](#), [Bandelier National Monument](#), [Carlsbad Caverns National Park](#), [Everglades National Park](#), [Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve](#), [Grand Canyon National Park](#), [Gulf Islands National Seashore](#), [Haleakalā National Park](#), [Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens](#) and [Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park](#).

The June 2 first-day-of-issue ceremony for the National Parks Forever Stamps pane will take place at New York City's [Javits Center](#) at 11 a.m. as part of the world's largest stamp show that only takes place in the United States once a decade, [World Stamp Show-NY 2016](#). Dedication ceremonies will also take place at or near each of the National Parks depicted on the stamps. Individuals are asked to spread the news on social media by using the hashtags #NPSStamps, #FindYourPark or #NPS100.

World Stamp Show-NY 2016 will take place May 28–June 4. This mega event is not to be missed by beginners through advanced stamp collectors. There will be something for everyone there, no matter what they collect. Stamp collecting is a hobby for a lifetime. No matter what your specialty, you'll find it at the show.

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