

Published based on [A Brief Guide To Expedited U S Passport Cards](#)

A Brief Guide To Expedited U S Passport Cards

You know what a passport card is designed for, and have determined that having one meets your travel needs. The next step is to understand what it takes to apply for the card, and how long it normally takes to get one. If you discover that the normal processing times do not meet your requirements, you might need to follow the steps necessary to get an [rush passport card](#).

This new travel document was designed for United States residents of the northern and southern border states who frequently cross the border to work, shop, or visit family. It is meant to be a more convenient and less expensive alternative to a regular passport. First made available in 2008, it is an option for any US citizen.

If you know that you are only planning to travel between the US and the islands of the Caribbean, Mexico, or Canada, then the passport card could meet all of your needs. Keep in mind that the card is only valid for crossing sea or land borders. No international air travel can occur using this type of document.

The application requirements for a passport card are the same as if you were applying for a regular passport. In fact, you can apply for both simultaneously. When making your first application, you must do so in person at a Passport Agency office or at an Acceptance Facility. To make the application process more accessible to people these Acceptance Facilities, generally located at a local governmental office or post office, were created.

For a new applicant, you must complete form DS-11 and submit it to the agent at the Acceptance Facility. In addition, you must provide proof of your citizenship, proof of your identity, two passport photos that meet the application requirements, and the fee for the passport card. You will also have to pay the Acceptance Facility a fee to cover their work, as an intermediary agent of the Passport Agency. This fee is separate from the fee you pay to the issuing agency.

To make the application process as pain-free as possible, make sure to include the correct documents with the application. The most common document needed for native United States citizens is a birth certificate issued and certified by a government agency. For US citizens born outside the country, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad will work, or a Certification of Citizenship that is received when establishing citizenship is acceptable. A photo I.D., such as a valid drivers license, a current military identification, or a current identification card issued by a city, state, or federal government agency serves as proof of identity. It is a requirement that a photocopy of the proof of identity document be provided, so plan ahead on this.

If you are a current passport holder, and feel that having a passport card as well is of value to you, there is an application process that you can complete by mail. Since you have already gone through the initial application process and provided proof of citizenship and identity, the DS-82 form is submitted as your application for the passport card. This is the same form that is used when getting a [priority pass port](#), so if you are due to renew soon, you might want to do both together. With this process you submit your current passport with the application form, two new photographs, and the fees required. Your passport will be returned to you along with your new card.

Normal processing times for receiving a passport card are approximately four to six weeks from receipt of the application. If its necessary to have the card faster than this, there is an option to request an [expedited passport card](#). There is an additional \$60 fee, above and beyond the other fees for this service. Choosing to expedite will generally cut the processing time by half. In addition, there will be the cost of overnight delivery services used to ship the card to the recipient.

You can also find this article published on [A Brief Guide To Expedited U S Passport Cards](#), and on the tag pages [fee](#), [Passport](#), [passport agency](#), [passport photos](#), [process](#), [rush passport](#).