

PASSPORT ANNOUNCEMENT

Applications for U.S. Passport Card accepted beginning Feb. 1

Beginning **Feb. 1, 2008**, U.S. citizens may begin applying for the new U.S. Passport Card in anticipation of land border travel document requirements. The passport card will facilitate entry and expedite document processing at U.S. land and sea ports-of-entry when arriving from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda.

The U.S. Passport Card:

- May not be used to travel by air
- Carries the rights/privileges of the U.S. passport book
- Is expected to be available and mailed to applicants in spring 2008;
- Has the same validity period as a passport book: 10 years for an adult, five for children 15 and younger. For adults who already have a passport book, they may apply for the card as a passport renewal and pay only \$20. First-time applicants will pay \$45 for adult cards and \$35 for children.
- Will contain a vicinity-read radio frequency identification (RFID) chip. This chip will link the card to a stored record in secure government databases. There will be no personal information written to the RFID chip itself.



The Department of State is issuing this passport card in response to the needs of border resident communities for a less expensive and more portable alternative to the traditional passport book.

**Learn more about the U.S. Passport Card at the
Department of State's website - www.travel.state.gov**