

Arizona Department of Revenue Electronic Tax Season Opens January 30, 2013

The Arizona Department of Revenue will piggyback with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announcement regarding the start of the 2013 electronic filing season. Arizona electronic income tax returns are processed and accepted through the IRS first. This means it will not be possible to e-file a state return for Arizona until January 30th because the IRS portal will not open until then. Arizona Department of Revenue will begin processing electronic individual income tax returns beginning on January 30, 2013. For more information about the IRS announcement, here is the link <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Plans-Jan.-30-Tax-Season-Opening-For-1040-Filers>

Arizona forms and instructions are available now to print at www.azdor.gov for taxpayers to file their state returns. However, due to the IRS not opening their filing season until January 30, 2013 and not having Federal returns available, it may be difficult to prepare an Arizona return because the starting point of the Arizona return is the Federal Adjusted Gross Income.

There is no advantage to file a paper return instead of using E-file. E-file software offers easy step-by-step instructions, assists in detecting costly errors before filing, and you can receive your refund in as little as ten days with direct deposit. If you owe, you can still e-file and pay electronically by April 15, 2013 to avoid penalties and interest.

Low income taxpayers and active military personnel can take advantage of a partnership between the state of Arizona and private sector companies who provide free state and federal tax preparation with e-filing services to qualified Arizona taxpayers.

Arizona Free File Alliance is in its eighth year. This program is a public-private partnership between the Arizona Department of Revenue and a consortium of tax preparation software companies. Participating tax software companies use individual criteria to determine which taxpayers are eligible; most eligible Arizona taxpayers have a lower-income, are active duty military, EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) eligible, seniors, or students.

Arizona Free File Alliance allows taxpayers to choose from multiple free file offerings and directs them to a private company's website where they can use the free service to prepare and file their returns electronically. To take advantage of this program you must start by using the link <http://www.azdor.gov/EServices/Individuals.aspx> on the Arizona Department of Revenue website.

The deadline for filing tax returns is Monday, April 15, 2013. For additional information, please go to the department's website, www.azdor.gov