

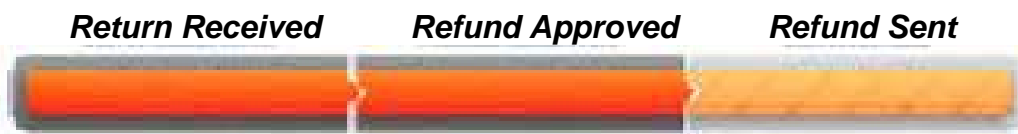
Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers (446 word count)

Customize and post the following article on your websites and/or use in other communication vehicles, to assist your customers in satisfying their tax filing liabilities.

Use *Where's My Refund?* to check the status of your refund



[Where's My Refund?](#) has a new look this year. The tool includes a tracker that displays progress through 3 stages: (1) Return Received, (2) Refund Approved and (3) Refund Sent. *Where's My Refund?* will give you personalized refund information based on the processing of your 2012 tax return.



Where's My Refund? gives you a refund date *as soon as the IRS processes your tax return and approves your refund*. This means you won't get an estimated refund date right away. Updates to refund status are made once a day — usually at night.

Even with the January 30 opening of the tax season, we expect refunds to be issued within normal timeframes. The IRS issued more than 9 out of 10 refunds to taxpayers in less than 21 days last year. The same results are expected in 2013.

It's easy!

Just use [the IRS2Go phone app](#) or go to [IRS.gov](#). Both are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can start checking on the status of your return within 24 hours after the IRS received your e-filed return or 4 weeks after you mailed a paper return.

To use *Where's My Refund?* have your 2012 tax return handy so you can provide your Social Security number, filing status and the exact whole dollar amount of your refund.

Tips to help you file an accurate return and get a faster refund

- use e-file — it's the best way to file an accurate tax return; and combining e-file with direct deposit is the fastest way for you to get your refund;
- verify the correct social security number or taxpayer identification number for yourself, your spouse and your dependents;
- verify you used the correct mailing address; and

- use the correct bank account and routing number if you choose direct deposit. *Your refund should only be deposited directly into accounts that are in your own name, your spouse's name or both if it's a joint account.*

Caution

Don't count on getting your refund by a certain date, particularly to make major purchases or pay other financial obligations. Even though the IRS issues most refunds in less than 21 days, it's possible your tax return may require additional review that may take longer to process.

Reminder

If you file Form 8863, used to claim the American Opportunity Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit, you will be able to file by mid-February. If you file any of the forms on this [list](#) you will be able to file in late February or into March. These forms require more extensive programming and testing of IRS systems. A specific date when these forms can be filed will be announced in the near future.

NOTE TO EDITOR: The following are some helpful related resources on IRS.gov:

[What to Expect for Refunds in 2013](#) – start checking your refund information sooner

[IRS Video](#) - Find out when you can reasonably expect to receive your federal tax refund

[Publication 2043](#) - IRS Refund Information Guidelines for the Tax Preparation Community