

Gold Star Taxes – 2026 Tax Season Information

With tax season just around the corner, we wanted to share a few helpful updates to keep everyone on the same page. This guide covers what to expect when working with us this year, including office hours, appointment details, document drop-off options, and important IRS and tax law updates.

Office Hours

During tax season, our office hours are:
Monday through Friday: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Saturdays: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Our first Saturday open date will be January 24th.

Appointments and Drop-Off Options

Appointments are generally pre-scheduled based on the prior year. If you had an appointment last year but did not receive a confirmation in December, please contact our office so we can get you scheduled.

If you prefer to drop off your information, you are welcome to do so anytime during normal business hours. Most drop-off returns are completed within about seven days. You can also use our 24/7 drop box on the south side of our building or upload documents anytime through your secure client portal.

Tax Return Copies and Client Portal

Once your return is complete, a copy will be uploaded to your secure online client portal. This allows you to access your return anytime you need it. Paper copies are available upon request.

Important Tax Law Changes

No Tax on Overtime Pay

There is a new deduction available for qualifying overtime pay, up to \$12,500 per person. Only the overtime premium qualifies, not your regular hourly wages. For example, if your normal rate is \$20 per hour and your overtime rate is \$30 per hour, only the extra \$10 per hour may qualify.

For the 2026 tax year, employers are not required to list overtime premiums separately on the W-2. Because of this, we may need your final paystub or a letter from your employer showing how much overtime premium you earned.

Senior Deduction

If you are age 65 or older, you may qualify for a \$6,000 deduction per person. We will review this with you to make sure you qualify.

No Tax on Tips

A deduction of up to \$25,000 per return may be available for qualifying tip income. To qualify, tips must be reported on a W-2 or 1099. Cash tips that were not reported do not qualify. If you are self-employed, it is important to separate tip income and keep good records.

New Vehicle Interest Deduction

If you purchased a brand-new vehicle after 2024, you may qualify for a deduction of up to \$10,000 for interest paid on the vehicle loan. Used vehicles do not qualify. We will need the vehicle's VIN number along with your loan or interest statements to determine eligibility.

IRS Refunds and Payments

The IRS is currently delaying refunds issued by paper check by approximately 6 to 8 weeks from time of filing. To avoid delays, we strongly recommend choosing direct deposit for your refund.

The IRS is also moving away from mailed payments and toward electronic payments. Our recommended payment method is IRS Direct Pay through IRS.gov, which allows payments to be made directly from your bank account with immediate confirmation.

IRS.gov Account

We encourage clients to create an IRS.gov online account. This allows you to view balances, track refunds, make payments using IRS Direct Pay, and helps protect against identity theft.

What to Bring Checklist

Our What to Bring checklist is available on our website and can be downloaded anytime to help you prepare for your appointment or document drop-off.