

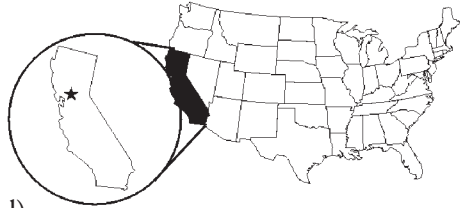
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA ★



Population Rank: U.S. # 40
California # 6

Proportions: 1:2 (usage)

Adopted: 15 August 1989 (official)



DESIGN: Sacramento's flag has a modernistic design with five colors on its field. The central figure is a stylized white *S* curving lazily from the upper fly to the lower hoist. On a field of 16 by 32 units, the figure is 3 units wide at the fly and 1 unit below the upper fly corner, and 2 units wide at the hoist and 4 units above the lower hoist corner. The figure is 6 units wide at its widest point in the center of the flag. The field above the "S" is a medium blue. At the upper hoist corner is a green half-disk, 3 units at its widest point, and extending 6 units from the top edge. The field below the "S" is a dark blue. At the center fly is a half-disk in gold, smaller than the disk at the hoist, 4 units from the bottom edge and 6 units from the top edge. At its widest point it is about 3 units. Across the bottom of the dark blue field is **CITY OF SACRAMENTO** in white letters one unit high in an Arial-type font.

SYMBOLISM: White represents the city's virtue, strength, and bright future. The two blue sections represent the city's rivers (the Sacramento and the American), green stands for the agricultural heritage, and the gold color represents the gold miners so important in the history of California and of Sacramento, the center of the Gold Country and the 1849 Gold Rush.

HOW SELECTED: On 21 February 1989 the city council approved a resolution setting aside \$5,000 for the design and manufacture of a new city flag by the Art Directors and Artists Club of Sacramento in preparation for celebration of the city's Sesquicentennial on August 13 of that year. A team of five designers from the club was chosen to develop a flag. The team proposed four designs from which the city council chose the finalist, after public display and comment.

DESIGNER: The design team comprised Lisa Bacchini, of Lisa Bacchini Graphic Design and Illustrations; Frank Burris, Kramer Carton Co.; Kyp Griffin, Tackett-Barbaria Design; Laurie Lewis, University of California at Davis, Publications Department; and Mark Price, Trimline/3M and Graphic Design by Price.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The design team undertook the flag design as a community service project without compensation.




FORMER FLAG: The design of the previous Sacramento flag resulted from the efforts of E. A. Combatalade, the founder of the Camellia Festival Association that held an annual celebration in the city. Combatalade felt that the city

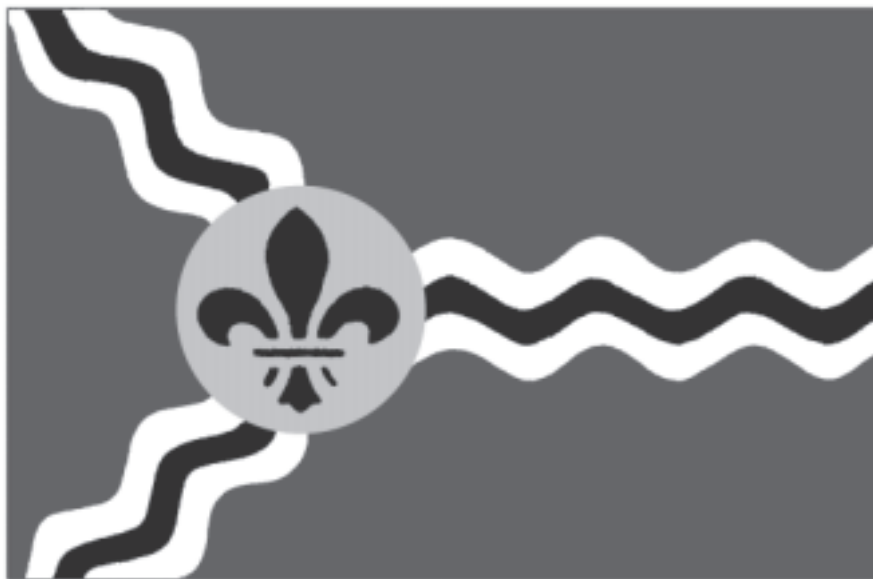
should have a flag to celebrate its 125th anniversary, especially since it was one of the last major California cities without a flag. He suggested key design elements to Goodwin & Cole, flag manufacturers, who prepared a sketch of a possible flag. Combatalade took the sketch to Max Depew, assistant editor of the *Sacramento Bee*, who thought that the

elements could be rearranged more attractively. He and Combatalade made a new sketch of what ultimately became the city's first flag. The city council officially adopted the design on 23 January 1964.

The flag's proportions are 7:11. The white field has four major elements. Centered at the hoist is the C. P. Huntington locomotive, in profile toward the fly, commemorating Sacramento as the terminus of the nation's first transcontinental railroad. The locomotive is black with a red side, a red "cow-catcher" in front, and a red coal tender following. Centered at the fly is a Pony Express rider on horseback, headed at full gallop toward the hoist, marking Sacramento's role as the western terminus of the Pony Express. The rider, bent over the horse, wears a coonskin cap, a red kerchief and red shirt, and dark blue pants.

In the lower center, extending from slightly above the field's midpoint down about one-third of the flag's width is the state capitol dome, denoting Sacramento as the state's capital. The dome is gold, supported by two stories of white columns detailed in black. At the base of this figure is a red camellia flower, a green leaf on either side. In the upper center, above the dome, is a bearded miner, kneeling by a stream, panning for gold, and symbolizing the discovery of gold in California. The figure is in partial profile toward the hoist. He wears a brown wide-brimmed hat, a red shirt, and black pants. A miner's pick-ax lies on the ground at his right. Arched over the miner's head in the center of the field is **SACRAMENTO**; running horizontally and centered below the camellia is **CALIFORNIA**, all in blue block letters. JP 

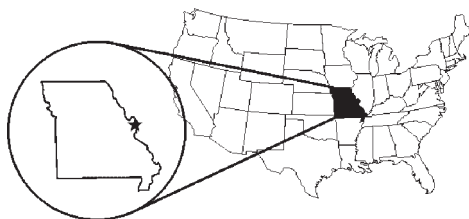
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



Population Rank: U.S. # 49
Missouri # 2

Proportions: 5:8 (official)

Adopted: 3 February 1964 (official)



DESIGN: The flag of St. Louis has a red field. Three undulating stripes—white, dark blue, white—of equal width extend from both hoist corners to a central point of the field one-third of the distance from the hoist. The three stripes continue horizontally across the center of the field to the fly's edge, forming overall a wavy "Y" shape with its top to the hoist. The combined width of the three stripes is one unit on field of 5 by 8 units, so each stripe is one-third of a unit. Overlaying the intersection of the lines is a large gold disk, with a diameter of 2.2 units. Occupying most of the field of the disk is a dark blue *fleur-de-lis*.

SYMBOLISM: The wavy lines emanating from the hoist corners sym-

bolize the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, which meet at St. Louis. The horizontal wavy line across the field symbolizes the Mississippi River continuing alone. The gold disk (*bezant*) represents the city of St. Louis itself, located at the confluence of the two rivers. It also symbolizes the Louisiana Purchase, in which the city was included. (The ordinance of adoption explains that heraldically, the bezant, or Byzantine coin, signifies money, or simply, purchase.) The *fleur-de-lis* recalls the early French history of the city and the French saint for whom the city is named. The flag's colors reflect those of Spain (red and yellow), Bourbon France (white and yellow), Napoleonic and Republican France (blue, white, and red), and the United States (red, white, and blue).

HOW SELECTED: On 28 November 1962, Mayor Raymond R. Tucker appointed a five-member committee to design a new flag for the city's bicentennial celebration in 1964. The committee consisted of Charles Nagel, director of the City Art Museum (chairman); Dr. Arthur W. Proetz, a retired physician versed in St. Louis history; George R. Brooks, director of the Missouri Historical Society; Charles van Ravenswaay, a former director of the Missouri Historical Society and president of Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts; and Professor Theodore Sizer of Bethany, Connecticut, director emeritus of the Yale Gallery of Fine Arts. An anonymous gift of \$1,000 through the City Art Museum funded the design project.

DESIGNER: Professor Theodore Sizer, of the committee.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The ordinance of adoption does not specify the proportions, but does make Sizer's design official, and the proportions of that flag are 5:8. Sizer's original design had the field between the two rivers at the hoist in blue, but at the suggestion of the Rev. Maurice McNamee, S.J., chairman of the fine arts committee of St. Louis University, the board of aldermen changed the field to one of all red.

FORMER FLAG: The previous flag of St. Louis was designed by Edward A. Kronld in 1916; although it was apparently in use from that time, it was not made official until much later (either 1946 or 1950,



according to conflicting reports). The flag is a horizontal tribar of equal red, white, and dark blue stripes. In each of the four corners of the field is a white five-pointed star. On the center of the field is a large blue shield, almost as broad at the base as it is at the top, outlined in white. On a field of 2 by 3 units, it measures 1 unit

in width by 1.25 units in height. On the shield is a crowned St. Louis in profile toward the hoist, his right arm holding a cross aloft, astride a horse (right foreleg raised). The ground on which they stand is marked with a line, and below, centered, is a *fleur-de-lis*. The entire charge is white, detailed in dark blue.

The four stars represent St. Louis's rank as the fourth largest city in the United States in 1916. By 1964 the eponymous figure on the shield seemed to many in the city inappropriate for the city's flag, a sentiment that helped spur the adoption of a new flag.

JP 

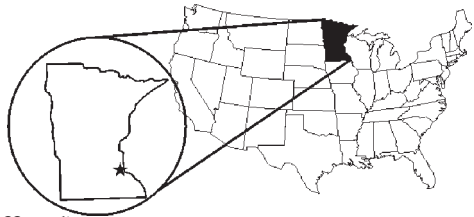
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA



Population Rank: U.S. # 59
Minnesota # 2

Proportions: 4:5 (usage)

Adopted: 22 November 1932 (official)



DESIGN: The flag of St. Paul is a horizontal tribar of equal yellow, blue, and yellow stripes. In its center is the civic shield in red, in the shape of an "American" shield. The upper third of the shield is divided into two compartments separated by a narrow vertical yellow line. In the left (hoist) is a yellow log cabin, showing the front and a portion of the hoist side; in the right (fly) is a truncated capitol dome with a wreath at its base, also in yellow. The lower part of the shield has a blue winged wheel with eight spokes on an inverted yellow isosceles triangle, its lower

point truncated in a concave arch. Above the shield, on the upper stripe, is a small blue five-pointed star. Below the shield, on the lower stripe, is a red ribbon with SAINT PAUL in yellow.

SYMBOLISM: According to the St. Paul Junior Chamber of Commerce:

A blue mid stripe represents the Mississippi River; a small cabin stands for Father Gaultier's original St. Paul chapel; a dome represents Minnesota's Capitol and capital; and a winged wheel indicates St. Paul's position as a transportation hub. The flag also contains a star of the north, symbolic of Minnesota, and a red shield, representing the progress and spirit of the city, while gold stripes are symbolic of the future.

HOW SELECTED: A citywide contest was sponsored by the St. Paul Association of Commerce.

DESIGNER: Gladys Mittle, an art student at the College of St. Catherine.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: Gaultier's log mission chapel was erected in 1841; called "St. Paul's", it gave the name to the village that grew up around it. The first major display of the city flag was on 30 March 1935, when thousands of the flags decorated the city for St. Paul Day.

JP 

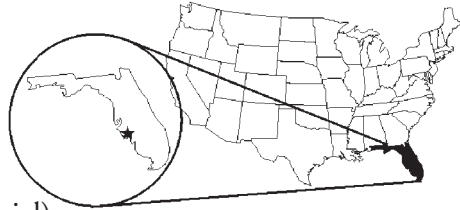
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA



Population Rank: U.S. # 68
Florida # 4

Proportions: 11:18 (official)

Adopted: 17 February 1983 (official)



DESIGN: St. Petersburg's flag has five equal horizontal stripes of orange, red, green, dark blue, and medium blue, separated by white fimbriations. In the center, stretching from the top to the bottom edge, is a large white pelican in partially transparent silhouette, perched on a rock and facing the hoist.

SYMBOLISM: Red and orange are for St. Petersburg's abundant sunshine, green for the land, and the blues for the waters of Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico that surround the city. The pelican, indigenous to the area, represents the environmental concerns of the citizens.

HOW SELECTED: In 1983, city officials determined that the old city logo (the city seal) was not easily reproduced or recognized by the public. They commissioned the city illustrator to design a new logo, a rectangle, which was also adopted as the city's flag.

DESIGNER: Ronald F. Whitney, Jr.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: Research by the city concerning the effectiveness of the flag/logo as seen by the public shows widely popular acceptance. The pelican has become something of a city mascot, which has translated into a "Feed the Pelican Fund" to provide food for the endangered brown pelican during the winter months.



FORMER FLAGS: St. Petersburg's first flag was adopted on 14 July 1927 after a contest supervised by a committee named by Mayor C. J. Maurer. The committee consisted of Ernest Kitche (the public works director who had initiated the idea of a municipal

flag), Commissioner R. C. Purvis, and Lillian Moore. No monetary prize was offered, the city deeming that it would be sufficient honor to have one's design chosen as the city's flag. Not surprisingly, there were few entrants in the contest, which was won by Betsy Ross Flag Co. of Newburgh, New York.

The design finally chosen was a vertical tribar of equal blue, gold, and blue stripes, with the city's seal (adopted 11 July 1921) in the center. The seal has a beveled edge resembling a rope. A smaller concentric circle within the seal's edge forms a ring around the seal. On the ring's white field **CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA** arches clockwise over the top half, and **RE-INCORPORATED A.D. 1903.** curves counterclockwise below. The color of the letters is not specified, but is likely dark blue. In the seal's center, on the hoist side, is a white pelican perched on a post, facing the hoist. On the fly side is a green palm tree, growing from the base of the seal. The foreground shows a sandy

beach, probably golden yellow, with a white seven-petaled poinsettia lying at the base of the palm tree. From the beach to the horizon line, the horizontal midpoint of the seal, is the blue ocean. Above, between the pelican and the palm tree, is a gold sun, reflected in the water below. The sky is probably a light blue. An official mayor's flag, with the colors of the stripes reversed, was also adopted.

By 1951, Mayor S. C. Minshall and city council were unhappy that the city's name was not featured prominently on the flag. On January 16 of that year, the city council passed a resolution amending the 1927 ordinance *to provide that the flags have the words **St. Petersburg, Florida** in a crescent over the seal and the words **The Sunshine City** in a reverse crescent under the seal, the letters to be 2 to 3 inches in height, and to be in navy blue on the City Flag and in yellow on the Mayor's flag.*



The new flag design was never made. A flag manufacturer notified the city that he could not make an attractive flag according to the new specifications, and presented a different design in miniature form that converted the vertical tribar to a horizontal one, with nearly the same colors: dark blue, yellow, and dark blue. The seal remains on the center stripe. On the top stripe, in large gold letters is ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, taking up most of the space on the stripe. On the blue stripe below, in a large gold script, is "*Sunshine City*". The proportions are 4:7. A provision was initially made for the mayor's flag to be in reverse colors, but this idea was later abandoned, with the declaration that one city flag would serve all the city's needs. The horizontal design was adopted on 17 April 1951.

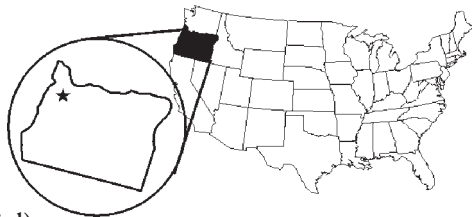
SALEM, OREGON



Population Rank: U.S... # 158
Oregon..... # 3

Proportions: 2:3 (usage)

Adopted: 14 August 1972 (official)



DESIGN: Salem's flag has a white field bearing a white five-pointed star, from which solid stripes emanate in all five directions from the spaces between its points. The star is centered vertically, two-thirds of the distance from the hoist to the fly. On a field of 2 by 3 units, the stripes are .5 units wide and the star is roughly .8 units tall. The longest stripe, in golden yellow, runs from the lower hoist side of the star to the bottom hoist edge of the field. On it is **saalem** in white, with the "l" piercing the stripe and joining the white field. Blue stripes run from the upper hoist and lower fly sides of the star, and meet the edges of the field. A golden yellow stripe runs from the upper fly side of the star to the upper fly corner. The final stripe, in green, descends from the lower

side of the star to the bottom edge of the flag. On it in white is a stylized image of the top portion of Oregon's state capitol, surmounted by its statue.

SYMBOLISM: The city describes the symbolism:

The flag's design symbolizes the essence of the City of Salem. It is the capital of Oregon. Into Salem flows the input of the State and from Salem comes the decision and directions for Oregon. The star—the symbol used on maps to indicate a State capital ... The decorative element is the landmark sculpture of the Oregon Pioneer on the top of the Capitol Building. The colors were chosen to symbolize the ideals of the City of Salem ... the dominant background of white shows peace and honor. The design utilizes summer blue, autumn golden yellow, and spring green; the blue being sky and water, the green showing freshness and eternal hope, the golden yellow of harvest indicating fulfillment and the enjoyment of nature's bounty. Together these colors also indicate the four seasons and are reminiscent of Salem's setting, between mountains, rivers, and fields.

HOW SELECTED: Chosen from designs submitted in a flag contest beginning 1 February and closing 1 March 1972. An outside consultant examined and combined the designs. A final version was presented to a joint meeting of the mayor's flag committee and the city council on 4 May and at a ceremonial meeting on 8 May, where the winners were announced. Ordinance 104-72 made the flag official.

DESIGNER: Arvid Orbeck, a local designer, from a composite of ideas from the flag contest.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The Salem Federal Savings & Loan Association paid for the costs of the flag contest, including radio and television advertising and Mr. Orbeck's fee.

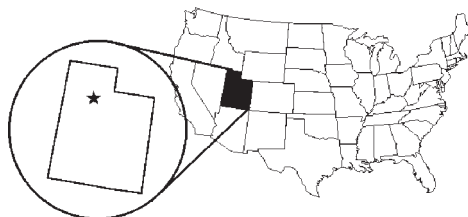
RM 

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH ★



Population Rank: U.S... # 111
Utah..... # 1

Proportions: 3:5 (usage)



Adopted: 23 September 1969 (official)

DESIGN: Salt Lake City's flag places the arms of the city in the center of a white field. They measure approximately 2.5 by 2.25 units on a field of 3 by 5 units. An outline of a beehive in dark brown takes the place of the traditional shield. The field within shows a green plain in the lower half, the bottom of which is partially obscured by a heraldic ribbon. At the fly side of the scene is a covered wagon, white with orange wheels, pulled by a team of four dark brown oxen headed toward the hoist. The lead oxen are approximately three-fourths of the distance from the fly. Immediately below them is "THIS IS THE PLACE" in black.

The midpoint of the scene forms a horizon with low dark blue mountains across the plain. Between the mountains and the plain is a narrow white line shaded in blue. An orange setting sun with 32 rays of varying lengths fills the white sky. The hoist supporter is a pioneer woman, dressed in a long-sleeved dress; a boy stands in front of her. The fly supporter is a pioneer man, holding a long handled shovel. The figures are in natural colors. The heraldic ribbon below is dark blue, backed in white, with **SALT LAKE CITY** curved across the central part in an Arial-type font in white. Above the beehive alight two seagulls, in natural coloring. Both have wings outstretched, and while the gull toward the fly (which faces front) has landed and its feet are not visible, the gull toward the hoist and facing the fly has yet to touch down.

SYMBOLISM: The beehive refers to Utah's nickname, "The Beehive State". The scene suggests the arrival of the Mormon pioneers at the Great Salt Lake in 1847, when their leader, Brigham Young, said, "This is the place", indicating where they would settle and found the city. The seagulls, the state bird, recall the seemingly miraculous arrival of a flock of seagulls early in the state's history to devour a plague of crickets (Mormon grasshoppers) that had threatened the new settlers' crops.

HOW SELECTED: In 1963, *The Deseret News*, a Salt Lake City newspaper, and the junior chamber of commerce sponsored a contest for a new city flag, with a prize to the winner of \$100.

DESIGNER: J. Rulon Hales was the winner.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The flag was not made until 1969, owing to the cost of manufacturing a flag with such a detailed design and with so many colors. Sue Larson and Cherie Horricks of the Highland High School Art Class, under the direction of Jack Vigos of the Art Department, created the first flag.

JP 

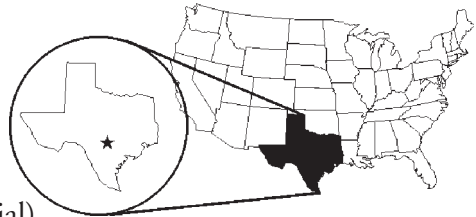
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



Population Rank: U.S. # 9
Texas # 2

Proportions: 5:9 (official)

Adopted: 27 August 1992 (official)



DESIGN: The field of San Antonio’s flag is divided vertically into blue at the hoist and red at the fly. In the center is a large white five-pointed star on which is the Alamo outlined and detailed in black. The height of the star is nine-tenths the flag’s width; the height of the Alamo is one-fourth the flag’s width.

SYMBOLISM: The colors are those of the flags of Texas and the United States. The star also suggests the nickname of Texas, “The Lone Star State”. The Alamo, a fort in San Antonio and the site of an important battle fought on 6 March 1836 by Texans in their war to gain independence from Mexico, symbolizes the city’s role in that struggle.

HOW SELECTED: The flag is an updated version of an earlier flag which bore the name of the city and state. Pete Van de Putte, president of Dixie Flag Company, suggested to Mayor Nelson Wolff that more people might fly the flag if it were less expensive, perhaps by eliminating the costly lettering.

DESIGNER: The original flag was designed by William W. Herring, a Spanish-American War veteran. The sketch he made of the flag is dated 28 May 1933.



MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:

The earlier version of the flag had large white block letters curved over the star, with SAN AN on the blue half and TONIO on the red. In the same letters, TEXAS was centered horizontally between the

star's two lower points, with the "X" half on the blue and half on the red field. The flag was presented to city council on 18 April 1935 by the United Spanish-American War Veterans, but not adopted officially until 1976. The depiction of the Alamo is described variously as having been rendered as gray and as silver and gold. The official colors are PMS 286 (blue) and PMS 200 (red).



FORMER FLAG: San Antonio's first official flag was adopted on 25 January 1917. The flag has a white field with a large blue silhouette map of Texas in its center and SAN ANTONIO in large white block letters across the center portion of the state.

Below the city's name is the Alamo, in a buff color and marking the geographical location of San Antonio. The flag is 48 by 65 inches and its designer was Arthur Storms, a Shriner from the Alzarfar Temple. The Shriners (a social and philanthropic men's

organization) used the flag regularly at their national conventions in various cities for many years, but as time went by it was all but forgotten at city hall, even though it apparently was the official city flag until 1976.

JP 

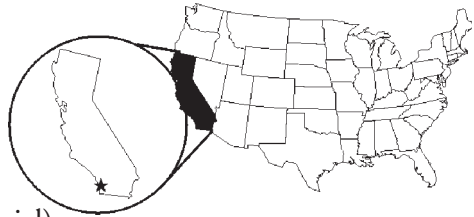
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA



Population Rank: U.S. # 7
California # 2

Proportions: 2:3 (usage)

Adopted: 16 October 1934 (official)



DESIGN: San Diego's flag is a vertical tribar of equal red, white, and gold stripes. On the center stripe is the city's seal, about one-third of the stripe's height in diameter. The seal is positioned slightly above center; below it, centered and curved to match the seal's outer edge, is 1542.

The seal is elaborate. A white band, edged on both sides in gold, surrounds the seal. Beginning at 8 o'clock and extending to 4 o'clock, • **THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO • STATE OF CALIFORNIA** • runs clockwise in gold. In the remaining space on the band below, on a white heraldic ribbon edged in gold, is the city's motto, **SEMPER**

VIGILANS (“Always Vigilant”) also in gold. The shield is slightly curved on both sides on the top edge, and indented slightly on either side near the top. Its field is gold, with a wavy blue bar across its center. At the top is a black Spanish caravel with red sails, flag, and pennon facing the hoist. In the base is an orange tree, in natural colors with fruit, with a black winged wheel on either side. The supporters are the Pillars of Hercules, entwined with gold ribbons, each pillar resting on a green dolphin with red eyes and fins, facing the shield’s edges, their red tails linked below the shield. In the crest is a blue Carmelite belfry, from which hangs a gold bell.

SYMBOLISM: The explorer Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo discovered San Diego, the first California port entered by a Spanish ship, in 1542. Red and gold recall the Spanish flag, and red and white are also found in the United States flag. The gold is a reminder of the precious metal that transformed California from a wilderness to a prosperous state.

HOW SELECTED: The Native Sons of the Golden West, the hereditary organization also responsible for the adoption of the California state flag in 1911, developed the city flag and presented it to the city council.

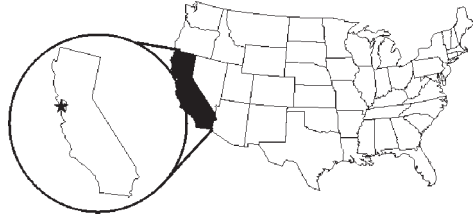
DESIGNER: Uncertain. The designer is not specifically named, but the ordinance of adoption mentions Albert V. Mayrhofer as presenting the flag to the council. Whether he is the designer or just the representative of his organization is not certain.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The detail on the seal does not permit any lettering to be seen on the ribbons entwined about the Pillars of Hercules and, in fact, there is no official reference to such lettering. However, the pillars as depicted on the flags of Spain typically have **PLUS** on the dexter ribbon and **ULTRA** on the sinister, together meaning “More Beyond”. Since the ribbons are gold, one supposes that the lettering would be in red (the reverse of the pillars on the Spanish arms). None of the available examples of the seal, all small, show any lettering on the ribbons.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



Population Rank: U.S. # 13
California # 4



Proportions: 3:5 (usage)

Adopted: 14 April 1900 (official); revised 30 December 1940

DESIGN: According to the 1940 ordinance:

The City and County of San Francisco shall have an official flag to be known as 'The Flag of San Francisco'. The flag shall be as hereinafter described, to-wit: 'A Phoenix rising from the flames, below which shall appear the motto Oro en Paz—Fierro en Guerra', both in a golden yellow hue on a field of white, with the Flag itself bordered with gold.

*The words **San Francisco** shall appear horizontally along the lower portion of the Flag, below the Phoenix and the Motto, in letters of appropriate size, rich blue in coloring.*

The wings of the phoenix are outspread and pictured above a ring of red flames, resembling an open crown, with eight points outlined in

golden yellow. The scroll is segmented into three sections and is bordered in black to separate it from the white field. The Spanish motto means “Gold in Peace, Iron in War”. The width of the gold border is one-eighth the height of the flag.

SYMBOLISM: In the words of Mayor Phelan in 1900, *It is singularly appropriate by reason of the fact that California is the Golden State and San Francisco has become the point of debarkation for our troops* [in the Spanish-American War] ... *Gold is emblematic of the abundance of nature, and iron of the fortitude and courage of men; but when the war ceases let us hope that the productive industries ... may permit us to read the inscription, ‘Gold and Iron in Peace.’*

This motto, however, predates the Spanish-American War, appearing on a seal dating from 1859 (perhaps anticipating the Civil War). Others attribute the origin to Don Quixote and his instructions to Sancho Panza. The phoenix first appeared on a seal in 1852 as a crest to symbolize the city’s resurgence from an earlier fire (Kenneth M. Johnson, *California Governmental Seals*, Castle Press, 1963: No. 8). The phoenix is a symbol of human aspiration and achievement, a mythological bird that lives for 500 years, then is consumed by flames and rises again from its ashes. In an alternate interpretation, the phoenix represents the city’s emergence under the 1856 Municipal Consolidation Act as a city and county separate from San Mateo County. In any case, the symbol was unintentionally prophetic, as the flag was adopted six years before the great earthquake and fire of 1906.

HOW SELECTED: Chosen in a competition initiated by the mayor, James D. Phelan. He appointed as judges the commissioner of public works, the parks commissioner, and three members of the board of supervisors. The winning design was selected from among over 100 entries.

DESIGNER: Policeman John M. Gamble won the prize of \$50 for his design.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The words **SAN FRANCISCO** were not on the original flag. They were added by a resolution, first passed on 29 August 1938, that later resulted in the 1940 ordinance. The language of the resolution explains the addition with these words:

Whereas, many have marveled at the beauty of the Official Flag of the City and County of San Francisco and have inquired 'What flag is it?' because there is no wording to show; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That there be added to the Official Flag . . . of San Francisco the words San Francisco so that it will be identifiable to all who view it; and be it

*Further Resolved, That the words **San Francisco** be placed horizontally along the lower portion of the Flag, below the Phoenix and the Motto, in letters of appropriate size . . . so that the Flag will be blue and gold on a field of white, symbolic of the blue skies of San Francisco, the gold of her commerce and industry and the white of her pure purpose to be a city of happy homes and contented, prosperous people.*



The original city flag had a plain white field, and was entrusted to the chief of police in May 1900 for use in parades and ceremonies. According to tradition, it was rescued in a paddy wagon from the flame-engulfed city hall in April 1906. That

flag was replaced by a duplicate in 1926. In 1940, when pre-war patriotic fervor led the board of supervisors to authorize making more than one flag, the drafter of the specifications described the gold fringe of the 1926 ceremonial flag with the phrase *bordered with golden yellow*. This misinterpretation added the golden border to the flag's otherwise white field.

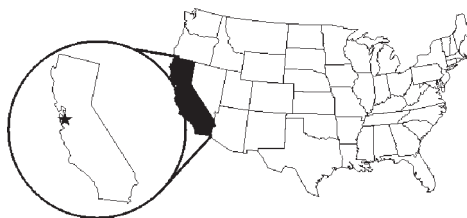
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA



Population Rank: U.S. # 11
California # 3

Proportions: 3:5 (usage)

Adopted: 5 June 1984 (official)



DESIGN: The flag of San José is a horizontal tribar of gold, white, and blue stripes in proportions of 1:4:1. Centered on the white stripe is the city seal, one unit in diameter on a field of 3 by 5 units. The seal is encircled by a black-edged gold band, the outer edge of which is bordered by a narrow gold stripe, which in turn is bordered by a slightly wider black stripe. On the top half of the gold band in black block letters, clockwise, runs **CITY OF SAN JOSE**. Centered on the lower portion of the band is **CALIFORNIA**, in the same letters. Separating the two legends on either side is a small black six-pointed star. The field of the seal is white. In its center is a shock of wheat, with a bunch of purple grapes on either side curved along the seal's inner edge, their

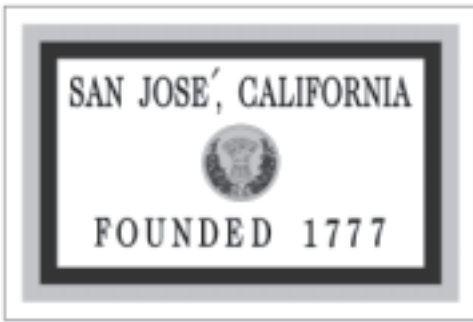
stems joined in a gold bow below the wheat. Centered below the seal, and attached to it, is a small gold cartouche-shaped oval bearing the legend **FOUNDED 1777**. The seal was adopted officially on 9 September 1850.

SYMBOLISM: The grapes and wheat sheaf indicate the area's main agricultural products in the mid-19th century.

HOW SELECTED: The flag was developed by the rules committee and the Historic Landmarks Commission of San José, beginning in August 1968, at the request of the city council.

DESIGNER: Unknown.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The city's name is written with an accent on the letter "e" of "José", a convention that is frequently ignored. In any case, capital letters in Spanish are normally not accented unless the accent is needed for clarity.



FORMER FLAG: The first flag of San José was designed by Clyde Arbuckle, the city historian, who worked with the historic landmarks commission. The flag has a white field bordered with three stripes, one inside the other. From the outside edge, they are white, gold, and blue, the last two colors being those of California. The city seal, without the lettering around the seal or the cartouche below it, is in the center of the field. Above the seal, **SAN JOSÉ, CALIFORNIA** runs horizontally; below the seal is **FOUNDED 1777**, all in large black letters. The flag's proportions are 3 by 4.5. It was officially adopted 2 June 1969.

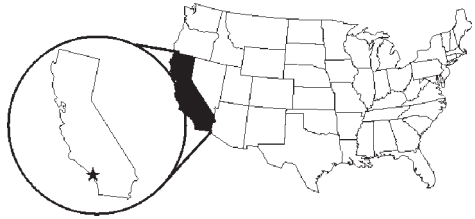
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA



Population Rank: U.S. # 51
California # 8

Proportions: 7:10 (official)

Adopted: 2 July 1984 (official)




DESIGN: Santa Ana's flag is divided diagonally from upper hoist to lower fly. The hoist triangle is medium blue; the fly triangle is yellow. On the center of the field is the city seal, approximately 4 units in diameter on a field of 7 by 10 units. The seal is surrounded by a dark blue ring which is fimbriated in gold where it overlaps the blue hoist triangle. On that ring **CITY OF SANTA ANA** arches clockwise over the top half and **CALIFORNIA** is centered on the lower half, counterclockwise, all in gold. At 8:30 and 3:30 o'clock is a small five-pointed star. The center of the seal has a white field. In the upper fly portion, between about 1:00 and 2:30 o'clock, half of a gold sun is visible with 8 gold equally-spaced rays emanating in straight lines to the inner edge of the blue ring. In a similar position on the hoist side is a line drawing in

blue of the Orange County government building, in partial profile toward the hoist. Below it, and close to the hoist side, is **ORANGE COUNTY SEAT OF GOVERNMENT**, in blue centered in three lines, two words over two words over one. In the center lower half of the seal is a blue line image of city hall, in partial profile toward the fly, with trees and shrubs. Centered below this building, in the same lettering, is **THE GOLDEN CITY**, directly above **FOUNDED 1869**. The seal was adopted officially in 1972.

SYMBOLISM: Blue and yellow (or gold) are the official colors of the city. The sun no doubt alludes to the abundant sunshine of the city. Santa Ana is the county seat of Orange County, hence the county building on the seal. The city's nickname is "The Golden City".

HOW SELECTED: Little is known about the flag's history. The ordinance of adoption is a scant four lines, and mentions nothing about how the flag was developed. City hall personnel have no other information available about the flag.

DESIGNER: Not available.

FORMER FLAGS: In 1976, the city council sponsored a contest among city residents for a design of the first official flag, with a deadline of May 31 of that year. Mayor John Garthe and Frank Blaszcak, the public information officer, were to choose the three top designs for council to select the winner. Evidently no design pleased the council sufficiently, for no flag was adopted as a result of the contest. JP 

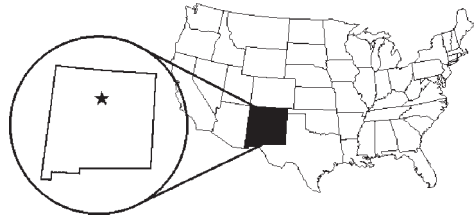
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO



Population Rank: U.S. ... # 447
New Mexico # 2

Proportions: 2:3 (assumed)

Adopted: 20 September 1915 (official)



DESIGN: The field of Santa Fe’s flag is yellow with the city’s seal in its center. The seal consists of a narrow blue circle around a white field. Immediately within this circle, running clockwise around the seal from its base is the complete name of the city in Spanish, in a Flat Brush-type font: **La Villa Real de la Santa Fé de San Francisco de Asís**. Within the circle of lettering is a heraldic “American” shield divided so that the top portion bears on its fly half the principal charge of the arms of Mexico (in a 19th-century version): an eagle with a serpent in its beak perched on a *nopal* cactus, all in a blue silhouette on white. The hoist half shows a portion of the arms of Spain, a yellow turreted castle in silhouette on a red field on the hoist side, and a silhouetted upright red lion, on the

fly side. The lower part of the shield is the modified American blazon, 13 white five-pointed stars (staggered 7 above and 6 below) on dark blue, over 13 vertical stripes (7 red, 6 white). Below the shield is a white heraldic ribbon, edged in blue and folded in thirds. On the three sections appear, in blue: **1610** at the hoist, **1846** in the center, and **1821** at the fly. Emanating from behind the shield in a circle are 85 short gold rays, appearing to be scalloped, since every fifth ray is longer. Several rays are hidden by the shield's upper corners and the center portion of the heraldic ribbon.

SYMBOLISM: The complete name of the city in English is “The Royal Town of the Holy Faith of Saint Francis of Assisi”. The emblems on the shield represent the nations that have had sovereignty over Santa Fe, with their initial date of control on the heraldic ribbon: Spain, 1610; Mexico, 1821; and United States, 1846. Spanish settlers named the town for St. Francis and chose him as its patron saint. Over time the name shortened to simply “Santa Fe”.

HOW SELECTED: Ralph Emerson Twitchell, at the time a former mayor of the city, proposed the design to the city council on the date of its adoption. On 19 March 1915 his design had been adopted as the first official state flag of New Mexico.

DESIGNER: Not specified; presumably former Mayor Twitchell.



MORE ABOUT THE FLAG:

The current version of the flag in use differs from that specified in the ordinance of adoption: it now uses a field of white instead of gold. The city's seal according to that ordinance consists only of the shield and

heraldic ribbon and is termed a “heraldic seal”. The ordinance further specifies that on the front side of the flag *shall be delineated in painting, printing, or embroidery an ideal representation or portrait of St. Francis of Assisi with the legend, in crimson: SAN FRANCISCO DE ASSISI ...* It

is not known if such a flag was ever manufactured, but the current version has only the city's seal on both sides, a much less expensive rendering than would be the case with a double-sided flag. Moreover, the ordinance stipulates 1606 as the date of the city's founding by Don Juan de Oñate, the first Spanish governor-general of New Mexico. Historians now generally accept that the city was founded in 1610 when his successor, Don Pedro de Peralta, moved his capital to the site of today's city. The illustration accompanying the ordinance shows the date on the fly third of the ribbon as 1822, but it is correctly 1821 in the text of the ordinance. Also, the Mexican emblem is shown in its original colors of brown (for the eagle) and green (for the serpent and *nopal*).



FORMER FLAG: At some time in the past several decades (the date is uncertain) the city used a flag that departed more radically from the official ordinance. That flag is double-sided, with a red field on the front and a blue field on the back. The “heraldic seal” of the ordinance is prominently displayed centered in the lower half of the field, but the Spanish arms are rendered in two colors only (white castle on red, red lion on white) and the Mexican arms show a white eagle on light blue. Centered in two lines across the top of the flag is **City of** over **Santa Fe** in red letters outlined in white on the front side and, in blue on the back. The city's name is in letters slightly larger than “City of”. No further information about the flag is available.

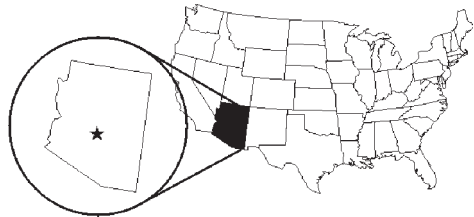
JP 

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA



Population Rank: U.S. # 86
Arizona # 4

Proportions: 6:11 (usage)



Adopted: After 1951 (apparently unofficial)

DESIGN: Scottsdale's flag has a white field with a large city seal in the center. On a field of 6 by 11 units, the seal is 4 units in diameter. The seal's field is a dark blue. The outer edge of the seal is a narrow gold band from which emanate 72 evenly-spaced tiny triangles, in imitation of the cut edge of an embossed seal. Two parallel narrow blue lines encircle the gold band. Within the gold band is another band, in dark blue, the inner edge of which is a beveled gold ring. On the blue band is **CITY OF SCOTTSDALE** arched clockwise over the top half, and **ARIZONA** centered counterclockwise on the lower half, all in black block letters. Both before and after "ARIZONA" are three black four-pointed stars. Another blue ring is inside the beveled gold circle, bor-

dered in a narrow black line on both sides. The outer black edge is flush with the inner side of the beveled gold ring. On this ring, in small black letters centered counterclockwise on the lower half, is **THE WEST'S MOST WESTERN TOWN**. Yet another blue ring, slightly narrower, also with black edges (the outer edge of this ring is the inner edge of the preceding ring) is next. The inner portion of the seal, in blue, has a bucking bronco and rider in white detailed in black, facing the hoist. In traditional rodeo fashion, the rider is holding on with his left hand and raising his hat into the air with his right. The horse's mane and tail are black.

SYMBOLISM: The seal bears the city's motto, "The West's Most Western Town", and depicts a well-known symbol of the west, the bucking bronco. The rider was inspired by a long-time wrangler Gerbacio "Harvey" Noriega, who was the "head honcho" at what was then Brown's Ranch in Scottsdale.

HOW SELECTED: The flag evidently resulted from a sense in city hall that there should be a city flag, and the city's seal was simply placed on a white background. The seal was adopted about 1951, the same year as the city's incorporation (on June 25). The flag was developed some time after that (records are unavailable), and is apparently unofficial.

DESIGNER: The seal's designer is Gene Brown Pennington, the granddaughter of one of the city's early settlers, E. O. Brown.

JP 

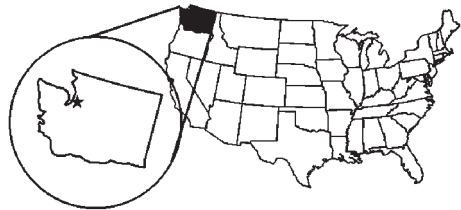
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



Population Rank: U.S. # 23
Washington # 1

Proportions: 11:15 (usage)

Adopted: 16 July 1990 (official)



DESIGN: Seattle's flag has an elaborate design in two colors. The field is a teal blue/green—a dark aquamarine, “the color of Puget Sound at dusk”, according to the ordinance of adoption. From the top half of the hoist on a white background run four equally-spaced teal stripes, generally horizontal, but slanted slightly upward and ending in a curved shape resembling a hook. The top stripe is 3.5 units in length on a field of 11 by 15 units. Each of the stripes below decreases in length one-half unit. The width of the stripes is .5 units; the bottom edge of the top stripe is 2 units from the top edge of the field, and the stripes are approximately 1 unit apart.

Emanating from below the “hook” of each of the top three stripes is a teal ribbon that undulates toward the center of the flag and intertwines with the others to form a sort of wreath around the center of the flag, averaging about 8 units in diameter, all on white. Within this wreath, which appears to be cast from the foam of surf, is a stylized rendition of the city’s seal, in its center a profile of Chief Seattle, facing the hoist. Around the chief’s head are two teal curved bands that appear to be cut ribbons, about the same width as the hoist stripes, one from his chin to the top of his head, and the other beginning lower at the back of his head, and extending beyond his neck. Together these form a stylized “S”. Around this figure, in teal letters beginning about 9 o’clock and ending at 3 o’clock, is **CITY OF GOODWILL**. Dots at 8 and 4 o’clock separate the remainder of the legend, **SEATTLE**, which curves from 7 to 5 o’clock.

SYMBOLISM: Chief Seattle, leader of the local Suquamish tribe, is known best for giving his name to the city and for his 1854 speech defending the preservation of nature. His profile also represents other Native Americans of the region. “City of Goodwill” was chosen as the city’s nickname at the same time as the flag was adopted. The design suggests Seattle’s location as a port city.

HOW SELECTED: The council adopted a city flag and nickname in preparation for the Goodwill Games (an international athletic event) and Goodwill Arts Festival to be held in Seattle in 1990.

DESIGNER: Councilmember Paul Kraabel.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The central seal design is much like one proposed for a new city flag in 1976 designed by the David Strong Design Group, but never adopted.

FORMER FLAGS: Few cities have made so many unsuccessful attempts to adopt a city flag as Seattle before 1990.

In 1962 and 1964 various council members called for a city flag. A Seattle designer, William Werrbach, created two designs, but neither was adopted. In 1968, local flag enthusiast Dr. Willard Goff designed

a flag, but council rejected it as too contemporary (it showed the Space Needle and a supersonic transport). In 1976 Mayor Wes Uhlman recommended the flag designed by the David Strong Design Group for commemoration of the United States bicentennial, but the council declared its agenda too busy to consider it. The following year council member Phyllis Lamphere promoted the idea of adopting a city flag once again, but she finally gave up, saying that her efforts “didn’t excite anyone”. There the matter rested until 1990 when the current city flag was finally adopted.



In 1943, Councilman Frank McCaffrey designed and had manufactured a city flag that he presented to the council, although it was apparently unofficial. Very similar to Washington’s state flag, it has a green field of 3 by 5 units with the city’s

seal in gold in the center. The seal shows a profile of Chief Seattle toward the hoist, • CITY • OF • SEATTLE • curved over his head, and 1869 centered below it. Surrounding this portion is ring that declares over the top half, CORPORATE • SEAL • OF • THE as a preface to the city’s name below.

In the lower half of the ring are two dolphins, one on either side facing the lower center point, where two fir cones are shown. The dolphins, according to the seal’s designer, James A. Wehn, symbolize Seattle as a center of deep-water commerce; the fir cones represent the Evergreen State (Washington’s nickname). (The seal was adopted 13 January 1937.) McCaffrey’s flag was known as “Council’s Flag”, and hung in council chambers for at least two decades.



About 1934 Mayor Charles L. Smith presented an unofficial city flag to the Nile Temple of the Shrine Legion of Honor (a Masonic marching body) and the Shriners used it for years to represent the city at their national meetings. This flag,

apparently one of a kind, is 5:7 in proportions. The white field has a narrow blue border. In the center of the field is a frontal portrait of Chief Seattle, presumably in natural colors, surrounded by a white ring edged in gold on which **CHIEF** curves above and **SEATTLE** curves below, all in gold. Emanating from the top of the band is a gold flourish extending to either side. Across the top of the flag is a broad heraldic ribbon, white and edged in gold, with **CITY OF SEATTLE** in gold, "OF" smaller than the other words. Centered below the ribbon and immediately above the gold flourishes is the legend, in smaller gold letters, **INCORPORATED 1869**. Centered at the bottom in larger gold letters is **WASHINGTON**. Whether city officials may ever have used the flag is unknown.

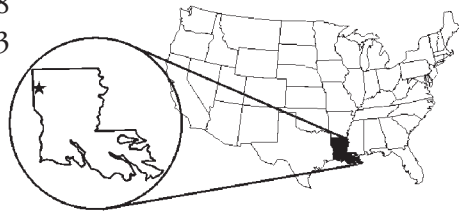
JP 

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA



Population Rank: U.S. # 88
Louisiana # 3

Proportions: 2:3 (official);
3:5 (usage)



Adopted: 1935 (official)

DESIGN: Shreveport's flag is a vertical tribar of equal blue, white, and yellow stripes. In the center of the white bar is the civic shield, divided diagonally by a red bar running from the top hoist to the bottom fly. On the bar are three white magnolia blossoms in square frames. The upper section has a blue field with 18 gold five-pointed stars, the lower section has a white field with stylized bluish ermine tips. Atop the shield is a nesting pelican, in natural colors. Curving around the lower portion of the shield is a squared wreath of green cotton leaves, partially covered on its lower part by a white heraldic ribbon on which appears *City of Shreveport 1835*. The date is divided, with the "18" on the

hoist side and the “35” on the fly side. The city’s name is in the center.

SYMBOLISM: The colors of the tribar are said to represent the three nations that had owned Louisiana: France (blue), United States (white), and Spain (yellow). The 18 stars in the shield’s topmost third symbolize Louisiana as the eighteenth state to join the Union. The three magnolia blossoms, the state flower of Louisiana, represent Shreveport as the center of the tri-state area known as Ark-La-Tex (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas). The ermine in the lower portion of the shield comes from the arms of the Shreve family, in honor of Captain Henry Miller Shreve, the city’s founder. The cotton leaves show Shreveport’s importance in the cotton industry, and the pelican is Louisiana’s state bird.

HOW SELECTED: A contest was held in 1934 with a top prize of \$50. A seven-member contest committee chose a winner, then submitted the design to the eleven-member design committee, which approved it and submitted it to the flag committee, made up of 31 members, where it received final approval. A seven-member publicity committee was charged with the responsibility of having an actual flag manufactured.

DESIGNER: Stewart G. Davis, a local artist.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: As the local chamber of commerce was planning a large celebration in honor of the city’s centennial in 1935, it felt that a suitable flag for the city should be adopted to generate interest in the city’s citizenry.



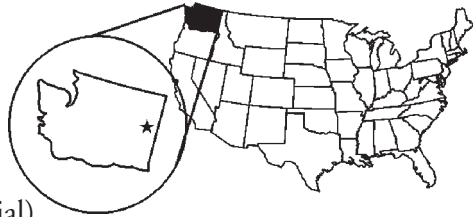
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON



Population Rank: U.S. # 98
Washington # 2

Proportions: 3:5 (usage)

Adopted: 6 October 1975 (official)



DESIGN: The field of Spokane's flag is white. On a flag of 3 units by 5, two adjacent diagonal stripes each .6 units wide extend from the top of the hoist to the bottom edge of the flag. The stripe nearest the hoist is chartreuse; its hoist edge touches the bottom of the field roughly three units from the hoist. The second stripe is aqua. These two colors appeared the year before in the flag of Spokane's Expo '74 (an international exposition). Superimposed on the center of the stripes is a circular device, about 1.5 units in diameter, starting at the mid-point of the chartreuse stripe, and extending an equal distance beyond the aqua stripe. The circle is bordered by a narrow black ring; its field is also white. Along the bottom of the circle's field, but not touching the black

ring, are silhouettes of four children in black, standing in a row with their hands clasped. The children on either end have their free hands raised. Above them and to the left is **CHILDREN OF** with **THE SUN** centered immediately below, all in small black letters. Overlapping the upper right side of the circle is a gold sun .7 units in diameter with some 30 short, pointed rays. Centered in the lower third of the fly portion beyond the stripes is **CITY OF SPOKANE** in black.

SYMBOLISM: *Spokane* means “Children of the Sun”, or the “Sun People”, in the language of the Spokane tribe, from which the city derives its name.

HOW SELECTED: By the city council.

DESIGNER: Lloyd L. Carson, art director for the DeVine, Miller, Carlson, and Donaldson Advertising Company.


MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: Chartreuse is extremely rare in flags, especially in combination with another uncommon color, aqua, making this flag very unusual.



FORMER FLAG: The earlier flag of Spokane is also remarkable for its unusual colors. The field of this flag is lilac on which is centered a solid skyline behind a bridge with an arch below it, all in white. White ripples shaded in blue suggesting the water run below the bridge. Curved along the hoist skyline and extending about one-fourth of the way across the bridge is a spray of lilacs, highlighted in white and blue. Above and behind the skyline is the suggestion, in white, of a mountain peak.

From each of the field's four corners, a white line extends about half-way toward the central figure. Each of the divisions thus formed has a figure centered on it. On the hoist side is an evergreen tree in blue and shaded in white. Above is a gold sun, depicted as the Native Americans

might, with three lines extending from each of the sun's four sides, each center ray slightly larger than the other two. On the fly side is a white five-pointed star. Below, in stylized white script pierced by a white arrow in the direction of the hoist, is **Spokane**. Centered below, in smaller white letters, is **THE LILAC CITY**. The flag's proportions varied in use between 3:4 and 5:7. The flag was officially adopted 25 July 1958. It was designed by S. Luther Essick, who had become convinced of the value of a city flag when working in displaced persons camps in Vienna after World War II. He was impressed by how much it meant to the Viennese to once again fly their city flag. The chamber of commerce and representatives of the city's Lilac Festival helped persuade the city council to adopt the flag.

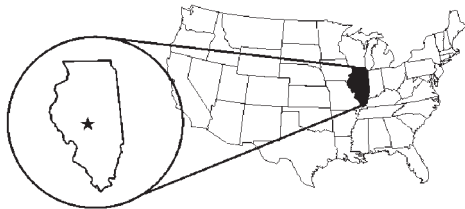
The flag is replete with symbolism. According to a city brochure, *The lilac color and the flower represent Spokane as the "Lilac City" and her position as the "Queen City of the Inland Empire". The buildings represent planned progress. The bridge symbolizes Monroe Street Bridge and Falls, important local landmarks. The white star stands for loyalty to the state of Washington. The mountain peak is Mount Spokane, part of the city's scenic beauty and historic legend. Both the gold sun of Native American design and the name of the city pierced by an arrow reflect the origin of the city's name, "Children of the Sun". The evergreen (Douglas fir), Washington's state tree, indicates the city's connection with the state. The white lines represent the city's basic freedoms, focused on Spokane. White represents purity of purpose; blue, trueness and loyalty; and lilac, the city's royal heritage.* JP 

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



Population Rank: U.S. ... # 201
Illinois # 4

Proportions: 2:3 and
3:5 (both official)



Adopted: 22 October 1917 (official)

DESIGN: Springfield's flag has a dark blue field. On a flag of 3 by 5 units, 20 white five-pointed stars (all oriented upward) form a circle 2 units in diameter in the upper hoist half of the flag, about one-quarter unit from the top and one-half unit from the hoist. In the center of the circle is a large red five-pointed star bordered in white, one point oriented to the top. Centered across the bottom of the flag in gold block letters in an Arial-type font one-third unit in height is **SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS** (without punctuation).

SYMBOLISM: The 20 white stars represent the number of states in the Union before Illinois was admitted in 1818. The large red star represents Springfield as the capital of Illinois, the 21st state.

HOW SELECTED: A contest was conceived by the poet, Vachel Lindsay (1879-1931), a native of Springfield, and sponsored by the Springfield Art Association.

DESIGNER: S. T. Wallace, a citizen of Springfield.



MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The early version of the flag does not have the city's name across the bottom, and the circle of stars is centered vertically. Moreover, the red star points downward rather than upward. It is not known

when the original design was altered, or by whom, but the original design was still in use in 1953. The flag was first exhibited on 8 November 1917.

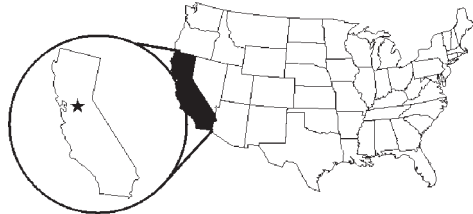
JP 

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA



Population Rank: U.S. # 70
California # 12

Proportions: 2:3 (usage)



Adopted: 27 August 1999 (unofficial)

DESIGN: The field of the flag of Stockton is divided in half, red at the hoist and blue at the fly. In its center an oversized seal spans the height of the field. The flag is 26 by 39 units. A white outer ring of the seal, 2 units wide, encloses three concentric rings; the first and third are gold edged in black, and one-half of a unit wide, and form the outer and inner edges of the second ring, which is white, and 3 units wide. **STOCKTON FOUNDED JUNE 1849** curves clockwise around the top portion of the white ring, **INCORPORATED JULY 1850** curves counterclockwise below, all blue. Red five-pointed stars separate these legends. In the center of the seal is a large, light brown, antlered tule elk facing the fly. In the background, a dark brown mountain range rises from the horizontal center of the seal. The range has four peaks, the

highest in the center, and above them is a light blue sky. The lower half of the scene depicts a blue river below the mountains, about one-third the width of the scene's lower half. On the fly side is a small red sailboat with two white sails and a red pennant, billowing toward the fly. The lowest portion of the seal shows green grass below the elk.

SYMBOLISM: The tule elk is native to the region. The central peak has traditionally represented Mount Diablo, a prominent peak in the area, but others consider the mountains depicted on the seal to be the Sierra Nevada, a mountain range to the east of the city. The water behind the elk reflects Stockton's dependence on water as a main transportation artery for supplies during the California Gold Rush. A modern interpretation of the water would be the importance of Stockton as a seaport, as well as the 1,000 miles of Sacramento River Delta waterways used for fishing, boating, and other recreational activities.

HOW SELECTED: Developed by the city clerk in 1999, but never officially adopted. The seal on the flag was adopted 25 July 1994.

DESIGNER: Katherine Gong Meissner, city clerk. The redesigned seal of 1994 was the project of the previous city clerk, Frances Hong, who felt that the original majesty of the elk as it appeared on the first seal had been lost over the years due to poor renditions as it was copied.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: When Stockton was a finalist for the All-America City award in 1999, Meissner developed the flag so that the city would have a flag with its new seal for the delegates to take along to the competition in Philadelphia.

FORMER FLAG: The original seal was designed by Stockton's first mayor, Samuel Purdy, in 1850. It is identical to the current seal, except that the elk walks toward the hoist, looking over its left shoulder. This version of the seal in gold on a green field was used unofficially as the city's flag until 1999.

