

Alabama State Flag

Yellowhammer State • Capital: Montgomery • Statehood: 1819

Overview

A simple red St. Andrew's cross on a white field: plain yet striking. The design echoes the Confederate battle flag, though stripped to its bare bones. Its austerity gives Alabama's flag a bold clarity, matched by nicknames such as "The Heart of Dixie."

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1895-02-16
Designer: John W. A. Sanford Jr.
Ratio: Not specified in law
White field with a crimson saltire (diagonal cross) reaching the flag's edges.

Colors



Symbolism

saltire	Represents St. Andrew's cross; a historic emblem used by several flags in the region.
white	Purity and honesty.
crimson	Courage and valor.

Historical timeline

- 1819: Admitted to the Union as the 22nd state.
- 1895: Current flag adopted by the Alabama legislature.
- 1861 — Republic of Alabama flag (obverse bore the Goddess of Liberty; reverse bore the St. Andrew's cross)

Notable facts

- Alabama is nicknamed the Yellowhammer State.
- The flag's saltire is visually similar to Florida's flag.
- The crimson St. Andrew's cross is called a saltire.
- The design was officially adopted in 1895.
- The flag was inspired by the Confederate battle flag.
- There is no official shade of crimson defined in state law.
- State law does not fix the flag's proportions.
- It is one of the simplest U.S. state flags in terms of design.

Vexillology notes

Design type: Saltire on white field
Complexity: 1/10
Readability: 9/10