

Alaska State Flag

Last Frontier • Capital: Juneau • Statehood: 1959

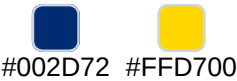
Overview

Eight golden stars on deep blue, seven for the Big Dipper, the eighth a larger North Star. The flag was designed by a schoolboy, Benny Benson, and perfectly captures Alaska's place: guided by the northern lights and constellations, vast and remote.

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1927-05-02
Designer: Benny Benson (age 13)
Ratio: 125:177
Blue field with golden Big Dipper and North Star.

Colors



Symbolism

Big Dipper	Symbol of strength and part of the Ursa Major constellation.
North Star	Represents Alaska's northern location and future as a state.
blue field	Represents the sky and Forget-me-not, the state flower.

Historical timeline

- 1927: Territorial flag adopted after design contest.
- 1959: Alaska admitted as 49th state; flag replaced.

Notable facts

- Designed by 13-year-old Benny Benson.
- One of the simplest yet most symbolic U.S. state flags.
- The eight gold stars represent the Big Dipper and the North Star.
- The North Star symbolizes Alaska's future as the northernmost state.
- Blue represents the Alaskan sky and the forget-me-not, the state flower.
- The design was selected through a territory-wide schoolchildren's contest in 1927.
- Benny Benson never received royalties for the design but was awarded a watch and a certificate.
- The flag remained unchanged when Alaska became a U.S. state in 1959.

Seal deep dive

bigDipper

Seven gold stars forming the Big Dipper constellation.
Meaning: Strength, unity, and Alaska's connection to the northern sky

northStar

A larger gold star representing Polaris, the North Star.
Meaning: Alaska as the northernmost state and a symbol of direction and hope

colorField

Deep blue background symbolizing the Alaskan sky.
Meaning: The northern night sky, the sea, and the forget-me-not, Alaska's state flower

Vexillology notes

Design type: Symbolic constellation flag

Complexity: 2/10
Readability: 10/10

Printable reference sheet for classroom use.