

Iowa State Flag

Hawkeye State • Capital: Des Moines • Statehood: 1846

Overview

Vertical tricolour of blue, white, red — the French heritage acknowledged. Across the white flies a bald eagle holding a ribbon: Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain. The name “Iowa” anchors the flag plainly below.

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1921-03-29
Designer: Dixie Cornell Gebhardt
Ratio: Not specified in law
Vertical blue, white, and red stripes with eagle and motto ribbon on white stripe.

Colors

  
#002D72 #FFFFFF #B22234

Symbolism

tricolor	Echoes Iowa's French heritage.
eagle	Symbol of the United States.
motto ribbon	Displays the state motto: 'Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain.'

Historical timeline

- 1846: Iowa admitted as 29th state.
- 1921: Flag adopted officially.

Notable facts

- The French tricolor reflects early colonial influence.
- Iowa's flag prominently features its state motto.
- The vertical blue, white, and red stripes mirror the French flag.
- The bald eagle symbolizes the United States.
- The eagle carries a ribbon with the state motto.
- The word 'Iowa' appears below the eagle.
- The flag was officially adopted in 1921.
- The design honors Iowa's history as part of the Louisiana Purchase.

Seal deep dive

tricolorStripes
Three vertical stripes of blue, white, and red.
Meaning: Reference to Iowa's early association with French-controlled Louisiana Territory

eagle
A bald eagle centered on the white stripe.
Meaning: Freedom, strength, and national unity

mottoRibbon
A blue ribbon held in the eagle's beak bearing the state motto.
Meaning: Commitment to liberty and the preservation of rights

Vexillology notes

Design type: Tricolor with central emblem
Complexity: 6/10

