

New Hampshire State Flag

Granite State • Capital: Concord • Statehood: 1788

Overview

On blue, the state seal with frigate Raleigh encircled by laurel leaves and nine stars. The ship recalls New Hampshire's naval history, the laurel victory, the stars its place as ninth to join the Union. A maritime emblem for a state with a short but busy coastline.

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1909-11-30
Designer: Legislative adoption
Ratio: 2:3
Blue field with state seal showing ship encircled by laurel and stars.

Colors

   

#002D72 #FFD700 #008000 #FFFFFF

Symbolism

USS Raleigh	One of the first ships of the Continental Navy.
laurel wreath and stars	Symbolize honor and New Hampshire as one of the first 13 states.

Historical timeline

- 1788: New Hampshire ratified the Constitution as the 9th state.
- 1909: Official flag adopted.

Notable facts

- The USS Raleigh was built in Portsmouth in 1776.
- The laurel wreath and stars emphasize New Hampshire's Revolutionary War heritage.
- The state seal is the central feature of the flag.
- The ship represents New Hampshire's naval history.
- The rising sun symbolizes the birth of a new nation.
- The blue field reflects loyalty and justice.
- The flag design is based on the state seal.
- The current flag was officially adopted in 1909.

Seal deep dive

stateSeal

The New Hampshire state seal centered on a dark blue field.
Meaning: Maritime heritage, independence, and New Hampshire's place as the ninth state

frigate

The frigate Raleigh shown on the water.
Meaning: New Hampshire's role in the American Revolution and naval shipbuilding

wreath

A laurel wreath encircling the seal.
Meaning: Honor, achievement, and victory

stars

Nine gold stars surrounding the seal.
Meaning: New Hampshire as the ninth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution

Vexillology notes

Design type: State seal on blue field
Complexity: 8/10
Readability: 4/10

Printable reference sheet for classroom use.