

New Mexico State Flag

Land of Enchantment • Capital: Santa Fe • Statehood: 1912

Overview

A golden field with a red Zia sun symbol at centre. The design, borrowed from Pueblo culture, radiates in fourfold symmetry, directions, seasons, life stages, sacred elements. It is minimal, luminous, and one of the nation's most admired state flags.

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1925-03-19
Designer: Harry and Reba Mera
Ratio: 2:3
Gold field with red Zia sun symbol in the center.

Colors



#FFD700 #B22234

Symbolism

Zia sun symbol	Represents the Zia people and the sacred number four.
red and gold	Colors of Spain, honoring early colonial history.

Historical timeline

- 1912: New Mexico admitted as the 47th state.
- 1925: Zia sun symbol design adopted.

Notable facts

- One of the most recognizable and simple U.S. state flags.
- Santa Fe is the oldest capital city in the U.S.
- The Zia sun symbol is the central feature of the flag.
- The symbol represents harmony among the four elements of life.
- Red and yellow colors reflect Spanish heritage.
- The design avoids text, seals, and complex imagery.
- The flag was officially adopted in 1925.
- It consistently ranks among the highest-rated state flags.

Seal deep dive

ziasun
A red Zia sun symbol centered on a gold field.
Meaning: The four directions, seasons, times of day, stages of life, and the sacred number four

colorField
A solid gold (yellow) background.
Meaning: Sunshine, warmth, and New Mexico's Spanish heritage

Vexillology notes

Design type: Symbolic indigenous emblem flag
Complexity: 1/10
Readability: 10/10