

North Carolina State Flag

Tar Heel State • Capital: Raleigh • Statehood: 1789

Overview

A blue vertical band with white star and letters “N C,” beside red-over-white horizontal bars. Two golden scrolls show dates: the 1775 Mecklenburg Declaration and the 1776 Halifax Resolves, early steps toward independence. The flag weds state pride to revolutionary fervour.

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1885-03-09

Designer: Johnston Jones

Ratio: 2:3

Vertical blue bar with white star and letters ‘N’ and ‘C’; horizontal red and white bars.

Colors

   

#B22234 #002D72 #FFD700 #FFFFFF

Symbolism

red and white bars	Courage and purity.
blue union	Represents vigilance and perseverance.
dates	May 20, 1775 (Mecklenburg Declaration) and April 12, 1776 (Halifax Resolves).

Historical timeline

- 1775: Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.
- 1885: Current flag design adopted.
- 1861 — Original flag adopted after secession from the Union.

Notable facts

- Dates on the flag commemorate North Carolina’s independence movement.
- One of the few state flags with multiple historical dates displayed.
- The dates mark the Mecklenburg Declaration and the Halifax Resolves.
- The letters ‘N’ and ‘C’ flank the central star.
- The lone star symbolizes unity and statehood.
- Red, white, and blue reflect national colors.
- The flag is divided into vertical and horizontal sections.
- The current design was officially adopted in 1885.

Seal deep dive

star

A white five-pointed star centered on the blue bar at the hoist.

Meaning: North Carolina as a single state

initials

The gold letters N and C on either side of the star.

Meaning: The state’s initials

dates

Two dates displayed on scrolls: May 20, 1775 and April 12, 1776.

Meaning: The Mecklenburg Declaration and Halifax Resolves asserting early independence

Vexillology notes

Design type: Hoist bar with star and initials beside two horizontal bars

Complexity: 5/10

Readability: 6/10

Printable reference sheet for classroom use.