

North Dakota State Flag

Peace Garden State • Capital: Bismarck • Statehood: 1889

Overview

On blue, an eagle clutching arrows and olive branch, a shield on its breast, and a banner reading “E Pluribus Unum.” Above, a fan of thirteen stars. The design echoes the national coat of arms, asserting loyalty and federal unity.

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1911-03-03
Designer: Adapted from regimental flag
Ratio: 26:33
Blue field with eagle, scroll reading ‘North Dakota,’ and 13 stars.

Colors

   

#002D72 #FFD700 #FFFFFF #B22234

Symbolism

bald eagle	Represents strength and freedom.
shield on eagle’s chest	Reflects the U.S. flag.
olive branch and arrows	Symbols of peace and defense.

Historical timeline

- 1889: Statehood granted.
- 1911: Official adoption of current design.

Notable facts

- The design closely resembles a military flag used by North Dakota troops.
- The nickname ‘Peace Garden State’ references the International Peace Garden on the border with Canada.
- The flag is based on the unit banner of the First North Dakota Infantry.
- An eagle holding arrows and an olive branch is the central symbol.
- The shield on the eagle represents national defense.
- The scroll below the eagle bears the state name.
- The flag features a dark blue field.
- The design was officially adopted in 1911.

Seal deep dive

eagle
A bald eagle displayed prominently at the center of the flag.
Meaning: Peace through strength, national unity, and federal authority

shield
A stars-and-stripes shield on the eagle’s breast.
Meaning: The thirteen original states and loyalty to the Union

motto
A red ribbon held in the eagle’s beak reading ‘E Pluribus Unum’.
Meaning: Unity formed from many states and peoples

stateName
A scroll beneath the eagle reading ‘NORTH DAKOTA’.
Meaning: Clear labeling of the state

Vexillology notes

Design type: National eagle emblem on blue field

Complexity: 8/10

Readability: 4/10

Printable reference sheet for classroom use.