

Ohio State Flag

Buckeye State • Capital: Columbus • Statehood: 1803

Overview

Unique in form, the only U.S. state flag that is not a rectangle. A swallowtail burgee of red, white, and blue, with stars and a red disc at centre, an “O” for Ohio that doubles as a buckeye. Nautical, distinctive, and proudly singular.

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1902-05-09
Designer: John Eisenmann
Ratio: 8:13 (swallowtail)
Burgee design with 17 stars, circle, and stripes.

Colors

#B22234

#3C3B6E

#FFFFFF

Symbolism

red and white stripes	Represent the roads and waterways.
blue triangle	Symbolizes Ohio's hills and valleys.
white circle with red center	Represents the 'O' of Ohio and a buckeye.

Historical timeline

- 1803: Ohio admitted as the 17th state.
- 1902: Burgee design flag officially adopted

Notable facts

- Only U.S. state flag that is not rectangular.
- Stars represent Ohio's order as the 17th state.
- The flag is a swallowtail design called a burgee.
- Four stars at the point of the triangle bring the total to seventeen, for Ohio as the 17th state.
- The white ring with a red center forms an 'O' and suggests a buckeye.
- Red, white, and blue reflect national colors.
- Thirteen stars represent the original colonies.
- The flag was officially adopted in 1902.

Seal deep dive

- swallowtail**
A distinctive swallowtail (burgee-style) flag shape.
Meaning: Uniqueness, movement, and Ohio's break from standard state flag conventions
- circle**
A white ring with a red disc at its center, set on the blue triangle.
Meaning: The letter 'O' for Ohio and the buckeye behind the state's nickname
- stars**
Seventeen white stars arranged around the central emblem.
Meaning: The original thirteen states and Ohio as the 17th state
- stripes**
Red and white horizontal stripes extending to the fly.
Meaning: Patriotism and unity with the United States

Vexillology notes

Design type: Swallowtail burgee

Complexity: 4/10

Readability: 9/10

Printable reference sheet for classroom use.