

Pennsylvania State Flag

Keystone State • Capital: Harrisburg • Statehood: 1787

Overview

On blue, the state coat of arms: a shield with ship, plough, and sheaves of wheat, flanked by black horses, crowned by an eagle. Beneath, the motto “Virtue, Liberty, and Independence.” Heraldic and elaborate, a full tableau of plenty.

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1907-06-13
Designer: Based on state coat of arms
Ratio: 27:37
Blue field with coat of arms featuring horses, eagle, and shield with symbols of commerce and farming.

Colors

#002D72 #FFD700 #FFFFFF #008000

Symbolism

horses	Supporters symbolize strength and independence.
eagle	Represents the United States.
motto	‘Virtue, Liberty, and Independence.’

Historical timeline

- 1787: Pennsylvania ratified the Constitution.
- 1907: Flag standardized and officially adopted.

Notable facts

- Pennsylvania is nicknamed the Keystone State for its central role in U.S. founding. Philadelphia hosted the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
- The state seal is the central feature of the flag.
- Two horses support the shield on the seal.
- The shield represents commerce, agriculture, and industry.
- An eagle above the shield symbolizes the United States.
- The flag features a dark blue field.
- The current flag design was officially adopted in 1907.

Seal deep dive

stateSeal
The Pennsylvania state coat of arms centered on a dark blue field.
Meaning: Commerce, agriculture, strength, and Pennsylvania’s role in the Union

shieldSymbols
A shield depicting a ship above a plow and three sheaves of wheat.
Meaning: Trade, industry, and agricultural prosperity

horses
Two black horses supporting the shield on either side.
Meaning: Strength, endurance, and readiness

motto
The state motto 'Virtue, Liberty, and Independence' displayed on a ribbon.
Meaning: Core civic values guiding the state

Vexillology notes

Design type: State coat of arms on blue field

Complexity: 9/10

Readability: 3/10

Printable reference sheet for classroom use.