

West Virginia State Flag

Mountain State • Capital: Charleston • Statehood: 1863

Overview

A white field bordered in blue, with the state coat of arms framed by a wreath of rhododendron. Farmer and miner flank a rock inscribed “June 20, 1863,” the date of statehood. Above, a red ribbon spells “State of West Virginia.”

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1929-03-07

Designer: Legislative adoption

Ratio: 10:19

White field bordered in blue, with state coat of arms surrounded by rhododendrons and red ribbon.

Colors

#FFFFFF #002D72 #FF0000 #008000

Symbolism

coat of arms	Depicts farmers, miners, and symbols of liberty.
rhododendron	Represents the state flower.
motto	‘Montani Semper Liberi’ means ‘Mountaineers are Always Free.’

Historical timeline

- 1863: West Virginia admitted as 35th state during the Civil War.
- 1929: Current flag adopted with rhododendron framing.

Notable facts

- Only state formed by seceding from a Confederate state during the Civil War.
- Nicknamed the Mountain State for its rugged terrain and Appalachian region.
- The state seal is centered on a white field.
- A wreath of rhododendron, the state flower, surrounds the seal.
- Two men represent agriculture and industry.
- The cap above the seal symbolizes liberty.
- The blue border distinguishes it from plain white flags.
- The current flag design was officially adopted in 1929.

Seal deep dive

stateSeal

The West Virginia state seal centered on a white field with a blue border.

Meaning: Labor, freedom, and West Virginia’s separation from Virginia during the Civil War

figures

A farmer and a miner standing on either side of a central rock.

Meaning: Agriculture and industry united in building the state

date

The date 'June 20, 1863' inscribed on the central rock.

Meaning: West Virginia’s admission to the Union

motto

The state motto 'Montani Semper Liberi' displayed on a ribbon.

Meaning: Mountaineers are always free

Vexillology notes

Design type: State seal on white field with border

Complexity: 8/10

Readability: 4/10

Printable reference sheet for classroom use.