

Wisconsin State Flag

Badger State • Capital: Madison • Statehood: 1848

Overview

Blue field with state coat of arms: shield quartered with symbols of labour, mining, agriculture and industry. Sailor and miner flank it; “Wisconsin” written above; “1848” below for statehood. Detailed, busy, and unapologetically industrious.

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1913
Designer: Legislative adoption (based on 1851 militia flag)
Ratio: 2:3
Blue field with ‘WISCONSIN’ above the coat of arms and ‘1848’ below.

Colors

#002D72

#FFD700

#FFFFFF

#B22234

Symbolism

1848	Marks the year Wisconsin became a state.
coat of arms	Represents mining, agriculture, manufacturing, and navigation.
badger	State animal and nickname.

Historical timeline

- 1848: Admitted as the 30th state.
- 1981: Wordmark ‘WISCONSIN’ and ‘1848’ added for identification.
- 1863 — Early regimental flags led to a standardized state flag.

Notable facts

- Known as the Badger State after lead miners who lived in hillside huts.
- Design frequently cited in debates about simplifying seal-on-blue flags.
- The state coat of arms is the central feature of the flag.
- The badger appears as a symbol of perseverance.
- The seal includes symbols of agriculture, mining, and manufacturing.
- The year 1848 marks Wisconsin’s admission to the Union.
- The flag features a deep blue field.
- The current design was officially adopted in 1913.

Seal deep dive

stateSeal
The Wisconsin state seal centered on a dark blue field.
Meaning: Industry, agriculture, commerce, and Wisconsin’s statehood

figures
A sailor and a miner standing as supporters of the shield.
Meaning: Trade via waterways and mineral extraction as early economic drivers

badger
A badger positioned above the shield.
Meaning: Wisconsin as the Badger State, representing perseverance and hard work

mottoAndDate
The state motto ‘Forward’ and the year ‘1848’.
Meaning: Progress and Wisconsin’s admission to the Union

Vexillology notes

Design type: State seal on blue field

Complexity: 9/10

Readability: 3/10

Printable reference sheet for classroom use.