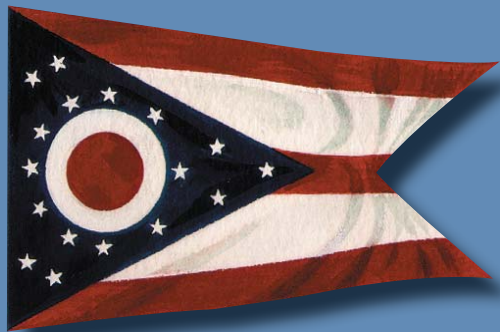


In 2002, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the Ohio flag, the Ohio General Assembly adopted a pledge to the Ohio flag for the first time in state history which can be recited following the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

*"I salute the flag of the state of Ohio
and pledge to the Buckeye State
respect and loyalty"*



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Ohio Secretary of State 

State Flag of Ohio
Since 1902





Ohio is the only state to have a swallow-tailed burgee, unlike the regular rectangular

The first flying of the Ohio state flag was in Buffalo, New York, at the Pan-American Exposition. It was at this exposition that President William McKinley, one of many Ohio born United States Presidents, was assassinated.

It took Ohio almost 100 years to come up with its own flag.



Fruit
Tomato
Beverage
Tomato Juice



Native Fruit
Paw Paw



Frog
Bullfrog



Reptile
Black Racer Snake

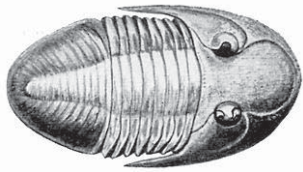


Gem Stone
Ohio Flint



Wildflower
White Trillium

A complete list of state symbols can be found in the Ohio Revised Code, Available online at codes.ohio.gov/orc/gp5



Fossil
Isotelus



Bird
Cardinal



Animal
White-tailed deer



Flower
Scarlet Carnation



Insect
Ladybug



Tree
Ohio Buckeye



Amphibian
Spotted Salamander



Ohio's official flag was adopted by an act of the Ohio Legislature on May 9, 1902. The Ohio burgee, as the swallow-tailed design is properly called, was drawn by John Eisenmann, architect and designer for the Ohio State Pan-American Exposition Commission.

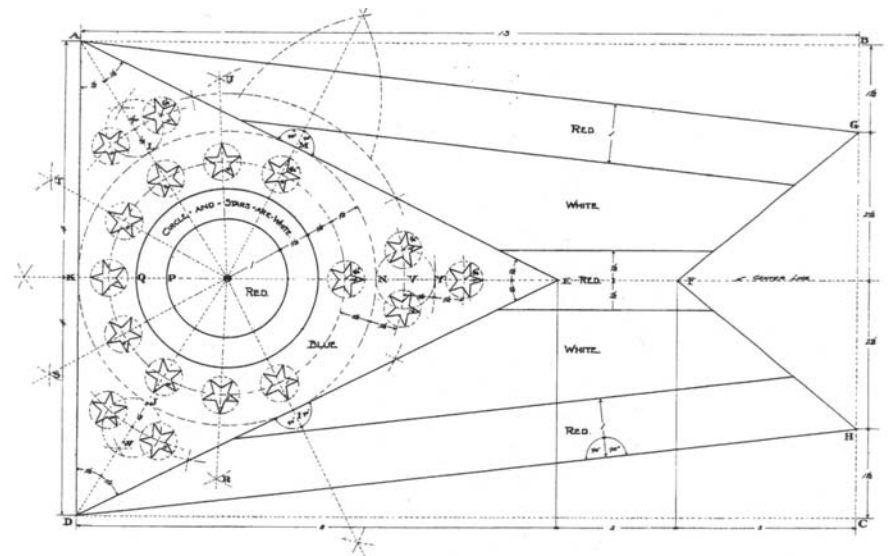
The Ohio flag has three red and two white horizontal stripes. At its staff end is a blue triangular field with the apex at the center of the middle red stripe. There are 17 white, five-pointed stars grouped around a red disc superimposed upon a white circular O.

Mr. Eisenmann explained the Ohio flag's symbolism most aptly:

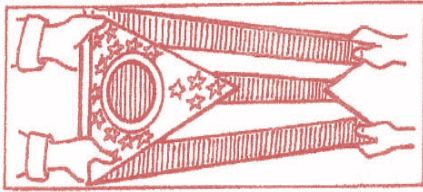
"The triangles formed by the main lines of the flag represent the hills and valleys as typified in the State Seal, and the stripes the roads and waterways.

The stars, indicating the 13 original states of the Union, are grouped about the circle, which represents the Northwest Territory; and that Ohio was the seventeenth state admitted into the Union is shown by adding four more stars.

The white circle with its red center, not only represents the initial letter of Ohio, but is suggestive of its being the Buckeye State."



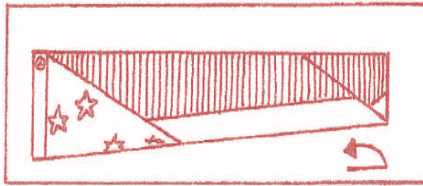
Above is a copy of John Eisenmann's original design for the Ohio State Flag.



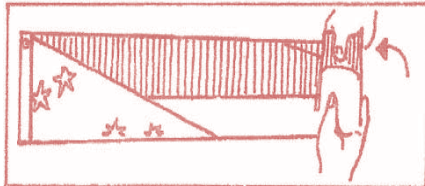
Step 1: Fold in half length-wise so the points are aligned.



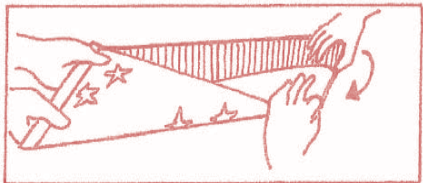
Step 2: Fold in half length-wise again, with the red disc facing down



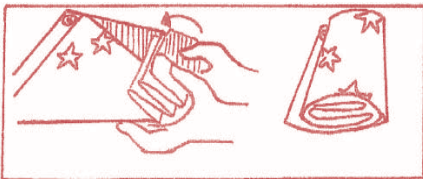
Step 3: Fold pointed end back on itself.



Step 4: Fold two inches of flag onto itself.



Step 5: Repeat two-inch fold 14 times, alternating in a fan-like manner.



Step 6: Wrap remaining length of flag around fan-folds to make a rectangle.

Alex Weinstock, an Eagle Scout from Ohio's Junction City Troop 260, devised the method of folding the Ohio state flag as his Eagle project. The 17 folds symbolize that Ohio was the 17th state admitted to the Union. This procedure was signed into law by the Governor in 2005.

W

hen the state flag is displayed, it may be flown every day when weather permits and shall be flown from sunrise until sunset on all national and state holidays and on any other days that the governor proclaims. The state flag may be flown at night when properly lighted. When the state flag is displayed outdoors, it shall be flown either from a flagpole or a staff. Any staff from which the state flag is flown shall be at least two and one-half times as long as the state flag.

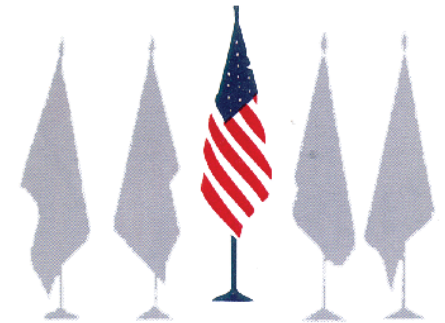
The state flag shall be washed or dry cleaned when soiled and may be repaired. When the state flag is damaged beyond repair, it shall be destroyed privately either by cutting it into small pieces and burning it until only ashes remain or by sealing it in a plastic bag or box before discarding it in a trash collection.

When the flag of Ohio, or any state, is flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States of America, the latter should always be at the peak. When flown from adjacent staffs, the Stars and Stripes should be hoisted first and lowered last.

When a number of state flags are grouped and displayed from staffs with our national flag, the United States Flag should be at the center or at the highest point of the group.

When carried in a procession with the Ohio flag, or any state flag, the flag of the United States should be on the marching right.

When there is a line of several state flags, the national flag should be in the front and center of that line.



The current American flag was designed by Robert Heft who was living with his grandparents in Lancaster, Ohio. At the age of 17 Heft took the redesign on as a school project, receiving a B-. When told by his teacher that he could improve his grade if he could get the US Congress to accept his design that is just what he did.