

Nevada's Fun with Flags

Did you know that Nevada has had four different official state flags in its history?



This design was used for Nevada's first official state flag. It was created by Governor John Sparks and Colonel Harry Day in 1905 and remained the state flag until 1915. The words "Silver" and "Gold" were included on the flag to represent the large amounts of silver and gold that were found in the state. There were 36 stars on this flag to represent Nevada being the 36th state of the United States.

Nevada's second state flag was designed in 1915 by an educator and historian named Clara M. Crisler. Ms. Crisler wanted to create a flag that was more representative of the state. She used imagery from the state seal and included the state motto in her design. Because of the variety of colors included in the design of this flag, it was too expensive to produce and was later abandoned in favor of a design that cost less.



Nevada's third state flag was chosen through a statewide contest in 1929. The winning design was created by Don Shellbach III. The background color (cobalt blue) was different than previous flags. Still, the blue color of the Nevada state flag symbolized the state's loyalty to the United States. The words "Battle Born" remind us that we became a state during the Civil War. The large silver star represents our state nickname, "The Silver State." The sagebrush at the bottom of the design represents our state flower.

Nevada's fourth and current flag was adopted in 1991. State Senator Bill Raggio introduced Senate Bill 396 of the 66th Session to change the previous flag statute. The change put "Nevada" below the star and above the sagebrush in a semi-circular pattern that was easier to read. The flag amendment also chose specific colors for the flag, the type of material, and printing method to use when making the flag.



The following is the official statute describing the flag of the state of Nevada:

NRS 235.020 State flag. The official flag of the State of Nevada is hereby created. The body of the flag must be of solid cobalt blue. On the field in the upper left quarter thereof must be two sprays of Sagebrush with the stems crossed at the bottom to form a half wreath. Within the sprays must be a five-pointed silver star with one point up. The word "Nevada" must also be inscribed below the star and above the sprays, in a semicircular pattern with the letters spaced apart in equal increments, in the same style of letters as the words "Battle Born." Above the wreath, and touching the tips thereof, must be a scroll bearing the words "Battle Born." The scroll and the word "Nevada" must be golden-yellow. The lettering on the scroll must be black-colored sans serif gothic capital letters.

[1:147:1929; NCL § 7020]—(NRS A [1991, 773](#))

Now It's Your Turn!

Use the questions below and the blank space provided on the next page to create your own Nevada state flag design. Think about what makes Nevada uniquely Nevada and how you can put that into a design for our state flag. You can use elements from the previous Nevada state flags or create something completely new. It's up to you! Remember, this flag needs to represent the state of Nevada, so try to include symbols, colors, ideas that show off our state.

1. What symbol or symbols will you include and why? Some of Nevada's state symbols include sagebrush (the state flower), silver (the state metal), the Mountain Bluebird (the state bird), the ichthyosaur (the state fossil), the Desert Bighorn Sheep (the state animal), and the tule duck decoy (the state artifact).

2. What colors will you use and why?

3. What shape will your flag be and why? Draw a small picture below.

Note: Flags do not all have to be rectangular in shape. The state flag of Ohio is a pennant that is based on the flag flown by the U.S. Cavalry during both the Civil and Spanish-American Wars and looks like this:

The shape of Ohio's state flag:



The shape of your Nevada state flag design:

4. Describe your flag and how it represents the state of Nevada in two to three sentences.

Use this page to design your flag!