

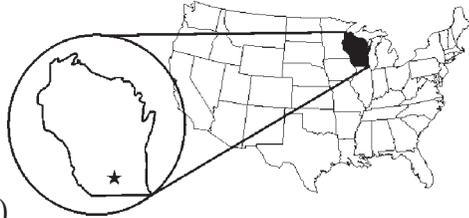
MADISON, WISCONSIN



Population Rank: U.S. # 83
Wisconsin # 2

Proportions: 3:5 (usage)

Adopted: 12 April 1962 (official)



DESIGN: According to the resolution adopting the flag of Madison:

This flag is of light blue color and is bisected diagonally by a white band running diagonally from the lower left to the upper right of the flag, when looking at it... Superimposed on this background is a Black Cross ... and overlaid on this Black Cross is the Indian Sun symbol in gold.

SYMBOLISM: The resolution states: *The two light blue segments separated by the white diagonal band represent Lakes Mendota and Monona. The white band symbolizes the isthmus between the two lakes.* In fact, however, two additional lakes, Lake Kegonsa and Lake Waubesa, are linked to Lake Mendota and Lake Monona by the Yahara River. A Native American tribe, the Winnebago, had originally settled on the

site and called it *Dejop* or “Four Lakes”; today Madison is known as the “City of Four Lakes”. The four points on the black cross symbolize these four lakes. The placement of the cross in the center of the white stripe also suggests Madison’s role as Wisconsin state capital, located in the center of the isthmus. The designers placed the Native American sun sign on the flag to show Madison as a “shining city” and add more color to the flag. (The same sun sign appears on the flags of the state of New Mexico and the cities of Albuquerque and Wichita).

HOW SELECTED: Adopted by a formal resolution of the common council of Madison upon the initiative of the Madison Drum and Bugle Corps. The flag was dedicated to the city by the designers and their parents.

DESIGNERS: Rick and Dennis Stone, Boy Scouts and members of the Madison Drum and Bugle Corps, with the aid of John Price, their color guard instructor.

MORE ABOUT THE FLAG: The designers’ mother made the first city flags. In 1965, the city attorney, Edwin Conrad, considered using the city flag with its simple design and striking colors as the cover for a bond prospectus. Comparing the wording of the flag’s resolution with the flag hanging in council chambers just a few feet from his seat, he discovered that the flag had been displayed upside down since its installation three years before.

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