

Minnesota

Explore Minnesota



Flag:

[The Minnesota state flag](#) is royal blue, with a gold fringe. In the center of the flag is the state seal. Around the state seal is a wreath of the state flower, the lady slipper. Three dates are woven into the wreath: 1858, the year Minnesota became a state; 1819, the year Fort Snelling was established; and 1893, the year the official flag was adopted. Nineteen stars ring the wreath. The largest star represents Minnesota.

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The official nickname of Minnesota is the North Star State, and the state seal has the motto *L'Etoile du Nord* on it. It is also commonly known as the **Gopher State**, a nickname which dates back to around 1880 and is based on the fact that the American football team of the Minnesota State University were known as "The Golden Gophers" (a variety of squirrel) - but Arkansas also laid claim to the name 35 years earlier. Energetic supporters of the state have variously given it names like **Bread and Butter State** or **Bread Basket of the Nation**, **Cream Pitcher of the Nation**, and the **Wheat State**, all based on the state's production of wheat and dairy produce, and **Playground of the Nation**. The numerous lakes in the state have also led it to be known occasionally as the **Land of 10,000 Lakes** (in fact, Minnesota has more like 12,000 lakes) - Minnesota licence plates have **10,000 Lakes** on them.

Economy:

Agriculture: Dairy products, corn, cattle, soybeans, hogs, wheat, turkeys.

Industry: Machinery, food processing, printing and publishing, fabricated metal products, electric equipment, mining, tourism.