

MIRROR OF THE SKY

A new flag for all Minnesotans



Unique, essential, enduring, and bold.

This design pays tribute to Minnesota’s diverse and dynamic landscape, with wisps of snow, clouds, and aurora reflected by pristine, bending waters, and a guiding, four-pointed North Star—inspired by the symbols and astronomy of the Dakota and Ojibwe peoples.

MIRRORING

Land where waters reflect the sky

The flag’s design showcases the Dakota principle of “mirroring,” or *Kapemni*—“as it is above, it is below”—from which our state takes its name: *Mnisota Makoce* means “land where waters reflect the sky.”

FATHER OF WATERS

Headwaters of the Mississippi River

From its modest origins at Lake Itasca, the Great River *Misi-zibi* winds its way across Minnesota through bluff and prairie, town and country; the mighty Mississippi courses with the history of our state.

CONFLUENCE

Where the heavens meet the earth

The design includes a representation of *Bdote*—the Dakota’s spiritual center of creation, and site of the state’s earliest settlements—at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers.

THE NORTH STAR

L’Étoile du Nord · Polaris

Known by the Dakota as *Wicahpi Owanjila*, or “the star that stays in one place,” the four-pointed North Star is inspired by designs from Dakota star maps, and features prominently—to guide all Minnesotans home.

SKY & HEAVENS

Aurora · Clouds · Snow

Whether to witness the dazzling lightshows of the northern lights, the galactic avenues of the Milky Way, the feathery wisps of cirrus clouds, or the swirling snows of winter, we have always looked to the skies for inspiration.

LAKES & RIVERS

Agriculture · Exploration

From ripples on a backyard pond to the whitecaps of Superior’s shore, Minnesota’s many lakes and waterways provide some of its purest and truest charms—enabling the cultivation and discovery of this rich and verdant land.

THE LOON

Spirit · Grace · Leadership

Ojibwe star knowledge places the North Star, *Giwedinang Anung*, in the constellation *Maang*—or “the Loon;” as a symbol of the Anishinaabe clan system, and Minnesota’s state bird, the loon represents courage and resilience.

Todd Pitman is a Minnesota-born artist, designer, writer, and filmmaker whose work explores the spaces we inhabit and engage, and the ways we move between here, there, then, and now. Born in Minneapolis and raised in Saint Paul, Todd has a bachelor’s degree in Digital Media Arts from Hamline University, and has worked since 2004 as creative director for a local multimedia design agency. He lives in Saint Paul with his wife Caitlin.

Peter Pitman is a first-generation Minnesotan, astronomer, and retired White Bear Lake science teacher who lives in Saint Paul with his wife Herta.

