

# Kansas



On 29 January 1861, Kansas became the 34<sup>th</sup> state and the last state to join the union prior to the Civil War.

First flown at Fort Riley by Governor Ben Paulin for the troops at Fort Riley and for the Kansas National Guard and officially adopted by the Kansas State Legislature on May 21, 1927, the State Flag displays the [Great Seal of the State of Kansas](#) centered on a blue field. Above the seal is the state crest, a sunflower resting on a twisted blue and gold bar. Below the seal in gold block lettering is the name of the state, "KANSAS"

The State Crest consists of a twisted blue and gold bar representing the Louisiana Purchase, from which Kansas was carved. The state flower, the Sunflower is depicted as if "torn from its stalk." Some say that the "open frankness of the Sunflower is indicative of the fearlessness with which Kansas meets her problems and solves them."

The State Seal centered on the flag tells, eloquently, the story of Kansas. The thirty-four stars clustered at the top of the seal identify Kansas as the 34th state to be accepted into the Union. Above the stars is printed the state motto, "Ad Astra per Aspera", Latin for "To the Stars through Difficulties."

The rolling hills around Fort Riley are reflected in the seal. The Indians hunting American Bison, the prairie schooners heading west and the oxen mirror the expanding frontier. The farmer, plowing his field before his cabin represents agricultural assets while the steamboat navigating the Kansas River, delivering supplies to Manhattan and Fort Riley, represents commerce within the state.

Source: [http://www.netstate.com/states/symb/flags/ks\\_flag.htm](http://www.netstate.com/states/symb/flags/ks_flag.htm)