

FLAG FACTS



- The U.S. entry into World War I inspired Helen L. Paul, the wife of a U.S. naval officer stationed in Guam, to design a territorial flag. The emblem's shape resembles the slingshot stones once used by the Chamorros for hunting and sport. The scene shows the Hagåtña (Agana) River mouth with a coconut palm in the foreground. Two Lovers' Leap, the cliff in the background, recalls a traditional story. A form of outrigger canoe formerly in use completes the design.
- This flag was officially adopted by the territorial government on July 4, 1917 and was reconfirmed on May 12, 1931. Japanese forces occupied Guam for nearly three years during World War II. In commemoration of the hardships endured during that period, a red border was added to the flag on February 9, 1948.
- After World War II, the Guam Organic Act of 1950 established Guam as an unincorporated organized territory of the United States, provided for the structure of the island's civilian government, and granted the people U.S. citizenship.
- U.S. territorial flag consisting of a dark blue field (background) bordered in red and bearing at its center a red-bordered ellipse containing a brown boat with a white sail on a dark blue sea, a light blue sky, a gray cliff in the background, and yellow sand in the foreground with a coconut palm in brown and and green.
- Guam statute specifies the proportion and spacing for the flag's visual elements in inches. The flag should have a hoist of 40 inches and a fly of 78 inches. The red border is 2 inches wide and the seal at the center should be 24 inches tall and 16 inches wide. The flag's width-to-length ratio is 22 to 41.