



Design a Cook County flag for the 21st century!

- 1 Cook County Government will celebrate 190 years in January 2021. We want all County residents currently attending high school (grades 9–12) to help design the new flag, or #FLAG2021.
- 2 The winning design will be the official banner of Cook County Government, flown in all County operated locations and raised above Daley Plaza next January in a ceremony marking the introduction of #FLAG2021.
- 3 Submit online at cookcountyil.gov/flag2021, email your design to flag2021@cookcountyil.gov, or mail this entry form (or a physical flag!) to 118 N Clark St, Room 436, Chicago, IL 60602

(OPTIONAL OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM ON REVERSE)

THE CHALLENGE: GEOGRAPHY, MISSION, HISTORY AND PEOPLE OF COOK COUNTY

Geography: Consider any or all of the following—the Forest Preserve, Lake Michigan, the rivers which run throughout the County and feed the lake. There are six main geographic regions of the County—the City of Chicago is the County seat (capital) and five suburban regions (North, Northwest, West, Southwest, South).

County Mission and History: Cook County has played a large role in the development of the modern United States, providing **Health Care**, regardless of ability to pay; **Transportation and Roadways**, including the major local expressways and work at the airports; comprehensive provision of the **Justice System**; a commitment to the Preservation of the **Environment** and Forest Preserves; and as a Center of **Commerce** for the nation.

People: Cook County is home to people who come from all over the nation and the world, with many different groups of residents coming together to make one county of over 5.2 million people.

TIPS

Symbols can be anything, just keep it simple and easy to recognize!



Shapes such as Stars & Stripes are very common in flag design.

The flag of Chicago has broad blue stripes and four six-pointed stars in red. The white stripes represent the North, West and South sides of the city. The two blue stripes symbolize Lake Michigan and the Chicago River. The stars represent important historic moments.

Colors should reflect the region and represent or convey emotion.



Watch the TED talk by Roman Mars!



SOME DOs AND DON'Ts

- DO** give your flag a name—provide a title which speaks to the geography, mission and people.
- DO** describe what your flag means for the judges—the various colors, symbols, shapes and patterns. For example, if a star on your design has a number of points and each point has a meaning, share that meaning. Everything that has meaning in your design should be explained.
- DO** submit your flag by May 31, 2020 (see above).
- DON'T** use any text, lettering, or numbering—the colors, symbols, and patterns should represent the flag's meaning.
- DON'T** use the Cook County seal, map, or existing flag.
- DON'T** use too many colors—a maximum of four is suggested but a flag with more will still be considered.
- DON'T** include intricate, small, or hard to see design elements
 - from 100 yards away, a 3' x 5' flag appears smaller than your hand
 - the new Cook County flag will be reproduced in many small versions, including mini flags, logos, pins, patches, etc.

CONTEST GUIDELINES AND ENTRY FORM –read and check box below

Entries will be accepted (1) online at cookcountyil.gov/flag2021; (2) by email to flag2021@cookcountyil.gov; (3) by mailing this completed form (or any physically constructed flag, cloth, felt, or otherwise) to 118 N Clark St, Room 436, Chicago, IL 60602, by 5:00 p.m. on May 31, 2020.

Please note that your name should not appear within the flag image; please only put your name and other identifying information in the form above, the online submission form, the body of an email, or accompanying attachment to a physical flag submission. Reviewing submissions will be anonymous and the panel will assign a number to your entry.

Include a flag title and explanation of its various elements, colors, and symbolism. This will be presented to the panel along with your flag design. As noted above, do not reveal personal information in this description.

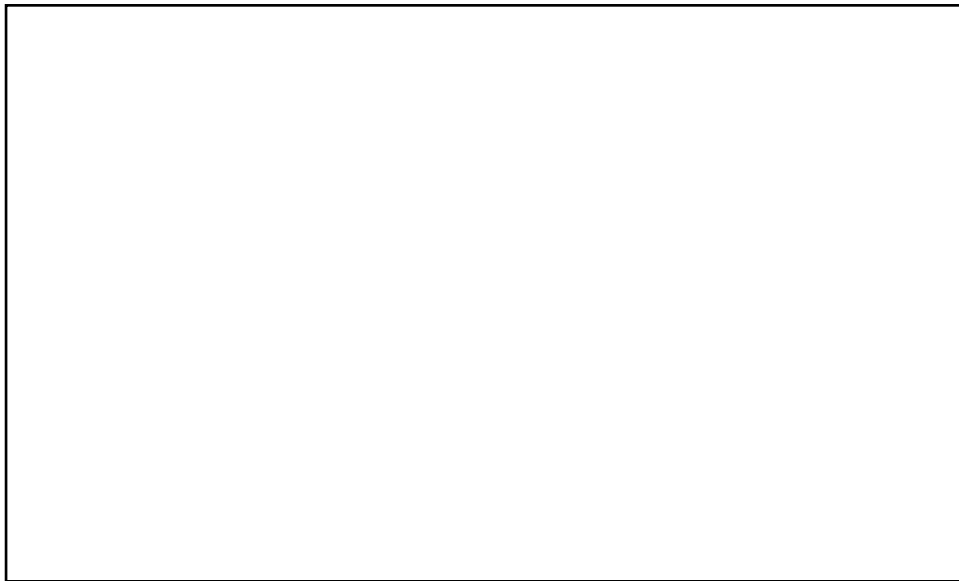
Designs must be submitted either as a 3x5-inch (or 3:5 ratio) drawing or JPEG/PDF/Vector image. (Physical submissions may be larger than 3x5 inches yet must adhere to the 3:5 ratio.) A resolution of 900x1500 pixels works well, and please no files larger than 5 MB.

Entries should use solid colors, the same image on both sides, and be the original work of the artist. Students under 18 must submit entry with parent/guardian permission, be a Cook County resident and in high school, grades 9–12.

All entries become property of Cook County Government and will be considered in the public domain. The student will relinquish all rights to the design. The panel reserves the right to alter, modify, or combine designs to create an official Cook County flag.

Questions? Need help with your submission or formatting? Email flag2021@cookcountyil.gov and we'll be happy to help.

By checking this box I acknowledge I have read and agree to the above guidelines



Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email Address _____ Grade _____

Your Address _____ Your City _____ Your Zip Code _____

School _____ School City _____

Flag Title _____

Description of Elements _____

_____ *attach additional page if more space needed*