

# Akron, Ohio



*Population Rank:* U.S. .... # 81  
Ohio ..... # 5

*Proportions:* 3:5 (usage)

*Adopted:* March 1996 (official)



**DESIGN:** Akron's flag has a white field with the city seal in the center. The seal features an American shield, which recalls the design of the All-America City program's shield, awarded to cities meeting the program criteria. Akron's shield is divided roughly into thirds horizontally. At the top of the shield are two rows of five white five-pointed stars on a dark blue field. In the center section is **AKRON** in black on white. The lower third displays six red and five white vertical stripes. Around the shield and the white field on which it rests is a dark blue ring on which **1981-ALL-AMERICA CITY-1995** curves clockwise above, and **CITY OF INVENTION** curves counterclockwise below, all in white.

**SYMBOLISM:** Akron, having twice won the distinction of “All-America City” (in 1981 and 1995), has chosen to pattern its seal to commemorate that award. The ten stars represent the ten wards of the city. **CITY OF INVENTION** refers to Akron as home to the National Inventor’s Hall of Fame at Inventure Place, a museum of inventors and inventions.

**HOW SELECTED:** Prepared by the mayor and his chief of staff.

**DESIGNER:** Mayor Don Plusquellic and his chief of staff, Joel Bailey.



**FORMER FLAG:** Akron’s former flag also places the city seal in the center of a white field. That former logo-type seal is oval, oriented horizontally. On a blue background is a rhomboid (a diamond shape). A horizontal blue line that narrows at both ends at the two horizontal points of the diamond divides it horizontally, producing two isosceles triangles. At the inner ends of the line are two short vertical lines the same width as the greater part of the horizontal lines, in a “T” turned sideways. Between the two inner ends, a white tree trunk expands above into five straight white branches tipped with arrowheads: two horizontal, one vertical, and two halfway between the others. The branches are on a field of red, with a white border that forms an “A” with very short feet. The trunk extends below the centerline to form five white roots, similarly placed below as the branches are above, but on a blue background, again with the white “A” border, this time inverted. Curved clockwise over the top of the oval is **THE CITY OF**, curved counterclockwise below the oval is **AKRON • OHIO**, all in blue. Between the two groups of letters on either side are five small red isosceles triangles resembling sun’s rays emanating from the oval. The overall effect is that the bottom half is a virtual mirror image of the upper half, with the differences noted. The flag’s proportions are 5:7 (usage).

This flag, designed by Sam Scherr, an industrial designer, was officially adopted in August 1965. Mr. Scherr, explaining the symbolism of his design, said that it was *based on historic concepts as well as future image desires. The small triangles represent the 10 wards—also expansion—growth. The triangle shapes represent Summit, and Akron means Summit in Greek. The letter 'A' is for Akron. The abstract tree represents life—growth—expansion. The top part represents direction—progress; and the bottom part represents planning—traffic—street layout. Two triangles represent the original two Akrons and are enclosed in quartic shape to form present-day Akron. The passage between the 'A's represents Akron, the City of Bridges.* Summit is also the name of the county of which Akron is the seat.

JP 