

WISCONSIN STATE SYMBOLS

Say cheese: Wisconsin's newest symbol

State dairy product. Fourth-graders from Mineral Point Elementary School researched state symbols and were surprised to discover that there was no official state dairy product. The students proposed designating cheese as the new symbol to their legislators—Representative Todd Novak and Senator Howard Marklein (*bottom, left and right*)—who agreed to bring the idea to the legislature. Ella Kroll, Isabelle Coogan, Matthew Goninen (*below, left to right*), and teacher Livia Doyle (*bottom, seated behind Senator Marklein*) testified for the proposal at a committee hearing held in March 2017 at the state capitol. The legislation later passed unanimously, and the governor signed the new symbol into law at the students' school on June 1, 2017, the first day of Dairy Month.



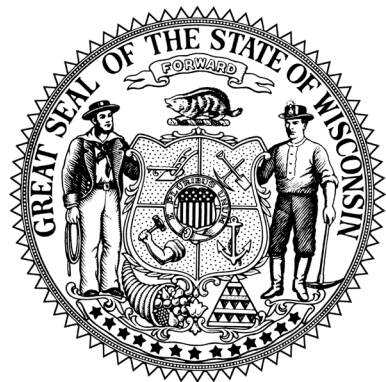
(ALL PHOTOS) JAY SALVO, LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHER



Coat of arms. The large shield at the center of the coat of arms is divided into quarters on which appear symbols for agriculture (plow), mining (pick and shovel), manufacturing (arm and hammer), and navigation (anchor). At the center of the large shield, a small shield and the band that encircles it represent the United States coat of arms and symbolize Wisconsin’s membership in and loyalty to the United States. Supporting the

large shield from the sides are a sailor holding a coil of rope and a yeoman resting on a pick. These figures represent labor on water and land. At the base of the large shield, a horn of plenty represents prosperity and abundance, and a pyramid of 13 lead ingots represents mineral wealth and the 13 original states of the United States. Above the large shield appears a badger, the state animal, and above the badger appears the state motto, “Forward.”

Great seal. The great seal consists of the state coat of arms; the words “Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin” in a curve above; and a line of 13 stars, representing the 13 original states of the United States, in a curve below, all enclosed within an ornamental border. The great seal is used to authenticate the official acts of the governor other than the governor’s approval of laws.



Flag. The state flag consists of the state coat of arms; the word “Wisconsin” in white letters above; and the statehood date “1848” in white numbers below, all centered on a royal blue field.



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The Capitol abounds in the imagery of the badger, an animal associated with Wisconsin since the early 1800s. It was officially designated the state animal in 1957.

State flower. Wood violet (*Viola papilionacea*)

State tree. Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)

State animal. Badger (*Taxidea taxus*)

State bird. Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

State fish. Muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy masquinongy* Mitchell)

State dog. American water spaniel

State insect. Honey bee (*Apis mellifera*)

State domestic animal. Dairy cow (*Bos taurus*)

State wildlife animal. White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

State symbol of peace. Mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis* Linnaeus)

State fossil. Trilobite (*Calymene celebra*)

State mineral. Galena (lead sulfide)

State rock. Red granite

State soil. Antigo silt loam (*Typic glossoboralf*)

State beverage. Milk

State fruit. Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*)

State grain. Corn (*Zea mays*)

State pastry. Kringle

State dance. Polka

State song. “On, Wisconsin,” music by W. T. Purdy

On, Wisconsin! On, Wisconsin! Grand old badger state! We, thy loyal sons and daughters, Hail thee, good and great. ■ On, Wisconsin! On, Wisconsin! Champion of the right, “Forward”, our motto—God will give thee might!

State ballad. “Oh Wisconsin, Land of My Dreams,” words by Erma Barrett, music by Shari A. Sarazin

Oh Wisconsin, land of beauty, with your hillsides and your plains, with your jackpine and your birch tree, and your oak of mighty frame. ■ Land of rivers, lakes and valleys, land of warmth and winter snows, land of birds and beasts and humanity, oh Wisconsin, I love you so. ■ Oh Wisconsin, land of my dreams. Oh Wisconsin, you’re all I’ll ever need. A little heaven here on earth could you be? Oh Wisconsin, land of my dreams. ■ In the summer, golden grain fields; in the winter, drift of white snow; in the springtime, robins singing; in the autumn, flaming colors show. ■ Oh I wonder who could wander, or who could want to drift for long, away from all your beauty, all your sunshine, all your sweet song? ■ Oh Wisconsin, land of my dreams. Oh Wisconsin, you’re all I’ll ever need. A little heaven here on earth could you be? Oh Wisconsin, land of my dreams. ■ And when it’s time, let my spirit run free in Wisconsin, land of my dreams.

State waltz. “The Wisconsin Waltz,” words and music by Eddie Hansen

Music from heaven throughout the years; the beautiful Wisconsin Waltz. Favorite song of the pioneers; the beautiful Wisconsin Waltz. ■ Song of my heart on that last final day, when it is time to lay me away. One thing I ask is to let them play the beautiful Wisconsin Waltz. ■ My sweetheart, my complete heart, it’s for you when we dance together; the beautiful Wisconsin Waltz. I remember that September, before love turned into an ember, we danced to the Wisconsin Waltz. ■ Summer ended, we intended that our lives then would both be blended, but somehow our planning got lost. ■ Memory now sings a dream song, a faded love theme song; the beautiful Wisconsin Waltz.

State tartan. The thread count of the state tartan is 44 threads muted blue; 6 threads scarlet; 4 threads muted blue; 6 threads gray; 28 threads black; 40 threads dark green; 4 threads dark yellow; 40 threads dark green; 28 threads black; 22 threads muted blue; and 12 threads dark brown (half sett with full count at the pivots).