



## Hampton Roads flag, the first regional flag in U.S.

It is flown and shown –  
on sign posts, lapel pins, etc. –  
around the Hampton Roads region.  
How do you share the regional flag?

### Creation of a regional symbol: “Hampton Roads—where Virginia meets the sea.”

The flag of Hampton Roads is named for one of the finest natural harbors in the world and the surrounding Southeastern Virginia metropolitan area of the same name. The flag was created in 1998 in a highly public process sponsored by the Hampton Roads Regional Identify Task Force. As one of a number of measures to promote recognition of the region’s historic name, Task Force Chair, Jim Babcock, proposed a contest among high school students to create a regional flag. Assisted by noted vexillologist Peter Orenski, the contest produced over 1,000 designs which were winnowed by the region’s seventeen school districts to 83 finalists. From these, a jury appointed by the region’s mayors selected three final designs that were then voted on by the general public through the media.

At a celebration on 15 June 1998, the contest winner, sixteen year-old Andrew J. Wall of Frank W. Cox High School in Virginia Beach, raised the new regional flag for the first time to the mast of the Spirit of Norfolk, moored in the Harbor. Used for several years by the ship, the first flag was subsequently framed and donated to the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, which displays it in the lobby of the Regional Building at 723 Woodlake Drive in Chesapeake, Virginia. A local company, U.S. Flag and Signal, manufactures the flag in various sizes for residential and business display.



### The region of Hampton Roads

In Southeastern Virginia, Hampton Roads includes among its sixteen municipalities--symbolized by the flag’s stars--such famous cities as Norfolk, Williamsburg, Newport News, Hampton, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk and the most populated and largest tourist city in Virginia: Virginia Beach. The original name, “Southampton Roadstead,” was given in the early 1600s by then royal governor, Lord de la Ware, in honor of Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, an energetic financial sponsor of Virginia colonization (and principal patron of William Shakespeare).

The nautical term “roadstead,” meaning a safe anchorage, evokes the area’s great history as a naval base, port, and center of shipbuilding since our nation’s beginnings. Renowned research facilities in aerospace, particle physics, oceanography, modeling and simulation, together with tourism, higher education, health care, and high tech manufacturing, characterize the area’s

modern economy. Its famous museums and myriad of world-class performing groups make Hampton Roads the arts capital of Virginia. The new flag is itself historic; it is the first flag ever created for a metropolitan region of the United States.

### **The symbolism of the flag**

The blue panel evokes the predominantly maritime character of Hampton Roads, which is the largest naval base in the world and the East Coast's second largest seaport. It recalls the first European settlers at Jamestown in 1607, the first battle between ironclad ships in 1862, the importance of its shipbuilding and ship repair industry to the nation, as well as maritime commerce, fishing, recreational boating, and the major military and government installations around the region's shores.

Agriculture, the environment, tourism, industry, and a healthy quality of life are symbolized by the lower panel of green.

The white wavy line represents the sand dunes and surf that help make the region one of the nation's most visited tourist destinations - from Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown to Norfolk's Chrysler Museum and the famous resort area at Virginia Beach. The three crests in the wave suggest past, present, and future.

The sixteen white stars, symbolizing the region's cities and counties, are displayed in a circle, the classic symbol of unity, all pointing inward to represent regional cooperation.

Water is the central theme. It touches all components and binds them together, as we are bound together as a region.

***The flag as a whole stands for the strong sense of community and unity shared by the region's 1.6 million residents in "Hampton Roads: America's First Region."***

Learn more about flags and the study of flags: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vexillology>.

Visit the "Flags of the World" website: <http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/us-va-hr.html>.

Purchase the Hampton Roads Flag, visit [www.FlagMaker.com](http://www.FlagMaker.com).

## THE FLAG OF HAMPTON ROADS, VIRGINIA SPECIFICATIONS

(Please refer to the standard rectangular view of the flag.)



The flag's overall measurements are 300 high x 500 units wide.  
The upper horizontal panel is 135 units high and is blue (PMS\*=286).  
The lower horizontal panel is 140 units high and is green (PMS\*=347).  
(\* Pantone Matching System)

The blue and green panels are separated by a horizontal white wave that is flat on the bottom and has two and one-half crests on the top. The wave is 10 units high at its three troughs and 25 units high at its three peaks. The first trough is at the hoist while the third peak is at the fly. The wave curves smoothly between these high and low points.

The flag is charged with a circle of 16 white five-pointed stars. Each star points toward the circle's center, which is 200 units from the hoist and equidistant from the upper and lower edges of the flag. Each star is 40 units high. The diameter of the circle formed by the stars' outer points is 270 units; the diameter of the circle formed by the inner "shoulders" of the stars is 220 units.

### SYMBOLISM

The Stars	The sixteen municipalities of Hampton Roads. The stars point to the center to recognize the essential unity of the region's citizens.
Blue	The sea: The region's maritime, naval, and shipbuilding heritage.
Green	The land: The region's agriculture and industry.
The Wave	The surf: The tourism attractions of Hampton Roads. The peaks of the wave represent the region's historic past, exciting present, and still unfolding future.

Thus the blue, white, and green together depict the region's motto:  
"Hampton Roads—where Virginia meets the sea."

### Hampton Roads Partnership

430 World Trade Center  
Norfolk, Virginia  
23510

<http://HRP.org>