

*Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag  
and the Mississippi Coat of Arms*

**MEMO**

To: School Superintendents  
From: William Winter, Chairman  
Fran Ivy, Chairman of the Commission's Committee on Design  
Date: September 25, 2000  
Subject: Opportunity for Students

The Governor of Mississippi has named a seventeen member Advisory Commission to recommend a design for the official Mississippi State Flag. The Advisory Commission is seeking the assistance of Mississippians in responding to this assignment. We think that it is especially important that young citizens of our state have a significant role in this process.

The Advisory Commission has forwarded information to high school principals regarding our challenge to young Mississippians. We are inviting all public, private and parochial high school students in the state to submit responses to our invitation. Such responses may include specific flag designs, essays and papers on what the flag should symbolize and views as to whether the old flag should be changed. Each individual student, student organization or student body participating in this process will receive an official Certificate of Participation from the Advisory Commission.

We hope you will encourage your students to participate in this undertaking.

***Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag  
and the Mississippi Coat of Arms***

**MEMO**

To: High School Principals  
From: William Winter, Chairman  
Fran Ivy, Chairman of the Commission's Committee on Design  
Date: September 25, 2000  
Subject: Opportunity for Students: *The Mississippi State Flag, Its Meaning  
and Design*

The Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag and the Mississippi Coat of Arms approved the enclosed material by unanimous vote at the September meeting of the Advisory Commission.

The Commission's Committee on Design has felt that since high school students will shortly be the leaders of our state, we would like to involve them in understanding what our flag stands for and the history of flags in our beloved state. We are asking your assistance in this undertaking by your passing the enclosed information on as quickly as possible to your school's English and history departments.

We are inviting all public, private and parochial high school students in the state to submit responses to our invitation. Such responses may include specific flag designs, essays and papers on what the flag should symbolize and views as to whether the old flag should be changed. Each individual student, student organization or student body participating in this process will receive an official Certificate of Participation from the Advisory Commission.

Please note that our November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline is very short. A prompt response is essential.

We hope that many students in your high school will respond. Our state deserves their thoughtful attention.



## *The Mississippi State Flag, Its Meaning and Design*

**Sponsors:** The Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag and the Mississippi Coat of Arms

**Purpose:** For high school students to understand better the history of our state and to express their feelings about both the past and the future of our state

**Method:** The Advisory Commission is inviting all public, private and parochial high school students in the state to submit responses to our invitation. Such responses may include:

- An essay (or poem) that discusses what our state flag should symbolize;
- An essay on whether our traditional state flag should be changed; or,
- A design for a new flag. This design can reflect our heritage, our history, our diversity and the beauty of our state. Your ideas and input will help guide the Advisory Commission if a new flag should be designed.

Entries will be considered for creative ideas and expression, as well as for understanding and interpretation of the flag and its meaning. Each participant should learn the components of a flag: the canton, the field and the fly. Any outstanding component could be used if a new flag should be designed.

**Rules for entries:** This opportunity is open to all Mississippi high school students.

1. Entries may be submitted on any type of paper with the size not to exceed 8 ½ X 11 inches.
2. The Advisory Commission encourages students to type their essays or poems.
3. All entries must reflect the student's name, address, school attended and grade.
4. All entries should be postmarked no later than November 15, 2000.

5. Entries should be mailed to:           The Flag Commission  
  P.O. Box 139  
  Jackson, MS 39205-0139

Participants will receive an official Certificate of Participation from the Advisory Commission.

Please contact Kelly Riley at 601-359-2528 with any questions.