

Wabanaki Flags ABBE MUSEUM



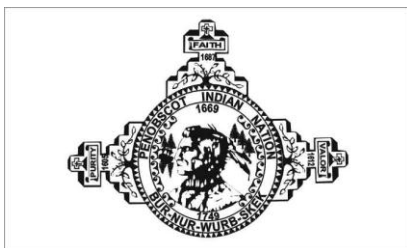
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians- the symbols include fiddleheads unfurling in the spring, which represents sustenance in spring and the first vegetables of the season- a vital resource for hunter and gatherer communities coming out of a long winter. The second is a birch bark wigwam looking onto Mt. Katahdan, the sacred mountain for most of the Wabanaki. The birch bark canoe and baskets represent a tie with traditional and modern life, and economic independence tied to identity as Maliseet people.



Passamaquoddy- This latest flag of the Passamaquoddy people was adopted in June of 1995.

The design, called the "scroll" design is a white flag bearing the new seal of the Passamaquoddy Nation. The seal begins with a circle of people (twenty in all) holding hands in four groups of five. These figures are separated by the three directions and eastern star. This denotes the unity of the Passamaquoddy "with all Native Americans from the North, South, East and West." The star represents the east, where the Passamaquoddy people are located.

Within the ring is a circular seal representing the Circle of Life. In the four prime directional points of the red circle are plants depicted in yellows and greens, representing the homeland and resources important to Passamaquoddy people. Centered on the circle is a scroll for the settlement of land with the United States government. This is also the symbolism of the "dripping feather" that appears in front of the scroll. Upon the scroll, in natural colors is a sunrise over the land at Passamaquoddy Bay and the reflection of that sun upon the waters of the Bay. The design is completed by the black dots, tribal name and legend "People of the Dawn."



Penobscot Indian Nation- Bur-nur-wurb-skek is the traditional name for the Penobscot- what they would have called themselves, and it refers to a place along the River (the place of the white rocks) where there was a village that is now the main community on the reservation.

The seal which appears on the Penobscot Nation flag was designed by Senabeh Francis in the mid 1970's. The center of the seal is an unnamed Penobscot warrior. Surrounding the warrior is an ornate border which contains three 'tombstones' adorned with crosses.

The top tombstone has "FAITH" written on the cross, and above is a smaller cross. These elements along with the date 1687, the date of the first Catholic mission on Indian Island, honor our history with the French Jesuits and other clergy of the Catholic Church as well as other denominations. Faith is synonymous with trust and belief.

The left tombstone has "PURITY" written on the cross of the tombstone. Above that is a flower, a daisy which is a symbol for purity. Below is the date 1605. This marks the year when Captain George Weymouth, an explorer for England, kidnapped five Penobscot warriors so he could teach them to speak English, to communicate with them better. Purity signifies our dedication to remain a distinct culture, even in the face of acts like these.

The right tombstone has "VALOR" written on the cross. Above that is an arrowhead. This tool was an important tool in the defense of our culture and people. The date 1612 marks a year during wartime. The valor, meaning bravery in the face of danger, shows how Penobscots have fought bravely for their people.

These three virtues comprise what has been called the 'tribal motto.'

At the base of each of these tombstones, outside the circle, are three branches representing tribal growth.

Two dates appear above and below the image of the warrior. The top date, 1669, commemorates the war with the Iroquois. The lower date, 1749, denotes the date of a treaty of peace with Massachusetts Bay Colony, ending King George's War. Together along with twelve double-curves, (representing fire-starters/flint) represents the balance between war and peace and the wisdom of our twelve elected council members.

The serrated edge denotes the sun. We are Wabanaki, a people of the dawn.



Aroostook Band of Micmac- The circle represents the unity of the Micmac people, the invisible thunderbird is featured as the triangles across the middle as the wings and triangle at the bottom as the tail feathers which represents strength and wisdom. The bear claws represent strength and assistance, and the deer represents assistance of clothing and food for the community. The line with four dots in the upper half of the circle represents the four Micmac mothers who supported the tribe and advancement of the people, and the three dots on the bottom triangle represent a council lodge and the three sachems (leaders) or council members who were women. The original council members of the Aroostook Micmac Council was five women & four men, each with their own household, which works together for the community & oversee tribal business for the benefit of the Tribe, represented by the four yellow and black triangles on the Thunderbirds wings. The seven feathers represent the seven districts within the Micmac Nation. http://www.micmac-nsn.gov/html/about_our_logo.html