



Flag Design Contest

The City of Green Isle is looking for its very first official city flag! A great city deserves a great flag - a unifying symbol that represents our history, our natural beauty, and our community. We are calling on local artists, students, designers, and residents of all ages to submit their original designs.

1. Eligibility

- **Who Can Enter:** The contest is open to everyone, regardless of age or professional experience. (If a participant is under 18, a parent or guardian must sign the submission form).
- **Limit:** Maximum of three (3) design entries per person.

2. Design Guidelines (The "Good Flag" Rules)

Be creative, but flags generally follow the five basic principles of vexillology (flag design):

- **Keep It Simple:** The flag should be so simple that a child can draw it from memory.
- **Use Meaningful Symbolism:** Colors, shapes, and patterns should relate directly to Green Isle (e.g., our local nature, history, or community spirit).
- **Use 2–3 Basic Colors:** Stick to standard colors (e.g., green, blue, white, gold) that contrast well.
- **Limited to No Lettering or Seals:** A flag is meant to be seen from a distance while flapping in the wind.
- **Be Distinctive or Be Related:** Make it unique to Green Isle, but it can share elements with other flags to show a connection.

3. Submission Requirements & The "No AI" Rule

To ensure authenticity and celebrate genuine human creativity, this contest has a strict anti-AI policy.

- **Zero AI-Generated Content:** The use of artificial intelligence tools (such as Midjourney, Gemini, Co-Pilot, Grok, DALL-E, generative fill, etc.) to create, brainstorm, or refine any part of the flag design is strictly prohibited.
- **Proof of Authenticity:** Digital artists must retain and be prepared to submit their layered source files (e.g., PSD, .AI, .SVG) if requested. Traditional artists must be

able to provide the original physical artwork or early sketch drafts.

- **Format:** Submissions can be hand-drawn or digitally created. Digital files must be high-resolution JPG, PDF, PNG, or vector formats.
- **Proportions:** Designs should be scalable to standard flag proportions (typically 3:5 or 1:2).
- **Accompanying Statement:** Include a brief explanation (max 250 words) of the symbolism behind your design.

4. The Unbiased Judging Process

To ensure a completely fair and impartial selection, the judging will be conducted blindly in three distinct phases:

Phase 1: The Blind Review (Administrative Vetting) The Green Isle City Clerk/Treasurer will act as the contest administrator. She will receive all entries, assign them a random ID number, and remove all names, ages, and identifying information. They will also vet entries for rule compliance (e.g., checking for AI use, inappropriate content, or copyright infringement).

Phase 2: The Expert Panel (Rubric Scoring) A diverse committee—consisting of a local historian, and other community representatives—will evaluate the anonymous designs. They will score each design strictly using a standard rubric based on:

- Adherence to the 5 rules of good flag design (40%)
- Meaningful representation of Green Isle (40%)
- Overall visual impact (20%) The panel will select the top 3 to 5 finalists.

Phase 3: Community Ranked-Choice Voting The finalist designs will be presented to the public, which is still completely anonymous for a community-wide vote. We will use Ranked-Choice Voting (voters rank their favorites as 1st, 2nd, 3rd) to ensure the winning flag has the broadest consensus and support from the community.

5. Terms & Conditions

- **Originality:** The design must be the original work of the submitter. It must not contain copyrighted material.
- **Ownership:** By entering, the winning designer agrees to transfer all copyright and intellectual property rights of the design to the City of Green Isle to be used, modified, and reproduced freely as the official city flag.
- **Modification:** The City of Green Isle reserves the right to work with professional vexillologists and City Council feedback to slightly modify the winning design for standard flag manufacturing purposes.

6. Timeline & Prizes

- **Submission Deadline:** May 29th, 2026
- **Public Voting Period:** June 12th, 2026 - July 1st, 2026

- **Winner Announced:** September 26th, 2026
- **Prize:** The winner will receive a ceremonial first printing of their flag, and a plaque at City Hall recognizing them as the designer of the Green Isle flag.