

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

For Immediate Release

September 26, 2000

Contact: William Winter

949-4800 (w)

The Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag and the Mississippi Coat of Arms is seeking the assistance of young citizens of our state in recommending a design for the official Mississippi State Flag. Recognizing that high school students will shortly be the leaders of our state, the Commission's Committee on Design would like to involve students in understanding what our flag stands for and the history of flags in our state.

The Advisory Commission has forwarded information today to school administrators regarding the Commission's challenge to young Mississippians. 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 Mississippi's heritage, as well as its history, diversity and beauty. Your ideas and input will help guide the Advisory Commission if a new flag should be designed.

Each individual student, student organization or student body participating in this process will receive an official Certificate of Participation from the Advisory Commission. Entries will be considered for creative ideas and expression, as well as for understanding and interpretation of the flag and its meaning.