



FLAG and LOGO HISTORY

The contemporary Pokagon Band logo and flag have evolved over the last 30 years, and are a manifestation of the Band's effort for restoration of federal tribal status.

The Band is the descendant of the allied Potawatomi villages located along the St. Joseph, Paw Paw, and Kalamazoo Rivers in what is now southwest Michigan and northern Indiana. The Potawatomi are Anishnabek people, allied with the Odawa and Ojibwe to the north.

The logo was first developed in the 1970s, as the Band's long struggle for federal recognition was invigorated with a new generation of leaders to support the old guard. The Band reorganized, acquired a permanent tribal facility and began offering new tribal service programs, and it was felt that a logo was needed to represent the Band and its direction.

The logo represents the story of how fire was brought to the Neshnabek. Fire is a gift to the people, brought by the hawk as a piece of the sun. This is particularly significant to the Potawatomi. "Potawatomi," or more properly, "Bodwéwadmi," means "he builds a fire" and refers to the role the Potawatomi played as the keepers of the fire in the Three Fires Confederacy with the Odawa and Ojibwe. The drawing is centered within a round border, symbolizing the centering of all life within the four directions of Mother Earth.

In the years following the Band's 1994 federal restoration, the logo was revisited. The community felt that the logo, with both its cultural and more contemporary meanings, still had relevance to the tribe and its mission. The old black and white drawing of the earlier logo was updated to include the vibrant colors of traditional woodlands design, and was also incorporated into a flag on a yellow background.

The flag today serves as a great source of pride and identification for the community, particularly among the tribe's military veterans.

-Kevin Daugherty