

SOARIN

Carver: Carl Borst

Painter: Sandra Hildreth

Rotterdam, NY, Saranac Lake, NY

Sponsor: Anonymous

The Bald Eagle has been the national emblem of the United States since 1782 and a spiritual symbol for native people for far longer than that. This eagle is often referred to as the American Bald Eagle because it is the only eagle found solely on the North American continent.

Soarin carries a Stars-and-Stripes shield, and wears a sash proudly emblazoned with the symbol of The Iroquois Confederacy. Benjamin Franklin, coauthor of the Constitution, thought the idea of a government like the Iroquois Confederacy could be adopted by the English colonies as they built the new United States of America.



The Iroquois Confederacy

The original Five Nations, from left to right: Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk, on whose ancestral land the carousel now stands.

AMERICAN BALD EAGLE



The Bald Eagle has a heavy body, large head, and long, hooked bill. The female is 25% larger than the male. Her wingspan can be as much as 8 feet. In flight, a Bald Eagle holds its broad wings flat like a board. They are beautiful in flight. They build their nests in trees or on cliffsides near water. Their nests can grow up to 10 feet across as they build onto it each season. Eagles mate for life and prefer the same nest, year after year. Eagles have both monocular and binocular vision, meaning they can use each eye individually or together. They can see 4 or 5 times farther than the average person. An eagle can spot prey the size of a rabbit from 3 miles away.