

<b>SCHOOL NAME:</b>	Appalachian State University
<b>NICKNAME:</b>	Mountaineers
<b>MASCOT:</b>	mountaineer (“Yosef”)
<b>COLORS:</b>	black and gold
<b>CONFERENCE:</b>	Sun Belt Conference

## HISTORY

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The official nickname for Appalachian State University (ASU) athletic teams is the Mountaineers.

The official mascot for Appalachian State University athletic teams is Yosef. The expression “Yosef” is a mountain talk slang word that means “yourself.” Therefore, if you are a graduate of ASU or a fan and have a heart that is composed of black and gold, you are, in fact, Yosef. Yosef was created by James Storie and Elizabeth South (editors of ASU’s yearbook called the *Rhododendron*) and Lloyd S. Isaacs and Bill Mitchell (of the Observer Publishing Company). He was originally created as a fictional character named Dan’l Boone Yoseff from Appalachian and as a member of the 1941–42 freshman class. Yoseff was an instant hit with ASU students, but there was controversy about who actually created his image. From 1946 to 1949, Yoseff reappeared as a guest editorial writer in ASU’s student newspaper, the *Appalachian*. His writings focused on popular mountain expressions and misspelled words. In January 1947, the second *f* in his name was removed. Yosef was first considered as ASU’s mascot in the *Appalachian* on March 12, 1948, when a photograph was taken of him as a returning freshman. In 1949, John Geffrich became one of the first people to portray Yosef as a mascot.

ASU’s official school colors are black and gold. Unfortunately, there is no historical data explaining why those colors were chosen.

<b>SCHOOL NAME:</b>	Arizona State University
<b>NICKNAME:</b>	Sun Devils
<b>MASCOT:</b>	sun devil (“Sparky”)
<b>COLORS:</b>	maroon and gold
<b>CONFERENCE:</b>	Pacific 12 Conference

## HISTORY

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Prior to being named Arizona State University (ASU), the school was called Tempe Normal, and the school nickname was the Owls. That name was chosen by the 1889 football team. Then when the school name changed to the Arizona State Teachers College, the new nickname became the Bulldogs. The school chose that name because Yale and other schools of notoriety were nicknamed the Bulldogs, so the Teachers College chose that name in an effort to achieve a higher level of respect. In 1946, when the school name was changed to Arizona State University, the *State Press*, which was ASU’s school newspaper, frequently appealed to have the nickname changed to the Sun Devils. When the student body voted on November 20, 1946, to have the name changed, the result was 819–196, in favor of Sun Devils. The name Sun Devil was heard for the first time when somebody shouted it in a crowd. That person’s identity was never determined.

In 1948, Sparky the Red Devil became ASU’s official mascot. Sparky, a costumed red devil with a pitchfork, was created by Berk Anthony, who was an illustrator and former employee of Walt Disney. Rumor has it that Anthony derived Sparky’s facial features from his former boss.

Maroon and gold are the official school colors for ASU athletic teams. Gold was chosen in 1896 because it signifies ASU’s “golden promise,” which is to ensure that every student receives a valuable educational experience. Gold also signifies Arizona’s sunshine, its power, and the influence it has on the state’s climate and economy. In 1898, maroon became the other official color. Maroon signifies sacrifice and bravery.

<b>SCHOOL NAME:</b>	Arkansas State University
<b>NICKNAME:</b>	Red Wolves
<b>MASCOT:</b>	wolves (“How” and “Scarlet”)
<b>COLORS:</b>	scarlet and black
<b>CONFERENCE:</b>	Sun Belt Conference

## HISTORY

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From 1911 to 1931, Arkansas State University (ASU) officials made a conscious effort to select a suitable nickname for the university. ASU was first called the Aggies (short for “agriculture”) or the Farmers, since it was the only agricultural school in Eastern Arkansas. Then in 1925, the nickname Gorillas started to be used. But that name proved to be very unpopular. Finally, in 1930, ASU got on track and called their athletic teams the Warriors, which eventually evolved to the Indians one year later. The Indians were chosen as ASU’s official nickname to honor the vast amount of Indian tribes, the Osage tribe in particular, which once roamed throughout the state of Arkansas prior to the arrival of the settlers. The Osage tribe, which lived in the northern part of Arkansas in the eighteenth century, was at war with just about all the other Indian tribes that occupied the state. Their fighting Indian spirit is the reason ASU officials chose the Indians as the nickname to represent the school’s athletic teams. On January 31, 2008, ASU’s Mascot Selection Committee unanimously decided that the school nickname needed to be changed to the Red Wolves. So they made that recommendation to the school’s chancellor, Dr. Robert Potts. Dr. Potts agreed, and the NCAA approved the name change on March 7, 2008. The phasing out of the Indians nickname also involved the football stadium name being changed from Indian Stadium to ASU Stadium. In 2012 and 2015, the stadium name was changed to Liberty Bank Stadium and Centennial Bank Stadium, respectively.

In an effort to choose a mascot that would be directly related to the ASU nickname, the Indian family was chosen. The Indian family, which is a trio of ASU students made up in Indian attire, is led by Chief Big Track

(named after the chief of the Osage tribe), who is the head of the family, an unnamed princess, and an unnamed brave. On January 31, 2008, the Mascot Selection Committee also decided to select the Wolves as ASU's new school mascot. Two wolves were selected, and the names given to them were How and Scarlet.

Besides 1911 being the first year that football was introduced at ASU, an ASU committee made up of several students and one faculty member chose scarlet and black as the official school colors to represent its athletic teams. In doing so, the first use of the official colors was on the school's pennant.