

Learn by Doing

Some “Learn by Doing” ideas concerning the Flag

In Your Home:

- Read and learn the facts contained in this handout about Flag etiquette.
- Read other publications on the Flag and citizenship
- Practice folding, saluting and pledging allegiance to the Flag.
- Ask your parents to coach you so that you can give demonstrations with the Flag.
- See that your Flag is clean, in good repair, and has a safe place for storage.
- Display your Flag properly at your home on the days when it should be displayed.

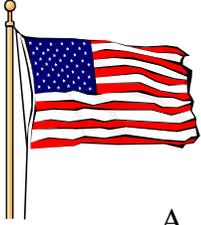
In Your 4-H Meetings:

- Be certain that the Flag is displayed correctly.
- Give demonstrations on folding the Flag.
- Conduct a quiz on Flag etiquette.
- Learn the Pledge of Allegiance, say it correctly and teach others to do so.
- Present the history of our Flag at 4-H or other civic meetings. Tell what it means to you and how to respect the Flag.



In Your Community:

- Always demonstrate proper respect for our Flag.
- Help others to learn more about the Flag and how to use the Flag correctly.



Time and Occasions for Display

- A. IT IS THE UNIVERSAL CUSTOM TO DISPLAY THE FLAG ONLY FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET ON BUILDINGS AND ON STATIONARY FLAG-STAFFS IN THE OPEN. HOWEVER, WHEN A PATRIOTIC EFFECT IS DESIRED, THE FLAG MAY BE DISPLAYED TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY IF PROPERLY ILLUMINATED DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS.
- B. THE FLAG SHOULD BE HOISTED BRISKLY AND LOWERED CEREMONIOUSLY.
- C. THE FLAG SHOULD NOT BE DISPLAYED ON DAYS WHEN THE WEATHER IS INCLEMENT, EXCEPT WHEN AN ALL-WEATHER FLAG IS DISPLAYED.
- D. THE FLAG SHOULD BE DISPLAYED ON ALL DAYS, ESPECIALLY ON
 - § NEW YEAR'S DAY, JANUARY 1
 - § INAUGURATION DAY, JANUARY 20
 - § MARTIN LUTHER KING JR'S BIRTHDAY, THIRD MONDAY IN JANUARY
 - § LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY, FEBRUARY 12
 - § WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY, THIRD MONDAY IN FEBRUARY
 - § EASTER SUNDAY (VARIABLE)
 - § MOTHER'S DAY, SECOND SUNDAY IN MAY
 - § ARMED FORCES DAY, THIRD SATURDAY IN MAY
 - § MEMORIAL DAY (HALF-STAFF UNTIL NOON), THE LAST MONDAY IN MAY
 - § FLAG DAY, JUNE 14
 - § INDEPENDENCE DAY, JULY 4
 - § LABOR DAY, FIRST MONDAY IN SEPTEMBER
 - § CONSTITUTION DAY, SEPTEMBER 17
 - § COLUMBUS DAY, SECOND MONDAY IN OCTOBER
 - § NAVY DAY, OCTOBER 27
 - § VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11
 - § THANKSGIVING DAY, FOURTH THURSDAY IN NOVEMBER
 - § CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25
 - § AND SUCH OTHER DAYS AS MAY BE PROCLAIMED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THE BIRTHDAYS OF STATES (DATE OF ADMISSION) AND ON STATE HOLIDAYS.



Respect for the Flag

No disrespect should be shown to the Flag of the United States of America. The Flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.

- a. The Flag should never touch anything beneath it.
- b. The Flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, always aloft and free.
- c. The Flag should never be used as wearing apparel, or drapery. It should always be allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white, and red, always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below, should be used for decorating in general.
- d. The Flag should never be used or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
- e. The Flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- f. The Flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.
- g. The Flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding or carrying anything.
- h. The Flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs, printed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
- i. No part of the Flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The Flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- j. When the American Flag and the 4-H Flag are displayed in the room or placed on a desk or table at a 4-H meeting, the American Flag is always on the President's right side.
- k. The Flag should be displayed when sparkling clean. Its stars and stripes spotless and its blue field vivid and unfaded. Cleaning depends on the material. Dry cleaning is always safest. To wash, dust away soil and immerse in tub of warm soapy water and squeeze. Do not twist or wring. Rinse well. Finishing with cool water. Hang vertically to dry just as you would display it on a holiday. Press with moderately hot iron.



THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER



1814



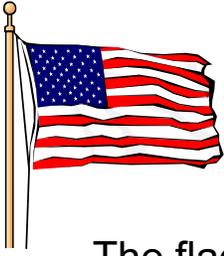
September 20,
By Francis Scott Key



Francis Scott Key (1779 - 1843)

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous
fight,
o'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?
On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
what is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
as it fitfully blows, now conceals, now discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
in full glory reflected now shines on the stream:
'Tis the Star-Spangled Banner! O long may it wave
o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.
And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
that the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
a home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wiped out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
from the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph doth wave
o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.
Oh! Thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
between their loved homes and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, for our cause it is just,
and this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the Star-Spangled Banner forever shall wave
o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Stand at attention, place your right hand over your heart while the song is being sung or the music is played. Face the flag if present, if not face the music.

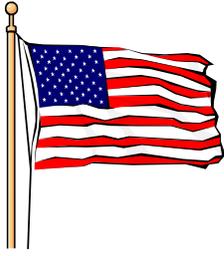


FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY

The flag folding ceremony described by the Uniformed Services is a dramatic and uplifting way to honor the flag on special days, like Memorial Day or Veterans Day.

Here is a typical sequence of the reading. Begin reading as Honor Guard or Flag Detail is coming forward. Wait for the Flag Detail to unravel and fold the flag into a quarter fold--resume reading when Honor Guard is standing ready.

1. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.
2. The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.
3. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.
4. The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.
5. The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."
6. The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
7. The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.
8. The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered in to the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.



Flag Folding Ceremony

(Cont'd)

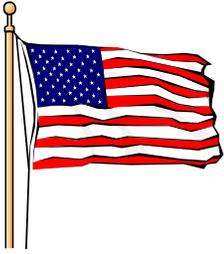
9. The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.
10. The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.
11. The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
12. The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God we Trust."

(Wait for the Honor Guard or Flag Detail to inspect the flag-- after the inspection, resume reading.)

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.





Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Proper etiquette for saying the pledge -- Stand at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. Men should remove their hats with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

NOTE: Learn and teach others to pledge allegiance without pausing between the words "Nation" and "under".

The Flag

Sec. 1. — Flag; stripes and stars on

The flag of the United States shall be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; and the union of the flag shall be forty-eight stars [*Note that sec. 2 which follows provides for additional stars. Today the flag has fifty stars representing the fifty states - Webmaster*], white in a blue field

Sec. 2. — Same; additional stars

On the admission of a new State into the Union one star shall be added to the union of the flag; and such addition shall take effect on the fourth day of July then next succeeding such admission

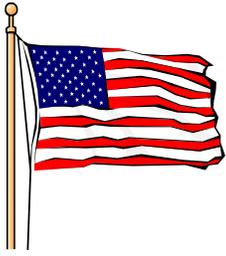
Proper Retiring of the Flag

Section 8k of the Flag Code states, "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

We recommend that you contact your local VFW Chapter and ask them for help properly disposing of your flag. And be sure to consider providing a small donation to them for their assistance. Or you can contact your local Elks Lodge (who created the idea of Flag Day, established officially by President Truman, himself a member of the Elks) or the American Legion.

Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of the Flag

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the Flag or when the Flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present should face the Flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Those present in uniform should render the military salute. Men should remove their hat with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. The salute to the Flag in a moving parade should be started at the moment the Flag passes.



How to fold the Flag

Step 1



To properly fold the Flag, begin by holding it waist-high with another person so that its surface is parallel to the ground.

Step 2



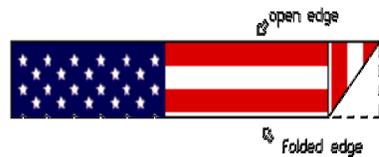
Fold the lower half of the stripe section lengthwise **over** the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely.

Step 3



Fold the flag **again** lengthwise with the blue field on the **outside**

Step 4



Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open (top) edge of the flag.

Step 5



Turn the outer (end) point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle

Step 6



The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.

Step 7



When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible.

