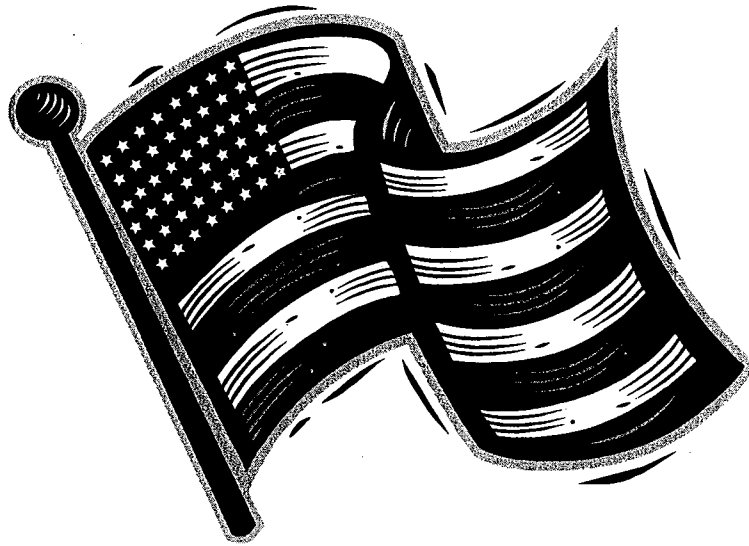


AMERICAN FLAG KIT



**Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital
4301 Connecticut Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20008**

DESCRIPTION • The American flag is one of the most recognized symbols of our country. This kit provides the necessary items to help girls learn about Flag History, Flag Etiquette and Display, symbols of our nation, flag ceremonies, flag activities and flag crafts.

CATEGORY • Government / History

LEVEL • All levels

PROGRAM LINKS •

Brownie Try-It

Junior Badge

Teen Interest Projects

Law and Order

Girl Scouting in the USA

Law and Order

Conflict Resolution

Model Citizen

American Patriotism*

Media Savvy

United We Stand*

Women Through Time

*available at www.girlscouts.org

Wave the Flag*

Activity

NAME • Five-point Star

GOAL • Cut a perfect five-point star.

MATERIALS NEEDED • paper, scissors

TIME ESTIMATE • 10 minutes

DIRECTIONS •

One legend concerning the creation of the flag suggests that Betsy Ross created the first flag. George Washington's original pencil sketch for the flag indicated 6-pointed stars, a form he apparently preferred. Betsy Ross, however, recommended a 5-pointed star. When the committee protested that it was too difficult to make, she took a piece of paper, folded it deftly, and with a single snip of her scissors, produced a symmetrical five-pointed star. You can create a star just like Betsy Ross:

Step 1. Fold a piece of 8 1/2 x 11 paper in half and crease firmly. (8 1/2 x 10 actually works best, but 8 1/2 x 11 also works.)

Step 2. Fold in half again and crease lightly.

Step 3. Unfold this second fold. You are just making a crease mark to guide you in the next step

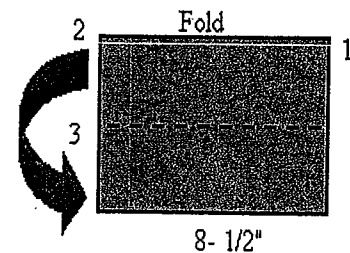
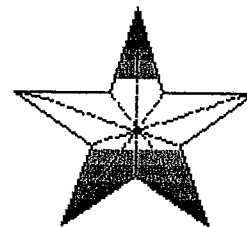
Step 4. Fold the top, right hand corner (1) down to the left hand edge of the paper so it touches the crease mark (3).

Step 5. Fold the top, left hand corner (2) down along the folded edge from step 4.

Step 6. Fold again so the left hand edge touches the right hand edge.

Step 7. Mark approximately 1" from point on one edge and 2" from point on other edge and make a straight cut between the points.

Step 8. Unfold and you have a star! For additional help, look at www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagstar.html



AMERICAN FLAG KIT

DESCRIPTION: The American flag is one of the most loved symbols of our country. This kit provides the necessary items to help girls learn about Flag History, Flag Etiquette and Display, symbols of our nation, flag ceremonies, flag activities and flag crafts.

CATEGORY: Government / History

LEVEL: All levels

PROGRAM LINKS:

Brownie Cadette/Senior Interest Projects

Law and Order

Conflict Resolution

Media Savvy

Women Through Time

Activity

NAME: Five-point Star

GOAL: See how Betsy Ross cut a perfect five-point star.

MATERIALS NEEDED: paper, scissors

TIME ESTIMATE: 10minutes

DIRECTIONS:

One legend concerning the creation of the flag suggests that Betsy Ross created the first flag. George Washington's original pencil sketch for the flag indicated 6-pointed stars, a form he apparently preferred.

Betsy Ross, however, recommended a 5-pointed star. When the committee protested that it was too difficult to make, she took a piece of paper, folded it deftly, and with a single snip of her scissors, produced a symmetrical five-pointed star. You can create a star just like Betsy:

Step 1. Fold an 8-1/2" x 10" thin piece of paper in half.

Step 2. Fold and unfold in half both ways to form creased centerlines. (Note: be sure paper is still folded in half.)

Step 3. Bring corner (1) right to meet the centerline. Be sure to fold from the vertical crease line.

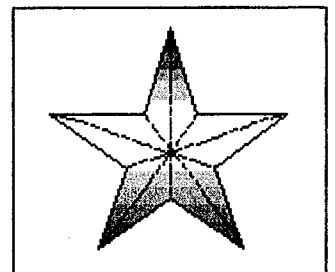
Step 4. Bring corner (1) left till edges coincide, then make the fold.

Step 5. Bring corner (2) left and fold.

Step 6. Bring corner (2) right until edges coincide. Then fold.

Step 7. Cut on the angle as shown in the picture. Then unfold the small piece.

Step 8. Marvel at your perfect 5-pointed star! If your star is not perfect, take a fresh piece of paper (8-1/2" x 10" -- not 8-1/2" x 11") and return to Step 1.





INTRODUCTION

The United States flag flutters in the breeze over our schools, our government buildings, our parks, our homes and many other places. We pay tribute to our flag at athletic, social and community events. This emblem of our country stirs a great degree of loyalty and patriotism. President Woodrow Wilson said of our flag: "This flag, which we honor, and under which we serve, is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thought, and our purpose as a nation."

A flag is more than just a brightly-colored piece of cloth. It is a symbol that stands for an idea, a cause, or a purpose. Each country in the world has a flag of its own. Each flag has a special meaning for the people who live in that country. A country's flag can stir its people to joy and sadness, to courage and sacrifice. For hundreds of years, flags have been used to fly high in battle, giving soldiers a symbol to follow, defend and often give up their lives for. Many, many men and women have died to protect our national flag from dishonor or disgrace. Memorial Day is a day set aside for remembering all who have died in the service of our country, the United States of America.

By tracing the history of our flag you will learn the history of our nation. The stars represent the growth of our country - from the original thirteen colonies to our present fifty states held together by one national government. The thirteen stripes preserve the traditions and visions of the thirteen colonies that so nobly laid the foundations of our great independent nation.

The American flag is one of the most loved symbols of our country. It stands for many things. It represents the highest ideals of individual liberty, freedom, justice and equal opportunity for all. It is a symbol of our great country, our heritage, our humanity and our place in the world. Our flag is our most precious possession. Learning about and knowing how to honor our country's flag is an important duty of every citizen.

United States of America

Stretching across the middle of North America with a mostly mild climate, the United States is the third largest country on Earth (after Russia and Canada). High mountains dominate the West and Alaska, while lower mountains lie near the East Coast. Humid forests in the eastern and northern U.S. turn to grasslands in the semiarid Great Plains, with deserts spanning the Southwest.

The country also ranks third in world population (after China and India). The 2000 census noted the greatest census-to-census increase in American history, adding 32.7 million since 1990. Numbering some 38 million, Latinos are the largest minority (13 percent of U.S. total), followed by African Americans (34 million) and Asians (10 million). Whites are more than 75 percent of the population (211 million), and Native Americans are less than one percent (2.4 million). California (34 million) is the most populous state. Texas gained the number two spot (21 million) in the census by passing New York (19 million).

Area

9,826,630 sq km (3,794,083 sq mi)

Population

291,512,000

Capital

Washington, D.C. 4,190,000

Religion

Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish

Languages

English, Spanish

Literacy

97%

Life Expectancy

77

Currency

U.S. dollar

GDP Per Capita

U.S. \$36,300

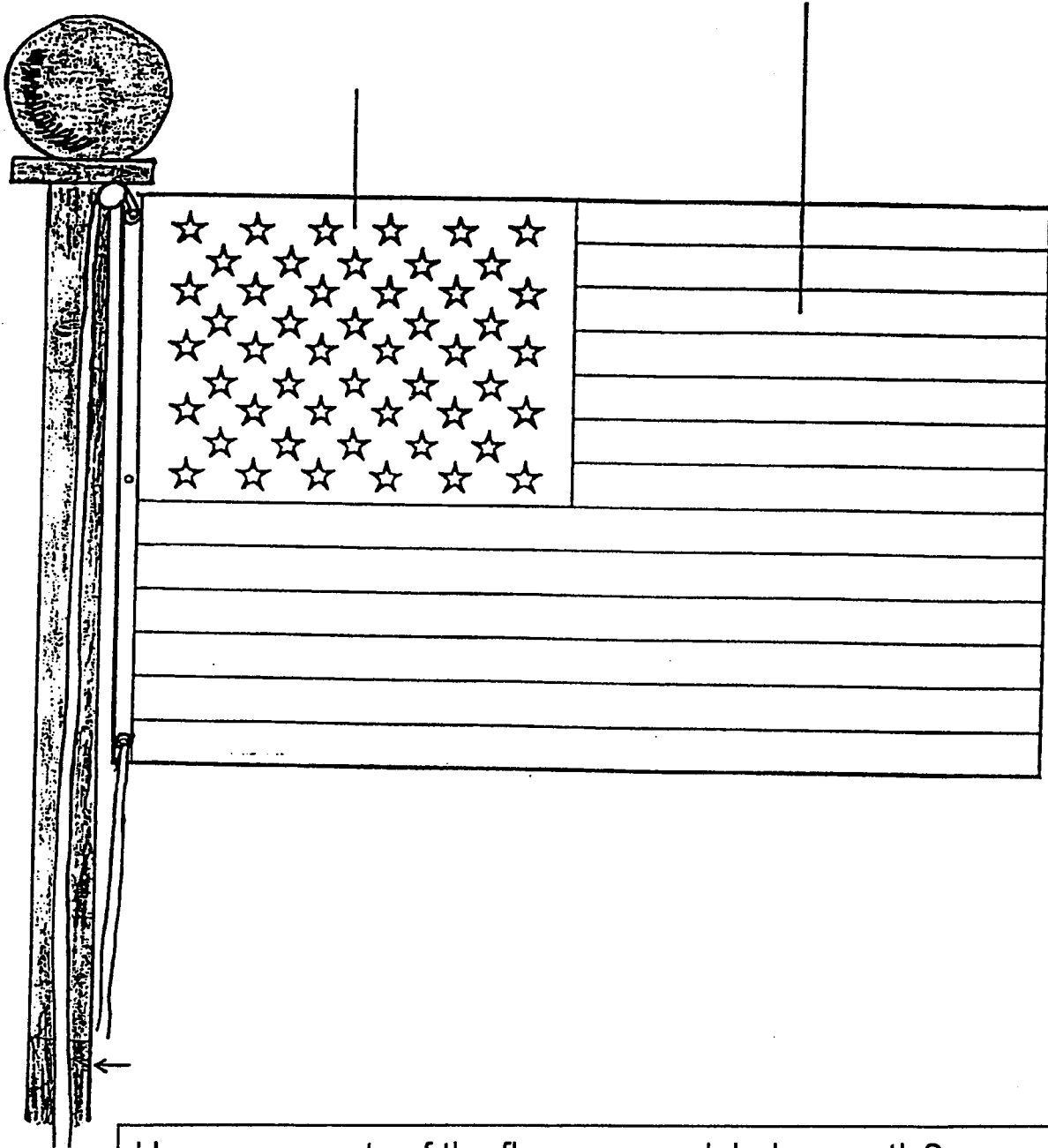
Economy

Industry: petroleum, steel, motor vehicles, aerospace, telecommunications, chemicals, electronics.

Agriculture: wheat, corn, other grains, fruits; beef; forest products; fish.

Exports: capital goods, automobiles, industrial supplies and raw materials, consumer goods, agricultural product

PARTS OF THE FLAG



How many parts of the flag can you label correctly?

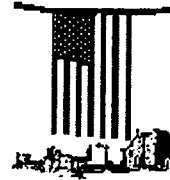
- | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|
| ① HOIST | ④ FLY | ⑥ FIELD |
| ② CANTON | ⑤ UNION | ⑦ GROMMET |
| ③ FLY END | | |

Rules for Display of the American Flag

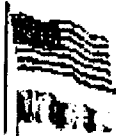
Display Outdoors

Over the Middle of the Street

It should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.



Flown on the Same Halyard with Non-Nation Flags



When flags of States, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the American Flag should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the right of the flag of the United States.

Suspended Over a Sidewalk

The flag may be suspended from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk; the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.



From a Staff Projecting Horizontally or at an Angle

The flag may be projected from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, with the union of the flag placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.



In a Parade with Other Flags



The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag, or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line

On Floats

The flag should be displayed on a staff.

With Non-National Flags

The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.



With Other National Flag

When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.



Flag Etiquette Diagrams






Flag Etiquette

Here are a few basic principles for honoring the American flag in the presence of Girl Scout flags.

The United States flag should be in one of the following positions: first, to the flag's own right, center front, or center and higher.

A few of the most common situations in troop, adult, or large organization meetings have been used in illustrating these principles. Since the presence of color guards does not alter flag positions, they are not shown, because we want to keep the illustrations as simple as possible. Other Girl Scout flags can be added as desired.

Key:

-  United States Flag
-  World Association Flag
-  Troop Flag
-  Direction flag faces
-  Indicates "flag's own right"
-  Path of American Flag
-  Path of Troop Flags

Sample ceremony using these principles:

A. Carried In: U.S. flag leading, World Association flag next, troop flag third. U.S. flag turns right at end of aisle, Scout flags go to left.

B. Held for ceremony: U.S. flag at front center stage, Scout flags behind it.

C. Grounded: Scout flags grounded before U.S. flag. U.S. flag grounded last and in highest stand.

Retiring Flags: U.S. flag is picked up first, carried along route with Scout flags entered. Scout flags go out the other way. This keeps U.S. flag on right.

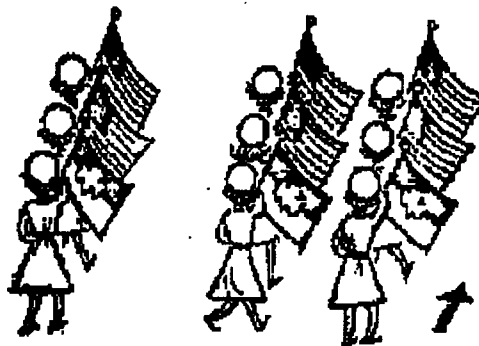
A. Carried



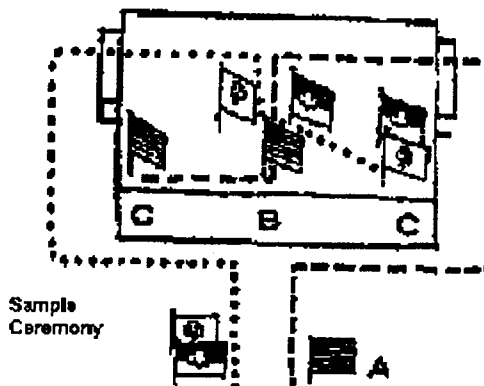
Two flags: right

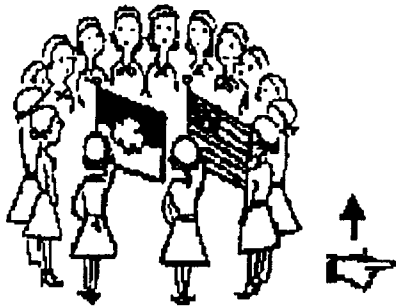


Three flags: center front

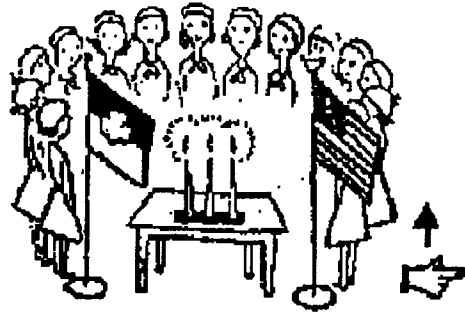


Many flags: in front

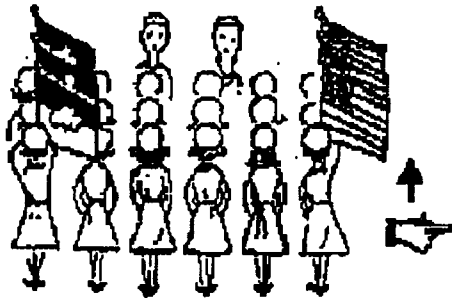




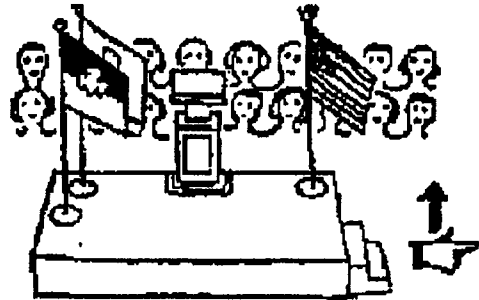
Two flags: right



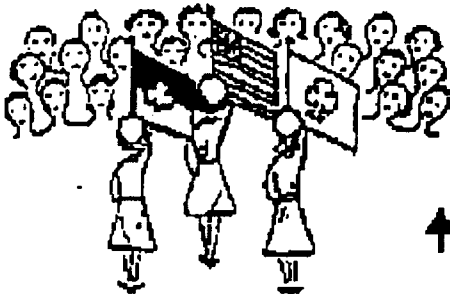
At same level: right



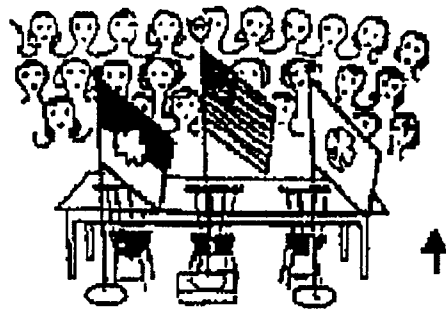
Many flags: right



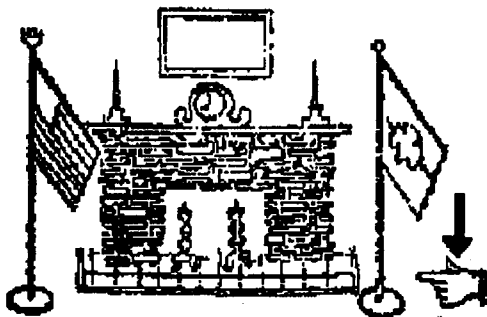
On platform: Flag's own right



Three flags: center



Higher if centered



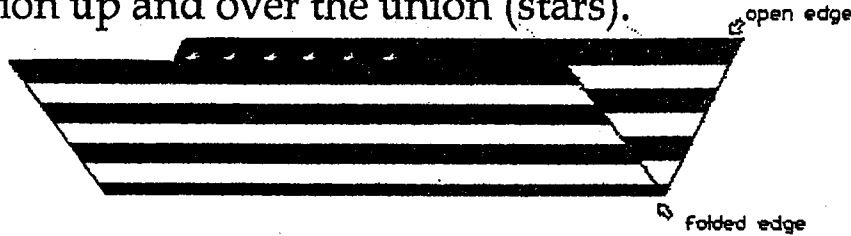
Against wall: flag's own right

FOLDING THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

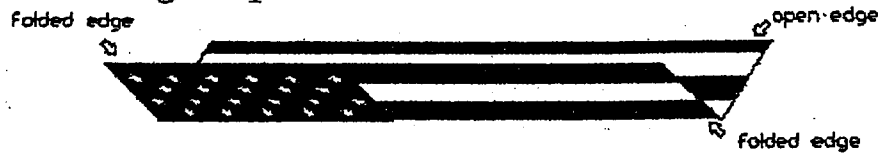
1. Hold flag waist-high parallel to the ground.



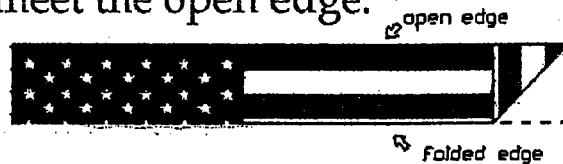
2. Fold flag in half lengthwise bringing lower striped section up and over the union (stars).



3. Fold flag again lengthwise bringing folded edge to meet open edges, encasing stripes in stars.



4. Make a triangle fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open edge.



5. Turn outer pointed end inward, parallel to the open edge to form a second triangle.



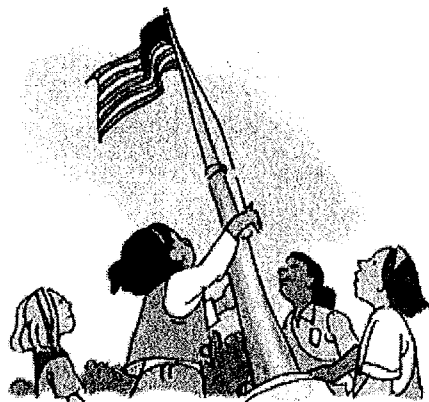
6. Continue steps 4 and 5 making triangular folds the entire length of the flag.



7. When completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible, a reminder of the tri-corner hats worn during the Revolutionary war.



Flag Ceremonies



FACTS THAT TROOP LEADERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FLAG CEREMONIES

Flag Ceremonies come in many different shapes and forms. Girls should help plan the ceremony; therefore each ceremony will be different. As long as they treat the flag with respect, their ceremony will be correct. Discuss flag etiquette (refer to page in book) but do not scare the girls.

Girls should be eager and proud to perform a flag ceremony. Many times girls are frightened of “messing up.” They think if they drop the flag it will have to be burned. However, Girl Scout flag ceremonies can be used as learning experiences. If the wind should happen to blow the flag out of the girls’ hands and it lands on the ground, do not stop the ceremony and scold the girls. Instead, calmly help them if needed and encourage them to finish the ceremony. Assure them that you will not have to burn the flag. No girl should be scolded or ridiculed for making a mistake or forgetting a part during a ceremony. That’s why Girl Scouting teaches flag ceremonies, so that Girl Scouts can practice and learn. Girls should be proud to carry the flag of the United States of America.

Keep the ceremony simple and dignified. Try to avoid a military style. Instead, plan an informal but respectful ceremony, which emphasizes why we honor the flag.

Let as many girls participate in the ceremony as possible but be reasonable. Flag ceremonies are convenient in the fact that there are many jobs that can be created to allow every girl an opportunity to participate. In addition to the flag bearer and color guard, your troop could choose to include a candle lighter, a greeter, a soloist, a sign language interpreter, and a set-up crew.

Use smaller flags for younger girls. Brownie and Daisy Girl Scouts can use a small flag attached to a small stick rather than struggle with a large flag.



Help the “Caller” of the ceremony- make note cards. Please do not expect girls to memorize or remember their “lines.” Ceremonies make them nervous and knowing that they have a “cheat sheet” or that you will be there will help them relax.

Girls are not required to be in uniform to participate in a flag ceremony. Leaders should always encourage girls to wear uniforms, especially for ceremonies, but girls should never be excluded for lack of one. Certainly a uniform adds a special “something” to any gathering. Council has uniforms that may be lent out. Contact the GSCNC Public Relation office for more information on borrowing uniforms. For a flag ceremony outside of the typical meeting space, for example during a camping trip or on an overnight trip, try experimenting with uniform props. For example Sashes can be used to distinguish the color guards or they may want to wear all one color.

FLAG CEREMONIES

Honoring the American Flag

A flag ceremony is a way of showing love and respect for one's country. Learning about the proper way to handle the American flag and to conduct flag ceremonies fosters a patriotic spirit in young people.

Flag ceremonies are very often part of larger ceremonies. Flag ceremonies may be used for:

- Opening or closing meetings
- Opening or closing special events
- Beginning or closing a day
- Honoring a special occasion or special person
- Retiring a worn flag

Flag ceremonies may take place in meeting rooms, in outdoor settings, in large auditoriums, on stage, even on horseback. All flag ceremonies share one thing in common—respect for the flag. Keep it simple. Emphasis should be on respect for the flag rather than on the commands or techniques.

Other Resources:

Flag Etiquette and Display Section- review how to fold an American Flag
Anthems Inspired- to find poems and songs to supplement the ceremonies
Anthems Inspired- learn how to say the pledge of allegiance in sign language

Teach the girls that once participants have entered the ceremony area, or the ceremony begins, there should be absolute silence from all (girls and adults.) The audience should stop all talking (including whispers); everyone should be still, observant, and respectful during the ceremony. The "Caller" will instruct the audience in speaking, standing, singing, or pledging.

Remember, as their leader, the girls are looking to you for support and approval. Always show your girls that you are proud of them. In Girl Scouting we don't make "mistakes," we make "learning experiences."

Practice your flag ceremony several times before doing it in front of a group. Practicing allows girls to feel confident. When conducting an outdoor flag ceremony, girls need to practice raising the flag up and down the pole before the ceremony.

There is absolute silence from the time the horseshoe is formed until it is dismissed. The color guard remains silent from the time they start to walk in until they walk out. They do not speak or sing with the group, but stay at attention.

The ceremony may be brief, but always takes place after the flag has been raised. Since the ceremony is *for* the flag, it should be in position *during* it! Often, the flag ceremony is part of another ceremony. If so, the color guard is dismissed before the other ceremony begins. During a formal flag ceremony, white gloves should be worn by the color guards. The Girl Scout-in-charge may also wear them. Gloves are not necessary in an outdoor setting.

To salute the flag, stand at attention and place your right hand over your heart. Salute the flag when it is being raised or lowered, when it passes you in a parade, and when you recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Salute when you sing "The Star-Spangled Banner," with or without the flag present.

Terms Used in a Flag Ceremony

The **color bearer** (or flag bearer) is the person who carries the flag. There is one color bearer for each flag used in the ceremony.

The **color guard** is a team that guards the flags. Any even number of guards may be used, but usually four or six girls are sufficient.

The **Girl Scout in-charge** (or caller) is a designated Girl Scout who announces or calls each part of the ceremony.

The **standards** are the stands that support the flag. The color bearers place their flags in the standards.

Possible Commands for a Flag Ceremony

"Girl Scouts, attention." Used to announce that the flag ceremony is to begin.

"Color guard advance." This signals the color guard to advance with the flags, or advance to pick up the flags.

"Color guard, honor your flag." The color guard salutes the American flag.

"Color Guard, post the colors." This directs the color guard to place the flag in flag standards, or to attach the grommets to a flag pole rope.

"Color guard, retire the colors." This asks the color guard to remove the flag from standards, or to lower the flag, detach from the rope, and fold prior to being dismissed.

"Color guard, dismissed." The color guard leaves in formation, with or without the flag.

"Girl Scouts dismissed." Girls may leave in formation or be at ease where they have been standing.

	Set up before ceremony	Find songs and poems	Work with Junior sister troop to plan bridging	Contact participants
	Serve refreshments	Make and serve refreshments	Make own props	Choose what to put in ceremony
	Help clean up	Clean Up	Clean Up	Conduct ceremony

Please remember, these are only guidelines, you know the maturity level of your girls better than anyone!

Ceremony Planner			
Purpose:			
Theme:			
When:			
Where:			
Guests:			
	Activities	Props	Who's Responsible
Before Ceremony:			

* Ceremony Worksheet *

Name of Ceremony _____

Date of Ceremony _____ Time: from _____ to _____

Place of Ceremony _____ Practice Date: _____

Who will we invite? troop members only families and friends sponsors
 others? _____

How much money do we have in the Troop Treasury to use for the ceremony? \$ _____

	Ceremony Outline	
		Who will do this part?
How will we begin?	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
What will we do for the main part of the ceremony?	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
What songs, poems/ verse, or quotations will be included?	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
How will the ceremony end?	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

What equipment or decorations will we need? (ie: candles, flags, bridge? See reverse for equipment listing.)	Who will bring this item?
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

What will we serve for refreshments? Don't forget the paper goods and serving items!	Who will bring this item?
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Opening:			
Main:			
Closing:			
Evaluate:			

Planning Flag Ceremonies: GSUSA

1. **Devote sufficient time to planning the ceremony.** Good ceremonies have a clear purpose and enrich the meaning and mood of the ceremony.
2. Use *Ceremonies in Girl Scouting* and the Ceremony Planner to help plan your ceremony.
3. **Take safety precautions** when using candles or fires, or when constructing bridges or platforms. Refer to *Safety-Wise* for specific advice.
4. **Add personal elements to traditional ceremonies.** Use favorite poems, songs, stories and sayings, or write something of your own.
5. Consider the role of colors and symbols that you might use in your ceremony.
6. Observe flag etiquette when doing flag ceremonies.

***Simplicity* is the keynote of any flag ceremony; emphasis should be on respect for the flag rather than on the commands or techniques. Some questions to be addressed when planning a flag ceremony:**

1. Who will carry the flag?
2. Who will be the color guards?
3. Who will give the directions for the ceremony?
4. What song will we sing? Who will sound the pitch and start the song?
5. Do we want a poem or quotation? Who will say or read it?
6. After the Pledge of Allegiance, shall we say the Promise and Law?
7. In what order shall we do all these things?
8. When should we practice all this?
9. Where will the flag(s) be placed at the end of the ceremony?

This is a good place to start!

Daisy	Brownie	Junior	Cadette	Senior
Choose a favorite song to sing	Choose songs and poems related to the theme	Decide on a theme	Decide theme	Plan and put on an area ceremony
Decide who they want to invite	Decide who they want to invite and make invitations	Decide when they want the ceremony	Find songs and readings	Select site and make arrangements

Sample "Horseshoe" Ceremony

There should be a Flag Bearer (person carrying the flag) and Flag Guard for each flag to be presented. (The number of girls in the Color Guard will vary depending on the formality of the ceremony and how many girls are available to take part.) There will also be a Caller (person who will give the commands), except in cases of a silent flag ceremony, and if the ceremony requires, a song leader and/or reader.

Troop members stand in a horseshoe formation. The Caller stands at one end of the horseshoe, where she will best be able to see and direct the Color Guard. Next to her stand those taking special part in the ceremony such as the reader or song leader. The Color Guard (a term used to include both the flag bearers and flag guards) may stand in the horseshoe or may be assigned a separate place outside the horseshoe where they hold the flag in readiness.

The following are the commands and actions for a basic indoor flag ceremony:

1. **"GIRL SCOUTS ATTENTION"** - This is the signal to the girls in the horseshoe that the ceremony is about to start and that they should be silent and give their attention to the ceremony.
2. **"COLOR GUARD ATTENTION"** - If the Color Guard has been standing "at ease" they come to attention. It is also their signal to be ready to start.
3. If the flags are standing elsewhere in the room and the Color Guard is part of the horseshoe, the Caller may say, **"COLOR GUARD FALL OUT."** The Color Guard steps back out of the horseshoe and walks toward the flags.

The Flag Bearer steps forward and takes the American flag from its stand then steps back into the color guard formation. If there are other flag bearers, they step forward and pick up their flags also. The American flag is always the first flag picked up and the first one set down. When there are two flags the American flag is carried on the flag's right, if there are three flags, the American flag is carried in the center and in front of the other two.

4. **"COLOR GUARD ADVANCE"** - The Color Guard walks forward carrying the flags to the open end of the horseshoe.

(During the rest of the ceremony the Color Guard remains standing at attention, taking no part in the singing or speaking.)

5. **"GIRL SCOUTS, THE FLAG OF YOUR COUNTRY, PLEASE JOIN IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE."** - The girls in the horseshoe say the Pledge of Allegiance. If a song is to be sung, the caller or song leader announces the song along with the number of stanzas to be sung, then starts the song, i.e. "We will sing two verses of America the Beautiful" or "Will you please join me in the first verse of the Star Spangled Banner." If the Girl Scout Promise is to be said, it should be included at this time.

(Continued)

Ceremonies

have been a part of Girl Scouting since the earliest days. Ceremonies can be as simple as saying the Girl Scout Promise to open a meeting to an elaborate Gold Award ceremony that is an event unto itself. Ceremonies can be fun, joyful celebrations, or quiet, solemn events. There is no “right” or “wrong” way to do a ceremony. Ceremonies should be planned by girls to reflect their interests and can be adapted to suit the site, the occasion and the participant needs.

All ceremonies, from the simplest to the most elaborate, should include the following:

- Opening – lets participants and guests know the ceremony is beginning
- Main Section – the actual ceremony itself
- Closing – lets participants and guests know the ceremony has ended

In a simple closing ceremony for a meeting the format might be applied as follows:

- Leader: “Let us close by saying the Girl Scout Promise.” (Opening)
- All: “On My Honor” (Main Section)
- Leader: “Thank you all for coming. Goodnight.” (Closing)

A more elaborate ceremony follows the same format. It just has more elements – poems, songs, readings and props - thrown in.

In planning a ceremony girls and their leaders/advisors should consider the following:

- The purpose of the ceremony. Does it mark a special event or occasion?
- The desired “tone” of the ceremony. Will it be serious or lighthearted (or both)?
- Will there be a theme and if so what will be the theme?
- Who will be the audience? Will it be just for the troop or include invited guests?
- Where and when will the ceremony take place?

Planning details will include:

- Elements (poems, songs, props, etc.) for opening, main section and closing
- Who will plan and be involved with each part?
- Planning the logistics – where will people sit or stand, how will people move about?
- Will refreshments be served?
- What is the budget?

Some things to consider as the planning evolves:

- Are there elements that need to be adapted to circumstances? For instance, if candles are planned, but you learn the site will not permit them, can you substitute battery-powered candles, flashlights or even paper cut outs of candles? If girls will be climbing steps to cross a bridge and one girl is in a wheelchair, what adjustments can be made so all girls can participate equally?
- Does the ceremony reflect the membership of the group and audience? Have the poems, songs, readings, etc. been drawn from diverse religious, ethnic and racial groups representing participants while avoiding those that stereotype? Will everyone in your group and audience feel welcomed and included?

Girls may be able to plan a simple ceremony fairly quickly. With a more elaborate ceremony, allow plenty of time for girls decide format and to look for poems, songs or reading, make props and changes as the planning evolves. Write down details as plans are made. Several of the resources listed on page four include ceremony-planning worksheets. Remember to allow time for girls to rehearse their final plan so everyone is comfortable with her role and knows how to use the props.

Recognition Ceremonies

Awards play an important role in Girl Scouting, from Daisy Learning Petals to the Girl Scout Gold Award. The installation of officers or receipt of a special award is also an appropriate time to have a recognition ceremony. Because an award represents something the individual has accomplished, it is important to mark the occasion in some fashion. A ceremony, even a simple one, shows a girl that her accomplishment has value.

A **Court of Awards** is a special ceremony where Girl Scouts receive the recognitions and insignia they have earned. These ceremonies can be held at any time of the year. It is important, however, to present recognitions in a timely fashion so they have meaning to the girls and girls can enjoy wearing the earned awards on their uniforms. As an award is presented, girls could be given the opportunity to tell what was done to earn the award, new skills learned, or the importance of the award to them. When girls are receiving several awards at one time, the awards might be presented in a creative way such as attaching them to ribbons or a gold cardboard trefoil shape.

An awards ceremony could begin with a flag ceremony, include songs or readings about Girl Scouting, and presentation of the awards. Awards ceremonies provide an opportunity for girls to display items they have created in earning the awards. If they are receiving the Junior Dance Badge, for instance, they could demonstrate dance steps they learned. Girls should consider inviting other Girl Scout troops, parents and individuals who helped them earn the awards. Allow girls to plan ceremonies that will enhance the meaning of the award they are receiving.

As Girl Scouts progress and earn awards such as the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver or Gold Award, it is important that the occasion be marked in a way that recognizes the girl's achievement and helps to inspire other girls and informs the community. Many service units and associations hold special recognition ceremonies for these girls. GSCNC works with community groups to honor girls who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award and holds the "In Your Honor" ceremony each spring to recognize recent Gold Award recipients and girls who have received other special GSCNC awards. Because of the numbers of girls involved, GSCNC cannot individually recognize Girl Scout Silver and Bronze Award recipients, but the "In Your Honor" ceremony now recognizes recipients of these awards as a group. Check Capital Notes for information about the next "In Your Honor" ceremony.

RESOURCES

Ceremonies in Girl Scouting, 1990. Girl Scouts of the USA. This publication contains a Ceremony Worksheet and a variety of sample ceremonies for special Girl Scout events. The publication is available at the GSCNC shop. Many service units maintain a resource library and may have a copy of this publication. (A new publication, *Let's Celebrate*, is scheduled for release Fall 2004. This publication will include a workbook format to help girls create original ceremonies. Special features will include a mix & match chart of ceremony ideas, tips from volunteers and staff, STUDIO2B ceremony ideas and sample ceremonies. This publication will be available through the GSCNC shop when it is released.)

Girl Scout level handbooks

GSCNC website, www.gscnc.org

GSUSA website, www.girlscouts.org

Investiture/Rededication

Aside from flag ceremonies, an investiture is often the first ceremony a new Girl Scout participates in. This ceremony welcomes girls and adults into Girl Scouting for the first time. The new member is often given her pin and recites the Girl Scout Promise. For many groups an Investiture ceremony is combined with a Rededication for returning members to remind them of the meaning of the Girl Scout Promise and Law. The type of ceremony may depend on the age/level of those being invested or rededicated. The ceremony may include a flag ceremony along with props that help explain the parts of the Girl Scout Promise or the Girl Scout Law. Examples are given below for different levels:

Daisy Girl Scouts might "build" a daisy by taking turns taping paper cut outs of the center circle and eight flower petals to a wall. As each girl adds her piece, the leader reads a sentence or two about the history of Girl Scouting, the Girl Scout Promise, or what it means to be a Daisy Girl Scout. An alternative could be to have each girl add a daisy (real or one she has made from pipe cleaners) to a bouquet. Girls are then given their Daisy Girl Scout pin.

Brownie Girl Scouts are often invested using the "twist me and turn me" portion of the Brownie story found on pages 29-32 in the Brownie Girl Scout Handbook. A real pond, a mirror on the floor, or even a circle of blue paper can be used. Each girl is turned 'round and 'round and then looks in the "water" to see herself. The pin is often pinned upside down until the new Brownie Girl Scout does a good deed. (This is also tradition for adults as well.) Returning Brownie Girl Scouts being rededicated might each hold a picture she has drawn to show a part of the Girl Scout Promise or Law and tell what it means to her. Another idea is to have each girl hold up a letter from the word "BROWNIE" and tell how her letter relates to Girl Scouts. ("B" is for Being prepared; R is for Reliable, etc.) (This idea also works with other words for other ceremonies such as THINKING DAY, the ABC's of Girl Scouting, etc., and allows girls to be creative and explain the meaning of events and ideas in their own words.)

Junior, Cadette, Senior and adult Girl Scouts may choose to do more elaborate ceremonies using candles, flowers or other props as they explain what Girl Scouting means to them. A variety of ceremonies have been written and can be found using the resources listed on the back page, resources in service unit libraries and available from other leaders. While there are many wonderful ceremonies available, it is important to give the group a chance to be creative and write their own. In most cases there are no "official" meanings for letters, colors, flowers, etc. Girls can decide what a particular item suggests to them. Girls may want to include favorite poems, other readings or songs that touch on the values of the Girl Scout Promise and Law. The troop could begin a collection of such items for use in other ceremonies.

Girl Scouts' Own

A Girl Scouts' Own ceremony may include many of the elements included in the ceremonies discussed above, but what defines a Girl Scouts' Own is that it is designed entirely by the girls themselves. A Girl Scouts' Own is generally a ceremony of quiet reflection. It is not a religious ceremony, but can be an inspirational one. A Girl Scouts' Own is generally built around a theme the girls choose, such as service, duty to God and country, honor, etc. If done outdoors, it might be built around a theme of nature, the seasons, etc. Girls should be given plenty of time to plan their ceremony, but should not be forced to do it. The ceremony itself could include poems or other reading, a girl's thoughts in her own words or may be a ceremony totally without speaking where girls silently reflect on the theme and make some sign of their contemplation. The resources give examples of ways to do a Girl Scouts' Own, but by its very nature, a troop should not expect to find one totally written out for them.

OUTDOOR FLAG CEREMONY

Items needed:

1. American Flag and a flag pole
2. (4) girls: 3 for Color Guard, (one flag bearer, 2 guards) 1 Girl Scout in charge (Caller)

The Troop/ Group stands at attention (in line, rows, horseshoe formation).

Caller: "Audience, Attention"

Caller: "Color Guard Advance"

Guards come forward, stand in front of flag, salute, bearer picks up flag, all turn with flag and stand in front of troop/group.

Caller: " Girl Scouts, the flag of your country. We will say the Pledge of Allegiance."
COLOR GUARD IS SILENT

Caller: "Please join me in saying the Girl Scout Promise."
COLOR GUARD IS SILENT

Caller: "Color Guard, post the colors."
Color Guard takes flag back to stand, places flag in stand. Color Guard silently salutes flag.

Caller: "Color Guard, dismissed."
Color Guard returns to their place in the assembly.

Caller: "Girl Scouts, dismissed."

1. Practice raising the flag several times before doing this in front of a group.
2. When fastening the flag to a flagpole, be sure all clips on the rope are down and ready to be used. Guards take their places, standing some distance from the pole, holding properly folded flags, while others take their places in horseshoe formation.
3. Following the same commands given for an indoor ceremony, the color bearer carries a folded American flag, hands it to the color guard, and loosens the rope.
4. She then attaches the top of the flag to the first clip, and begins unfolding the flag until the second corner is free. She attaches the second corner.
5. As the flag is raised, it should be unfolded. The flag is then raised briskly.
6. The rope is secured and the guard steps back into place. The saluting of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance occur here.
7. To retire the colors, the same commands are given. The color bearer unties the rope and lowers the flag smoothly and slowly. The guard in back and to her left steps forward and catches the flag as it is lowered so it will not touch the ground. She passes it back to the other three guards, with blue field toward the flagpole.

8. The bearer unhooks the flag, fastens the rope to the pole, and steps back into place at attention. The other guards fold the flag properly into a triangle. During this entire procedure, Girl Scouts in the formation give the full salute as soon as the color bearer begins to lower the flag and hold it until the hooks have been removed from the flag.

9. After the flag is folded, the guard hands it to the bearer, who holds it with the point away from her. The Girl Scout caller says "Color guard, dismissed," then "Girl Scouts, dismissed."

Sample "Horseshoe" Ceremony

There should be a Flag Bearer (person carrying the flag) and Flag Guard for each flag to be presented. (The number of girls in the Color Guard will vary depending on the formality of the ceremony and how many girls are available to take part.) There will also be a Caller (person who will give the commands), except in cases of a silent flag ceremony, and if the ceremony requires, a song leader and/or reader.

Troop members stand in a horseshoe formation. The Caller stands at one end of the horseshoe, where she will best be able to see and direct the Color Guard. Next to her stand those taking special part in the ceremony such as the reader or song leader. The Color Guard (a term used to include both the flag bearers and flag guards) may stand in the horseshoe or may be assigned a separate place outside the horseshoe where they hold the flag in readiness.

The following are the commands and actions for a basic indoor flag ceremony:

1. **"GIRL SCOUTS ATTENTION"** - This is the signal to the girls in the horseshoe that the ceremony is about to start and that they should be silent and give their attention to the ceremony.
2. **"COLOR GUARD ATTENTION"** - If the Color Guard has been standing "at ease" they come to attention. It is also their signal to be ready to start.
3. If the flags are standing elsewhere in the room and the Color Guard is part of the horseshoe, the Caller may say, **"COLOR GUARD FALL OUT."** The Color Guard steps back out of the horseshoe and walks toward the flags.

The Flag Bearer steps forward and takes the American flag from its stand then steps back into the color guard formation. If there are other flag bearers, they step forward and pick up their flags also. The American flag is always the first flag picked up and the first one set down. When there are two flags the American flag is carried on the flag's right, if there are three flags, the American flag is carried in the center and in front of the other two.

4. **"COLOR GUARD ADVANCE"** - The Color Guard walks forward carrying the flags to the open end of the horseshoe.

(During the rest of the ceremony the Color Guard remains standing at attention, taking no part in the singing or speaking.)

5. **"GIRL SCOUTS, THE FLAG OF YOUR COUNTRY, PLEASE JOIN IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE."** - The girls in the horseshoe say the Pledge of Allegiance. If a song is to be sung, the caller or song leader announces the song along with the number of stanzas to be sung, then starts the song, i.e. "We will sing two verses of America the Beautiful" or "Will you please join me in the first verse of the Star Spangled Banner." If the Girl Scout Promise is to be said, it should be included at this time.

(Continued)

- 6. **"COLOR GUARD POST THE COLORS"** - This is the command to be used if the flags are to be placed in stands in view of the audience. The Color Guard wheels to the right, walks to the stands and places the flags in the stands, American flag last.
- 7. **"COLOR GUARD SALUTE THE COLORS"** - The Color Guard salutes the American flag in unison.
- 8. **"COLOR GUARD DISMISSED"** - Color Guard returns to the horseshoe formation.
- 9. **"GIRL SCOUTS DISMISSED"** - Girls file quietly out of the horseshoe formation and continue with other activities.

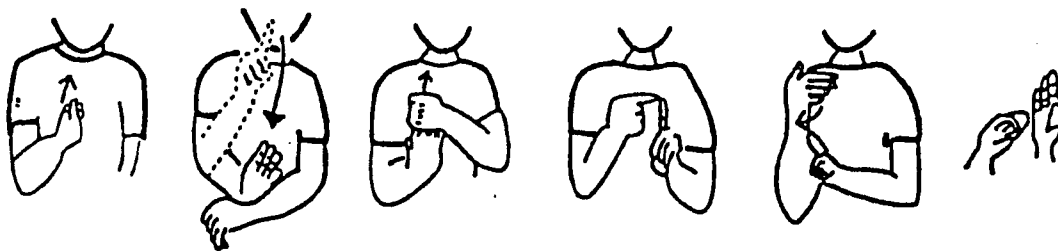
If the flags are not going to be posted in the horseshoe format but instead will be returned to their original place, delete steps #6 - #9 above and replace with the following:

- 10. **"COLOR GUARD RETIRE THE COLORS"** - The Color Guard wheels to the right and takes the flags from the scene and places them in their original starting place.
- 11. **"COLOR GUARD DISMISSED"** - If the Color Guard is not already back to their designated place or in the horseshoe, they do so at this time.
- 12. **"GIRL SCOUTS DISMISSED"** - The ceremony is ended, the girls in the horseshoe may file quietly back to the meeting area, or to the next activity.

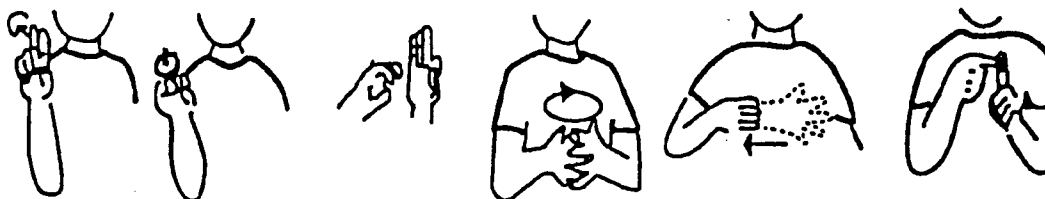
TO RETIRE THE FLAG....

To perform a ceremony to retire the Flag, follow steps 1 through 4 and then 10 through 12.

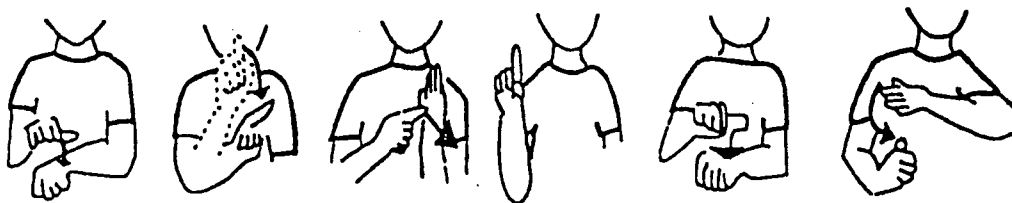
THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE IN SIGN LANGUAGE



"I pledge allegiance to the flag of



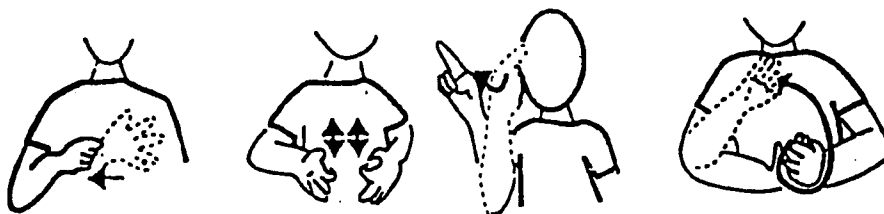
the United States of America and to



the Republic for which it stands, one nation under



God, indivisible, with liberty



and justice for all."

Flashlight Flag Ceremony

Equipment/People Needed

Narrator (one, or more if your troop is large)
Four Flashlight Bearers (candles may be substituted)
Flag Bearer and Color Guard(s)

Color Guard advances with Flag and posts Colors. Lights are turned out so that the room is in total darkness. Flashlight bearers turn on flashlights (or light candles) and direct light toward flag.

NARRATOR: What you see here tonight represents the past, present, and future. The stripes of Old Glory stand for the original thirteen colonies. The stars represent the present 50 states. The light and warmth of the four lights you see shining remind us of the four great freedoms - Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Assembly, Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion. Eliminate any one of these freedoms and our world would become darker and colder.

Narrator calls out the four freedoms slowly. As each is called a flashlight is turned off until the room is again in total darkness.

1. Freedom of the Press
2. Freedom of Assembly
3. Freedom of Speech
4. Freedom of Religion

NARRATOR: In this world of potential cold and darkness, of rule by a few, stands the United States of America. Here the Four Freedoms do exist and are an example of warmth and light for all. Will you please join us in the salute to our flag? (Turn flashlights back on and direct light toward flag)

All join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Flag-in-a-Bag Ceremony

In order to enact the following ceremony, you will need to construct a Flag-in-a-Bag Ceremony Kit.

Flag-in-a-Bag Ceremony Kit

Items needed:

1 small American Flag	1 blue fabric square	1 copy of poem
7 red ribbons	6 white ribbons	1 wooden spoon
1 bag with two compartments	1 pouch with star buttons or silver stars	

SET-UP: Take the red and white ribbons, the blue fabric square, the wooden spoon, and the star pouch out of the bag. Arrange the items around the bag on the table. The flag should be the only item left in the bag. The leader should stand where all the girls can see and hear her read the poem below.

NOTE: The bag should be divided into two sections. As you perform the ceremony, place the assorted items in one section of the pouch, leaving the other section to contain only the American Flag. This will prevent items "spilling out" as you pull the flag out of the bag during the ceremony.

Flag-in-a-Bag Ceremony

**I am going to fix for you a treat that is really grand,
And make for you a recipe-the greatest in the land.**

First I will put in the color red for courage true.
(drop red ribbons into the bag)

And then I will add for loyalty, a dash of heavenly blue.
(drop blue fabric square into the bag)

For purity, I will sift in a layer of snowy white.
(drop white ribbons into the bag)

Now sprinkle in a pinch of stars to make it come out right.
(take stars (buttons or silver cut outs) from blue pouch and sprinkle them into the bag)

**I will stir and stir and then you will see, that what I have made is ... OLD
GLORY!**
(stir inside the bag with the wooden spoon- then pull out the American Flag)

Our flag is the most beautiful flag in the world, let us always be loyal to it!

Flag-in-a-Bag Ceremony ACTIVITY IDEA:

Flag-in-a-Bag Inspires Poetry

The facilitator or troop leader should perform the flag in a bag ceremony to demonstrate how words can be used to express feeling for a subject. Discuss the poem with the girls;

- how did it make them feel,
- did it make them think about the flag, why or why not.

Talk about how the poet used words to express her feelings. Explain that many songs are simply poetry and words put to music. Go over the words of some patriotic songs.

Give each girl a sheet of paper and tell them it is a patriotic poetry sheet. Have the girls write and decorate their own poems about the flag and what it means to them.

Flag-in-a-Bag Ceremony

**I am going to fix for you a treat that is really grand,
And make for you a recipe-the greatest in the land.**

First I will put in the color red for courage true.
(drop red ribbons into the bag)

And then I will add for loyalty, a dash of heavenly blue.
(drop blue fabric square into the bag)

For purity, I will sift in a layer of snowy white.
(drop white ribbons into the bag)

Now sprinkle in a pinch of stars to make it come out right.
(take stars (buttons or silver cut outs) from blue pouch and sprinkle them into the bag)

**I will stir and stir and then you will see, that what I have made is ... OLD
GLORY!**

(stir inside the bag with the wooden spoon- then pull out the American Flag)

Our flag is the most beautiful flag in the world; let us always be loyal to it!

Recipe For An American Flag

Ingredients:

6 girls large pot

1 cup red flag

1 cup blue stars of glitter

1 cup white spoon

Preparation:

Colors can be construction paper cut up, poker chips, or whatever. I use chips, easier to clean up. Put the colors and stars/glitter in individual cups. Fold the flag so that the two upper corners are easy to get hold of. Place the flag in the pot. Do this before the ceremony. When you are ready to start, have the cups of "colors", pot, spoon, and stars/glitter on a table.

Recite the following poem while "cooking" the recipe.

Whole Group:

We're going to fix for you a treat that is really grand

And make for you a recipe-the greatest in the land

(girl #1) In first we'll put a heaping cup of red for courage true

(girl #2) And then we add for loyalty a dash of heavenly blue

(girl #3) For purity, we'll now sift in a layer of snowy white

(girl #4) We'll sprinkle in a pinch of stars to make it come out right

We'll stir and stir and you will see that what we have make is OLD GLORY

(Girls 5&6-one stirs, puts spoon down, then both grasp flag corners and lift from pot)

Follow with the Pledge of Allegiance

Freedom Flag Ceremony

The staging area is dark. Narrator is off stage or holds a light to read by and be seen by the audience.

NARRATOR: From the Four Corners of the earth they came, (either four girls with lighted candles or flashlights). They carried a torch in Freedom's name.

NARRATOR: Freedom of Speech

1st Freedom: and speak we must

NARRATOR: Freedom of Worship

2nd Freedom: in God we trust

NARRATOR: Freedom from Want

3rd Freedom: from weakness, from greed

NARRATOR: Freedom from Fear

4th Freedom: is freedom indeed!

NARRATOR: Let these freedoms be the beacons that call thee to the home of the brave and the land of the free.

The flag is brought into the staging area, on a staff or held at each of the four corners. The flag should not be carried flat; make sure the blue field is raised to the audience.

NARRATOR: To honor the flag is to honor the freedom for which it stands. Join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

[Freedoms act as the Honor Guard and do not speak].

A song may be sung to close the ceremony, all escort flag off stage.

Flags-multiple levels

Opening: Quiet Sign

[Daisy Girl Scout Flag enters, carried by a Daisy Girl Scout]

Narrator #1: "I am the Daisy Girl Scout Flag. I have watched over the Girl Scouts in blue. I have watched them become Girl Scouts and now they seek the wise old owl."

[Brownie Girl Scout Flag enter, carried by a Brownie Girl Scout.]

Narrator #2: "I am the Brownie Girl Scout Flag. I have watched over the Girl Scouts in brown. I have guided their enthusiasm for three years and now they fly from my arms."

[Girl Scout Flag enters, carried by a Junior Girl Scout.]

Narrator #3: "I am the Girl Scout Flag. I have watched over the Girl Scouts in green. For three years I have watched them grow and now they step upward to Cadette Girl Scouting."

[World Association Flag enters carried by a Cadette Girl Scout.]

Narrator #4: "I am the World Association Flag. I watch over my Girl Scouts to appreciate Girl Scouting/Girl Guiding all over the world. They have the same international spirit that made me great. I watch Cadette Girl Scouts grow to become Senior Girl Scouts. Please stand."

[United States Flag enters carried by a Senior Girl Scout.]

Narrator #5: "I am the United States Flag. I watch over Senior Girl Scouts and all Girl Scouts. I can hold my head high when I am with them. I am proud of my daughters. Girl Scouts and guests, the Flag of your country, pledge Allegiance. Color guard, post your colors. Color guard, dismissed."

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

When a flag gets old and is too worn to use, do not throw it in the trash. It should be destroyed, preferably by burning.

Be sure to check whether the flag is made of natural fibers such as cotton, wool, or silk in order to burn it. Synthetic flags should be buried ceremonially. This is a very solemn ceremony and should be done with utmost respect for the retiring of the flag of our country.

You will need:

- A flag to be retired
- Sharp scissors
- A flashlight
- A fire to burn the flag.
- Color guards – four girls, one for each corner of the flag. One or two girls will cut the flag; one or two girls will lay flag pieces on the fire.
- A girl Scout-In- Charge

Ceremony:

Girl Scout-In-Charge: "*Color guard, advance.*" May carry flag folded or open on a pole. "*Please stand. Our Pledge of Allegiance.*"

An appropriate reading or poem and a Song are all optional.

Girl Scout-In-Charge: "*When the flag of our country has become worn or damaged, the proper way to dispose of it is through burning or burial. We are here tonight to pay our last respects to this particular flag with love and reverence. Each stripe stands for one of the thirteen colonies, and each state is represented by a star on a field of blue.*"

When reader finishes, the cutter starts cutting the first stripe. When it is entirely cut, she lays it over the arm of another color guard member to lay on the fire. As each stripe is laid on the fire, the Girl Scout-In-Charge calls out the name of the thirteen original colonies in the order in which the states were admitted to the Union. The first stripe stands for Delaware, then Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island.

The field of blue with white stars, which stands for all the states, is burned last. It should be laid on the fire with two girls holding the corners, not tossed onto the fire.

Closing: A song such as "God Bless America." The girls are excused in silence while taps is played or hummed by the group.

Feel free to take the Flag ceremony above and make it your own. The critical part is that the flag is respected.

Ceremony is taken from *Ceremonies in Girl Scouting* 1990 by Toni Eubanks. Girl Scouts of the United States of America: New York. Pp. 18-19.

Symbols



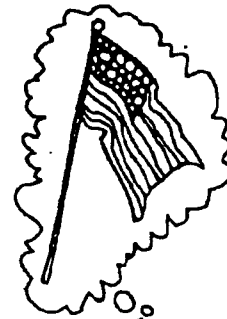


HELPING GIRLS PLAN THEIR OWN CEREMONY

With a little help, Brownie Girl Scouts can learn to plan meaningful ceremonies. You may use the following questions to guide them in the planning process. Remember, the possibilities suggested here are meant to stimulate thought; the final decision about what goes on in the ceremony should rest with the girls.

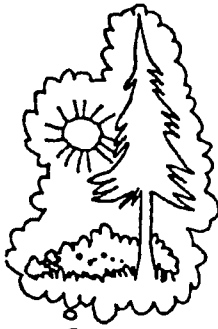
What kind of ceremony do we want?

- A flag ceremony?
- A Court of Awards?
- An investiture and Rededication?
- Girl Scout Sunday?
- Juliette Low's Birthday?
- Scout's Own?
- Thinking Day?
- Girl Scout Birthday?
- A potluck?



Where will it be held?

- Indoors or outdoors?
- School or Church?
- At Camp or in a Park?
- At the Meeting Place?
- By the water or in a field?
- On the side of a hill or a place with a view?

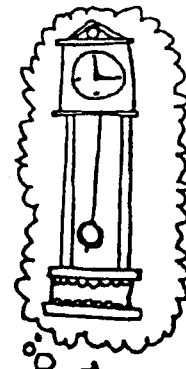


When will it be held?

- Early in the morning or at night?
- An opening for a meeting?
- During troop meeting time?
- On a weekend or weekday?
- Any other time?

Who should be invited?

- Family -- including brothers and sisters?
- Troop Members only?
- Another Girl Scout troop or group?
- Friends?
- Adults in Girl Scouting?
- Adults from the community?
- Religious and civic leaders?



Flag Ceremonies



are often used to open or close meetings or other events. Flag ceremonies may be simple or elaborate. The emphasis in a flag ceremony should be on showing respect for the flag as a symbol of our country. A flag ceremony may include only the flag of the United States of America, or it may also include troop, council, WAGGGS, or other flags. Indoor ceremonies are generally done with flags affixed to poles carried by the girls. Outdoor flag ceremonies often include hoisting a flag up and down a stationary flagpole. Flag ceremonies generally include these people:

Flag bearer, who carries the flag

Color guard, including one or more girls who walk beside or immediately behind the flag. The term "color guard" used in the calls refers to the flag bearer and the guards.

Caller (or Girl Scout in Charge), who announces each part of the ceremony.

The following sample ceremonies can be used as the basis for designing a flag ceremony to meet your needs. Words for the Caller are in quotations (" "), while actions of flag bearer and color guards are in *Italics*. Optional items are in parentheses ().

Basic INDOOR flag ceremony -Calls

"Color guard, attention"

"Girl Scouts (or audience) attention"

"Color guard advance"

"Please say the Pledge of Allegiance"

(If the flag will be left in place, Caller can announce, "Color guard post the colors.")

"Color guard dismissed"

"Girl Scouts dismissed (or be seated)"

Actions

Caller waits for audience to stand

Flag bearer and guard move forward

Color guard does not salute or say Pledge

When the flag is in the holder, color guard

salutes - briefly placing right hand over heart

Color guard walks out

Color guard joins group after securing flag

Basic OUTDOOR Flag RAISING Ceremony

"Girl Scouts, attention"

"Color guard advance" *color guard walks to pole, with flag bearer carrying folded flag*

"Color guard post the colors"

Flag is handed to guard to on right; bearer prepares rope. Guard hand flag back to bearer, who attaches flag, Union (blue) first, then raises flag briskly

"Please say the Pledge of Allegiance" *guard still*

"Color guard, salute" *guard places right hand on heart*

"Color guard, dismissed" *guard walks away from pole*

"Girl Scouts, dismissed" (or "be seated")

Basic OUTDOOR Flag LOWERING Ceremony

"Girl Scouts, attention"

"Color guard advance"

(May sing "Taps" or other song or poem)

"Color guard, salute" *guard places right hand on heart*

"Color guard, retire the colors" *Flag bearer lowers flag slowly to waiting guard. Bearer unhooks flag; guard gathers and folds flag & hands back to flag bearer*

"Color guard dismissed" *Guard step aside so flag bearer can leave first carrying folded flag*

"Girl Scouts dismissed"

Guidelines and Tips

- Sashes may be worn outdoors around waist of guard & over right shoulder of bearer, tied on left. (Sashes are not normally worn for indoor ceremonies.)
- Guards stand still and do not salute when audience is saying the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The US flag should have the place of honor (front or flag's right) if additional flags are included
- To fold flag, fold in half lengthwise. Fold again lengthwise so stars show on both sides. Make a triangle fold at striped end by bringing a corner to the opposite side and align edges. Fold pointed end toward stars keeping edge even. Fold along the diagonal and align edges. Continue these steps the length of the flag. Tuck ends into a fold. Result is a triangle of stars.

Figure of Justice

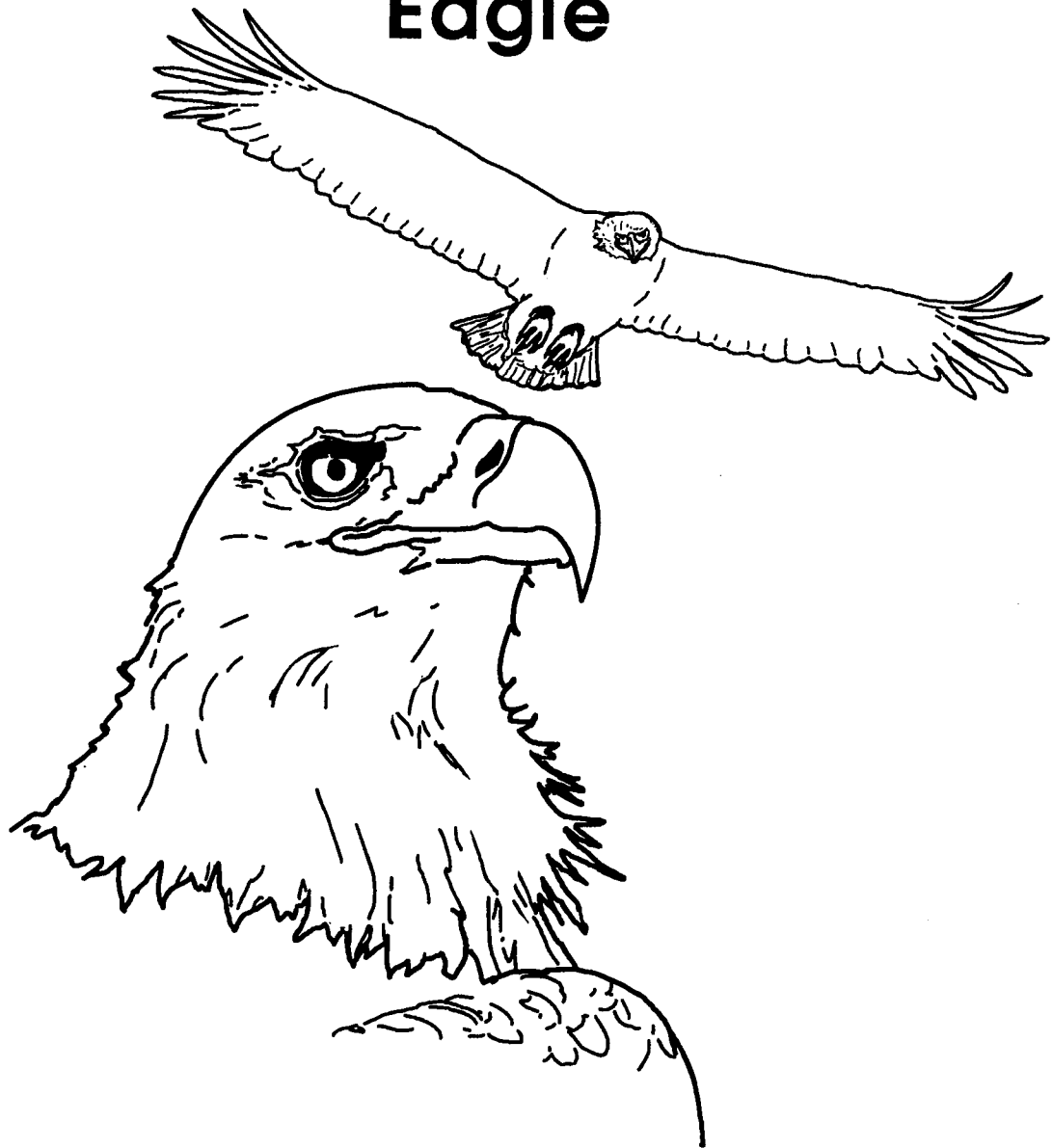


One of the most recognized legal symbols is that of Justice. Justice is most commonly portrayed in the U.S. as a blindfolded woman carrying a sword and a set of scales. She symbolizes the fair and equal administration of the law, without corruption, greed, prejudice, or favor.

The idea of a woman portraying Justice dates back to the ancient Greek and Roman images of Themis and Justitia. Themis, the Greek goddess of justice and law, was known for her clear-sightedness. In Roman mythology, Justitia (Justice) was one of the four Virtues. The others were Prudence, Fortitude, and Temperance.

Figures of Justice can be seen in three places on the Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C.

Eagle



The bald eagle is the national bird of the United States. This majestic bird can only be found soaring in North America. The Founding Fathers chose the bald eagle as the national bird because it symbolizes strength, courage, freedom, and immortality. The term "bald" does not mean that this bird lacks feathers. Instead, it comes from the word piebald, an old word, meaning "marked with white."

Unfortunately, this magnificent bird faced near extinction. When Europeans first arrived on the North American continent in the 1600's, there were an estimated 25,000 to 50,000 bald eagles, but populations dropped for many reasons. Many eagles were captured for getting too close to poultry or fishing nets; some were captured for falconry; and many eagles were poisoned by pesticides. In 1967, the bald eagle was included on the Threatened and Endangered Species List. Federal laws, such as the Bald Eagle Protection Act, protect the bald eagle and have led to the recovery of bald eagle populations.

The Great Seal



On July 4, 1776, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson were given the task of creating a seal for the United States of America. The delegates of the Constitutional Convention believed an emblem and national coat of arms would declare to the world that the U.S. was an independent nation and had a free people with high hopes for the future. The Great Seal was finalized and approved six years later on June 20, 1782. The seal reflects the beliefs and values that the Founding Fathers wanted to pass on to their descendants.

In the center of the seal is a bald eagle, the national bird. It holds in its beak a scroll inscribed *E pluribus unum*, which is Latin meaning "out of many, one" and stands for one nation that was created from 13 colonies. In one claw is an olive branch, while the other holds a bundle of thirteen arrows. The olive branch and arrows "denote the power of peace and war."

A shield with thirteen red and white stripes covers the eagle's breast. The shield is supported solely by the American eagle to denote that Americans should rely on their own virtue. The red and white stripes of the shield represent the states united under and supporting the blue, representing the president and Congress. The color white signifies purity; red, bravery; and blue, justice. Above the eagle's head is a cloud surrounding a blue field containing thirteen stars, which forms a constellation. The constellation denotes that a new state is taking its place among other nations.

Flag Code

A joint resolution adopted by Congress in 1942 established a uniform code for display of the national flag. The section of law dealing with American Flag etiquette is generally referred to as the **Flag Code**. The United States Flag Code is Federal law and stipulates many aspects of flag etiquette.

The United States Flag Code stipulates that as the symbol of a living country, the flag is considered in itself a living thing and should be properly displayed and cared for.

A number of rules regulate the display of the flag at various public ceremonies and its display in connection with state and city flags and in churches. Other rules deal with the observance of proper respect for the American flag. The latter are supplemented in most of the states by laws prohibiting the use of the U.S. flag for advertising purposes. The armed services have detailed regulations for military and naval uses of the flag.

The code outlines the proper ways to display and care for the American flag:

- The flag should be lighted at all times, either by sunlight or by an appropriate light source. The flag can only be flown at night if properly illuminated.
- The flag should be flown in fair weather, unless the flag is designed for inclement weather use.
- Raise the flag briskly. Lower it ceremoniously.
- Never allow the flag to touch the ground or floor.
- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- The flag should not be used for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.
- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard.
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.
- The flag should never be used for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

Uncle Sam



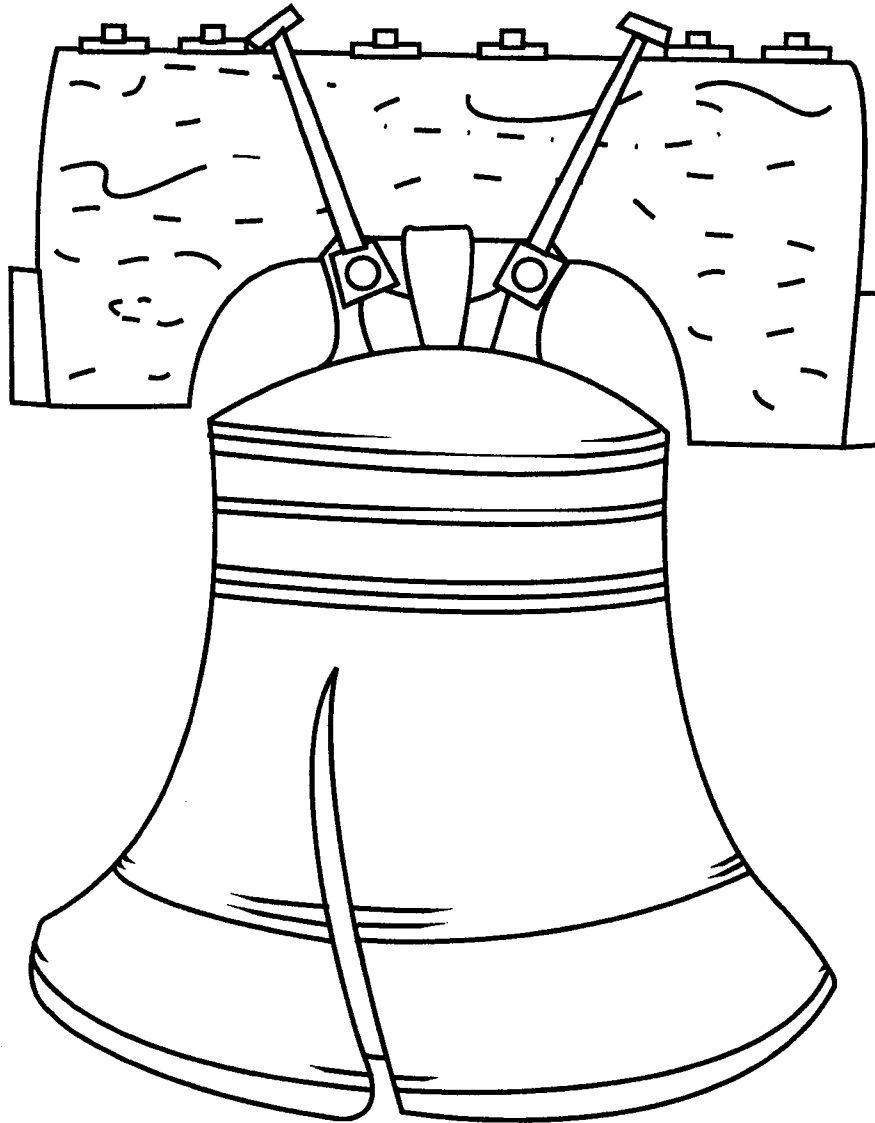
Uncle Sam, a figure symbolizing the United States, is portrayed as a tall, white-haired man with a goatee. He is often dressed in red, white, and blue, and wears a top hat. The exact origins of Uncle Sam as a symbol for the United States are unknown. But the most widely accepted theory is that Uncle Sam was named after Samuel Wilson.

During the War of 1812, Samuel Wilson was a businessman from Troy, N.Y. that supplied the U.S. Army with beef in barrels. The barrels were labeled "U.S." When asked what the initials stood for, one of Wilson's workers said it stood for Uncle Sam Wilson. The suggestion that the meat shipments came from "Uncle Sam" led to the idea that Uncle Sam symbolized the Federal Government and the association stuck. In 1961, Congress passed a resolution that recognized Samuel Wilson as the inspiration for the symbol Uncle Sam.

But Sam Wilson looked, nothing like the Uncle Sam pictured above. Uncle Sam's traditional appearance, with a white goatee and star-spangled suit, is an invention of artists and political cartoonists. One of these political cartoonists was named Thomas Nast. Nast produced many of the earliest cartoons of Uncle Sam.

The most famous picture of Uncle Sam appeared on an Army recruiting poster. The poster was designed in World War I and was used again in World War II. The caption reads "I Want You for U.S. Army." James Montgomery Flagg drew this picture, and served as the model too!

Liberty Bell

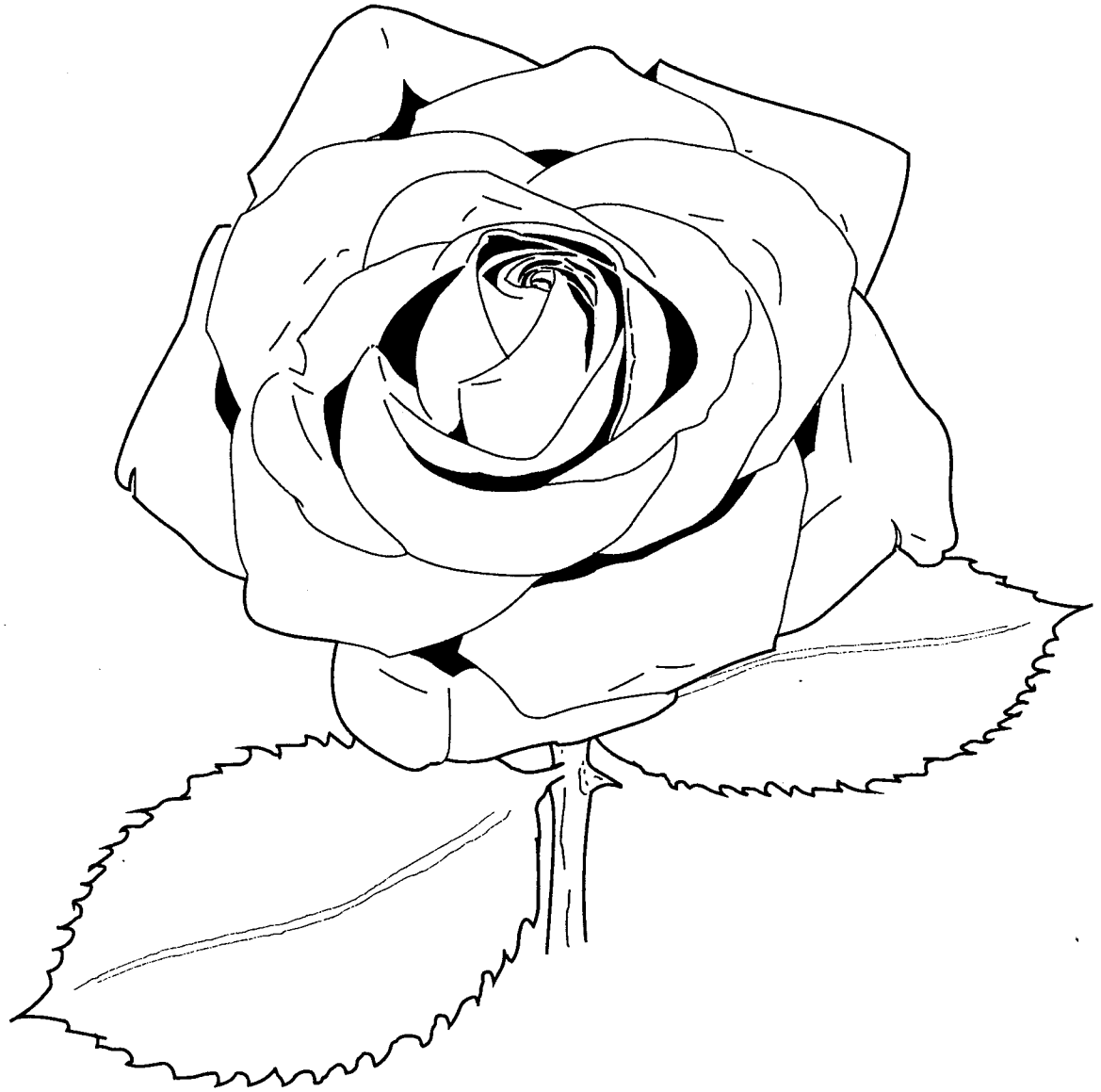


Cast in London, England in 1752, the Liberty Bell rang when the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence. It has become a symbol of freedom in the United States and the world. The bell weighs about 2,000 pounds and is made mostly of copper and tin.

Made for the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall), the Bell was ordered by the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1751 to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of William Penn's 1701 Charter of Privileges. Shortly after its arrival in Philadelphia, the Bell cracked and was recast.

As tradition, the bell was rung on every July 4th and on every state occasion until 1846. By 1846, a new crack had formed that affected the sound of the bell. The last time the bell rang was on February 23, 1846 for George Washington's birthday celebration. Today, the Liberty Bell hangs in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the National Park Service Liberty Bell Center on 6th Street, between Market and Chestnut Streets for all to see.

The Rose



The rose, said to be about 35 million years old, has been used as a symbol of love, beauty, war, and politics throughout the world. The flowers are generally red, pink, white, or yellow and grow naturally throughout North America. The rose became the official flower of the United States in 1986.

American Flag Inspired Crafts and Activities





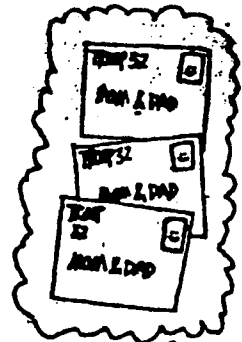
American Flag Activity Suggestions

- Practice folding an American Flag. Teach others how to fold the flag.
- For a community service project, perform a flag ceremony for an organization outside of Girl Scouting.
(i.e.- PTA American Legion, nursing home, community event, etc.)
- Write a poem about the flag. What does it mean to you? Ask those close to you (your family or friends) what it means to them
- Design a troop flag. Have each troop member contribute an idea for the design and/or bring something to use in making the flag. Share your finished flag with someone and explain how you chose the colors and /or symbols.
- Learn how to properly retire/destroy a worn or tattered flag. Locate a business or establishment with a worn flag. Plan a ceremony to properly retire/destroy the worn and tattered flag.
- Find out how and when the flag should be displayed. What happens in inclement weather or darkness? How should the flag be raised and lowered? Find out the correct way to reeve (raise) and retire a flag to be flown at half-staff.
- Find out who wrote the Star-Spangled Banner and when. Sing all 4 verses of the Star-Spangled Banner with your troop. Learn and sing some other patriotic songs.
- Learn the Pledge of Allegiance in sign language.
- Look for flag offences in your community.
- Learn about a "typical" Girl Scout flag ceremony. Have the girls plan their own unique flag ceremony for their parents, at camp, or other Girl Scout event.
- Care for the flag area at your school or public institution. If possible, make any necessary repairs or improvements that may be needed to the flag area.
- Make something to show your patriotic spirit. This may be a decoration, craft, piece of jewelry, hair barrette, pin, or other item. Wear or display your item proudly.
- What are the parts of the flag called? Draw a picture and show each of the following: Canton, Flag Staff, fly end, peak, finial, grommet, field (or ground), truck, fly, halyard, hoist, union.

What could be used in the ceremony?

- Girl Scout Promise and Law?
- A flag and the Pledge of Allegiance?
- A song, poem, dance, dramatization?
- Candles, lights, campfire?
- Girl Scout Pin and World Association symbol?

- Footsteps (to show how far we have come)?
- Stair steps, a bridge?
- A mirror (for Brownie pool)?



How will we do it?

- Who will start the ceremony?
- Should we sit or stand?
- Should we speak together or individually?
- Do we need to learn something new?
- Do we need to rehearse?
- Should we make cue-cards?



What Formation will we use

- Circle?
- Horseshoe?
- In front or behind group?
- Random placement of participants?

What will the main section of the ceremony consist of?

- Girl Scout Promise and Law?
- Candle lighting?
- Girl Scout songs?
- Use of bridge?
- Presentation of Awards?
- Short Story?
- Presentation of World Trefoil Pin?



How will we close the ceremony?

- Friendship Circle?
- Taps or other songs?
- Friendship Squeeze?
- Other?

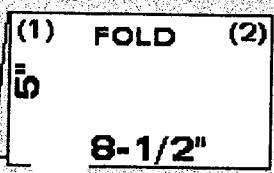
★Cut a 5-Pointed Star in One Snip ★

George Washington's original pencil sketch for the flag indicated 6-pointed stars, a form he apparently preferred.

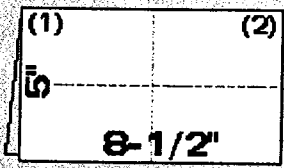
Betsy Ross, however, recommended a 5-pointed star. When the committee protested that it was too difficult to make, she took a piece of paper, folded it deftly, and with a single snip of her scissors, produced a symmetrical five-pointed star. This seeming feat of magic so impressed her audience that they readily agreed to her suggestion.

To you we pass along the secret...

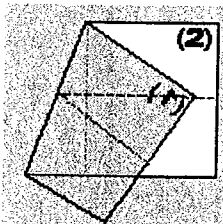
Take a thin piece of paper $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10" (or an exact proportion thereof), fold it as indicated and cut yourself a perfect 5-pointed star.



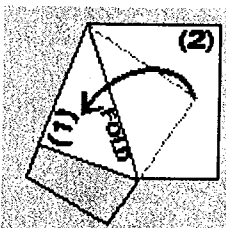
Step 1. Fold an $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10" piece of paper in half.



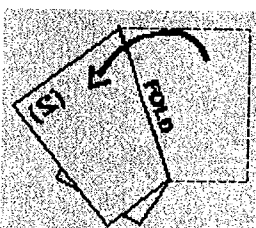
Step 2. Fold and unfold in half both ways to form creased center lines. (Note: be sure paper is still folded in half.)



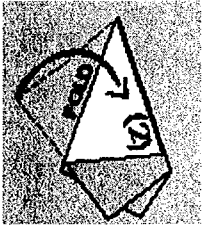
Step 3. Bring corner (1) right to meet the center line. Be sure to fold from the vertical crease line.



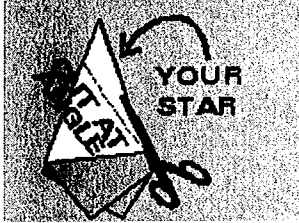
Step 4. Bring corner (1) left till edges coincide, then make the fold.



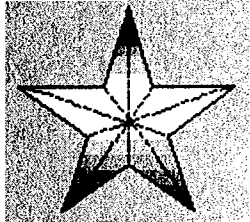
Step 5. Bring corner (2) left and fold.



Step 6. Bring corner (2) right until edges coincide. Then fold.



Step 7. Cut on the angle as shown in the picture. Then unfold the small piece.



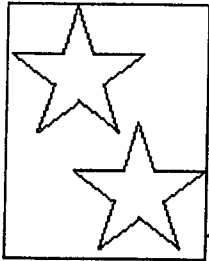
Step 8. Marvel at your perfect (we hope!) 5-pointed star! If your star is not perfect, take a fresh piece of paper (8-1/2" x 10" — not 8-1/2" x 11") and return to Step 1.

STAND-ALONE STAR CRAFT

This 3-dimensional star decoration is made from 2 paper stars that are interlaced. These stars stand by themselves on a table, and make a great patriotic decoration.

Supplies:

- Printer (optional)
- Stiff paper (like card stock, oaktag or thin cardboard) or styrofoam meat trays
- Scissors
- Crayons or markers (optional)

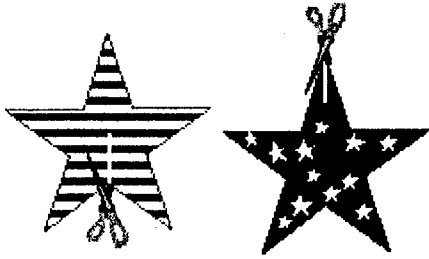


Two paper stars are needed to make one 3-dimensional star. Either draw two identical stars on a piece of stiff paper or use the star template on the following page.



then cut them out.

Decorate the two stars (if you like) on both sides,



Make one slit in each star. On one star, the slit goes from an inner corner to the center point of the star; on the other star, the slit goes from an outer corner to the center point.



Slip the two stars together through the slits you just cut. For stability, you may have to tape the stars a bit where they meet at the slits.



You now have a great three-dimensional star decoration that stands by itself on a table.

Patriotic Windsock

Directions: Francis Scott Key was so delighted to see the American flag still flying over the Fort McHenry following the British bombardment that he wrote a poem to celebrate the occasion. Celebrate America by making your own patriotic windsock.

Supplies needed:

A cylindrical cardboard oatmeal container
Construction paper (blue and white)
Red and white crepe paper streamers
Glue
Scissors

String
Hole punch

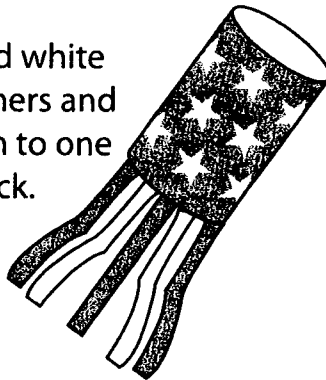
1. Cut the bottom off a cylindrical cardboard oatmeal container and cover the container with blue construction paper.



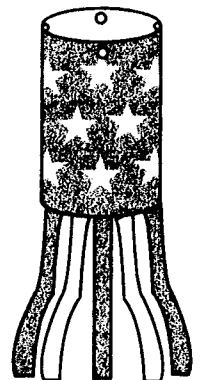
2. Glue on white construction paper stars.



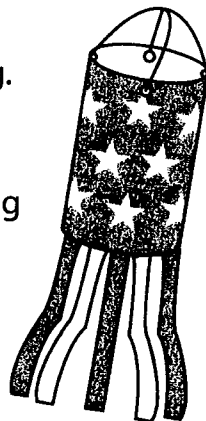
3. Cut some red and white crepe paper streamers and glue or staple them to one end of the wind sock.



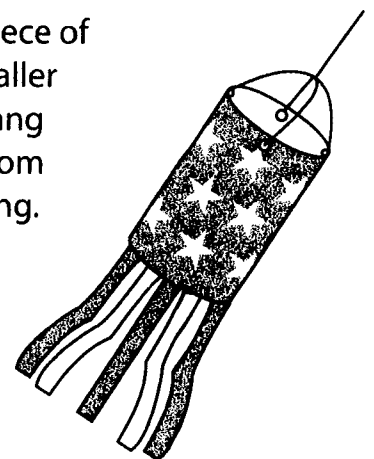
4. Punch four holes along the top of the wind sock.



5. Cut two pieces of string about a foot long. Tie the strings to the wind sock (tie the opposite ends of a string to holes on opposite sides of the cylinder).

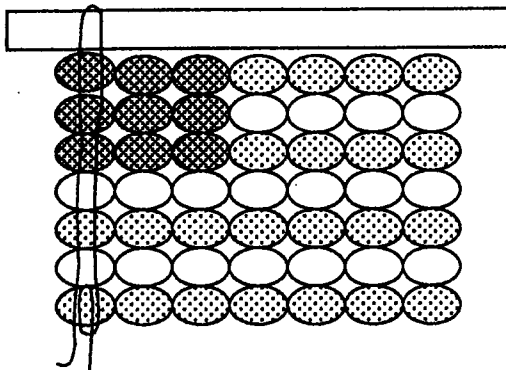


6. Tie a longer piece of string to the smaller pieces - you'll hang the wind sock from this piece of string.



Hang your patriotic wind sock from your window or porch.

BEADED SUN CATCHER




MATERIALS:

Clear straw - 2 1/2 " *

Transparent beads

9 blue 

18 clear 

22 red 

1 1/2 yds clear cord cut as follows *

1 12" piece

7 6" pieces

* Straw and cord length based on smaller pony beads. Adjust as needed for larger pony beads

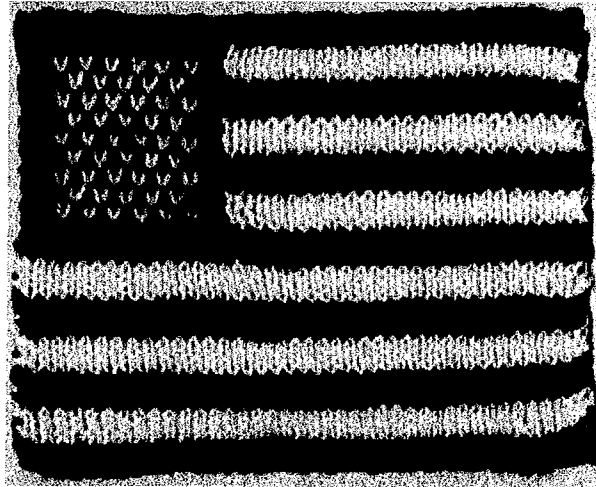
DIRECTIONS:

- Fold 1 6" piece of clear cord in half forming small loop at top.
- Hold cut ends together and thread beads onto them following pattern. (Rows 1-3: 3 blue, 1 clear, 1 red, 1 clear and 1 red. Rows 4-7: 1 red, 1 clear, 1 red, 1 clear, 1 red, 1 clear, 1 red.)
- Slip loop over straw and slide beads as close to straw as possible.
- Using ONE end of cord, go over and back through last bead. Tighten cord again and tie knot. Cut ends close to knot.
- Repeat until all rows are done.
- Thread 12" piece of cord through straw and knot.
- Hang in window.

VARIATION

Make as described above using a pencil instead of a straw for a patriotic pencil topper.

Easy Knitting Instructions American Flag



One way to use this pattern is to make a number of them and stitch them together into a throw.

Materials:

Worsted weight yarn, 2 ounces each of red, white and navy blue

Knitting needles size 7 US

Gauge:

4.5 stitches per inch

Finished Size:

9" X 7"

Instructions:

With red, cast on 40 stitches.

In garter stitch (knit every row), knit 4 rows in red.

Attach white (do not cut red, simply drop color at end each color change and bring up next time it is used.).

In stockinete stitch (knit one row, purl the next), knit 4 rows white, 4 rows red, 4 rows white, 4 rows red, 4 rows white.

Next, knit 24 stitches in red, attach blue, knit to end.

Continuing in red and white sequence, knit navy in last 16 of each row.

Before starting the last band of red, you will have 6 red and 6 white bands.

For the last band, which will be red, do all 4 rows in garter stitch.

You will have 7 bands red and 6 bands white.

Bind off.

Using duplicate stitch for stars, evenly space rows of 6 stars then 5 stars for 9 rows. The last row will be 6 stars. Work 50 stars total.




RECIPE:
TRICOLORED SALTWATER TAFFY

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 cups sugar
3/4 cup light corn syrup
2/3 cup water
3/4 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vegetable glycerine (sold at most party or natural food stores)
2 tbsp. butter
4 drops each of red and blue food coloring
2 tsp. lemon juice

In a large saucepan, stir together the sugar, corn syrup, water, salt and glycerine with a wooden spoon. Cook over medium heat, stirring now and then until a candy thermometer reads 255 degrees. Stir in the butter. Divide the mixture into three equal portions. Mix red food coloring into one batch, blue into another and leave one plain. Pour each batch onto a greased flat pan and fold over the edges with a spatula to keep them from hardening.

When the candy is cool enough to handle, brush with lemon juice. Then, with well-buttered hands, each child can stretch one of the batches into a long rope until elastic (about five minutes). Finally, twist together the ropes, cut into pieces and wrap individually in waxed paper.



FIND YOUR STATE



ALABAMA
ALASKA
ARIZONA
ARKANSAS
CALIFORNIA
COLORADO
CONNECTICUT
DELAWARE
FLORIDA
GEORGIA
HAWAII
IDAHO

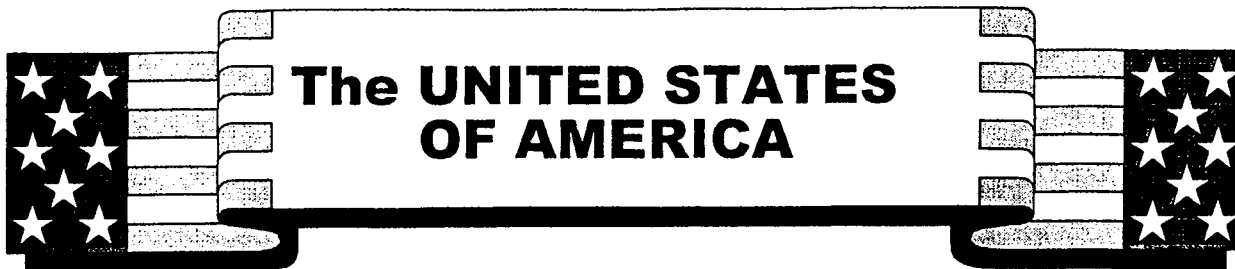
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
IOWA
KANSAS
KENTUCKY
LOUISIANA
MAINE
MARYLAND
MASSACHUSETTS
MICHIGAN
MINNESOTA
MISSISSIPPI
MISSOURI

MONTANA
NEBRASKA
NEVADA
NEW HAMPSHIRE
NEW JERSEY
NEW MEXICO
NEW YORK
NORTH CAROLINA
NORTH DAKOTA
OHIO
OKLAHOMA
OREGON
PENNSYLVANIA

RHODE ISLAND
SOUTH CAROLINA
SOUTH DAKOTA
TENNESSEE
TEXAS
UTAH
VERMONT
VIRGINIA
WASHINGTON
WEST VIRGINIA
WISCONSIN
WYOMING

- Choose a state and:
 - draw a picture of that state's flag
 - find out what the colors and emblems of the state flag symbolize
 - find out when the state was admitted to the union
 - find out when the star representing that state was added to the canton of the flag

- Find out the Following about the American Flag. Using any medium (crayons, paper, markers, paint, etc.) create an accurate replica of the United States flag or today.
 - What do the red, white and blue colors stand for?
 - What do the 13 stripes represent
 - What do the stars represent, how many are there, and when were they added to the union of the flag?



STATE ADMISSION DATES

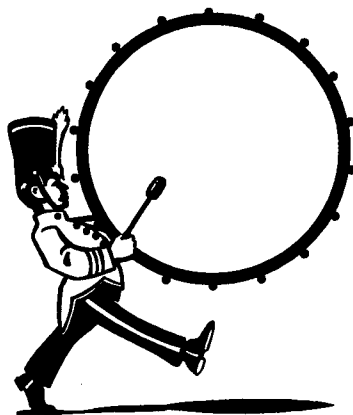
STATE	ORDER OF ADMISSION	ADMITTED TO UNION	STAR ADDED TO FLAG
Alabama	22	Dec 14, 1819	July 4, 1820
Alaska	49	Jan 3, 1959	July 4, 1959
Arizona	48	Feb 14, 1912	July 4, 1912
Arkansas	25	June 15, 1836	July 4, 1836
California	31	Sept 9, 1850	July 4, 1851
Colorado	38	Aug 1, 1876	July 4, 1877
Connecticut*	5	Jan 9, 1788	June 1777
Delaware*	1	Dec 7, 1787	June 1777
Florida	27	March 3, 1845	July 4, 1845
Georgia*	4	Jan 2, 1788	June 1777
Hawaii	50	Aug 21, 1959	July 4, 1960
Idaho	43	July 3, 1890	July 4, 1890
Illinois	21	Dec 3, 1818	July 4, 1819
Indiana	19	Dec 11, 1816	July 4, 1817
Iowa	29	Dec 28, 1846	July 4, 1847
Kansas	34	Jan 29, 1861	July 4, 1861
Kentucky	15	June 1, 1792	July 4, 1792
Louisiana	18	April 30, 1812	July 4, 1812
Maine	23	March 15, 1820	July 4, 1820
Maryland*	7	April 28, 1788	June 1777
Massachusetts*	6	Feb 6, 1788	June 1777
Michigan	26	Jan 26, 1837	July 4, 1837
Minnesota	32	May 11, 1858	July 4, 1858
Mississippi	20	Dec 10, 1817	July 4, 1818
Missouri	24	Aug 10, 1821	July 4, 1822
Montana	41	Nov 8, 1889	July 4, 1890
Nebraska	37	March 1, 1867	July 4, 1867
Nevada	36	Oct 31, 1864	July 4, 1865
New Hampshire*	9	June 21, 1788	June 1777
New Jersey*	3	Dec 18, 1787	June 1777
New Mexico	47	Jan 6, 1912	July 4, 1912
New York*	11	July 26, 1788	June 1777
North Carolina*	12	Nov 21, 1789	June 1777
North Dakota	39	Nov 2, 1889	July 4, 1890
Ohio	17	March 1, 1803	July 4, 1803
Oklahoma	46	Nov 16, 1907	July 4, 1908
Oregon	33	Feb 14, 1859	July 4, 1859
Pennsylvania*	2	Dec 12, 1787	June 1777
Rhode Island*	13	May 29, 1790	June 1777
South Carolina*	8	May 23, 1788	June 1777
South Dakota	40	Nov 2, 1889	July 4, 1890
Tennessee	16	June 1, 1796	July 4, 1796
Texas	28	Dec 29, 1845	July 4, 1846
Utah	45	Jan 4, 1896	July 4, 1896
Vermont	14	March 4, 1791	July 4, 1791
Virginia*	10	June 25, 1788	June 1777
Washington	42	Nov 11, 1889	July 4, 1890
West Virginia	35	June 20, 1863	July 4, 1863
Wisconsin	30	May 29, 1848	July 4, 1848
Wyoming	44	July 10, 1890	July 4, 1891

* = the original 13 united colonies/states

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN Flag Sheet

On one sheet, draw the stripes of the flag as they are today. On the second sheet, draw the stripes of the flag as they would be if the Congress had continued to add a stripe for each state added to the Union.

The form consists of a large outer rectangle with a thick black border. This rectangle is divided into two sections by a vertical line. The left section is a smaller rectangle, and the right section is a larger rectangle. At the bottom-left corner of the left section, there is a small circle. At the bottom-left corner of the right section, there is a small circle. At the bottom-right corner of the entire large rectangle, there is a small circle.



Anthems Inspired by
the Flag of the
United States of
America

The Writing of the Star-Spangled Banner

One of the most dramatic episodes in America's patriotic history occurred on September 14, 1814. It was on this day that lawyer and poet, Francis Scott Key, penned our national anthem on the back of an envelope while witnessing the heated British bombardment of Fort McHenry during the war of 1812.

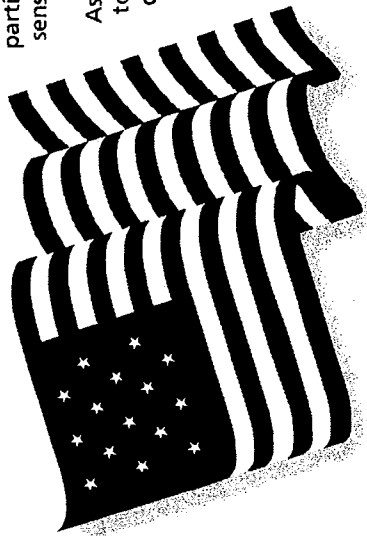
Key had traveled to Chesapeake Bay, where the English fleet was gathered, to plead for the release of his friend, Dr. William Beanes, who was being held prisoner. Because the enemy was prepared to attack the fort, they refused to let any Americans leave.

The British fleet poured a blazing shower of shells upon the fortress all during the night. From his place on the battleship, Key could see by the glare of the rockets and the flashes of the cannons that the American flag was still waving triumphantly over Fort McHenry.

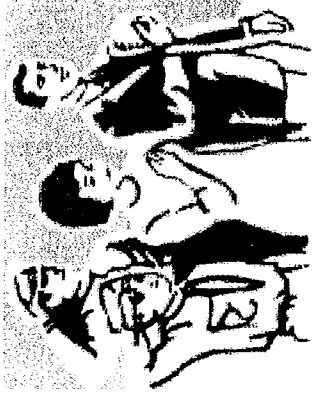
It's no wonder that Key found America's mighty banner so inspiring: The "Star-Spangled Banner" that flew on that day was probably the largest flag ever carried into battle, weighing approximately 200 pounds and necessitating a crew of two dozen to carry it. It was 30 feet high and 42 feet long. It is the only official American flag with other than the thirteen stripes, and each of its 15 stripes and 15 stars were two feet wide.

The original Star-Spangled Banner never made another appearance in American history, and its remnants are preserved today at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., where it has been partially restored to give viewers a sense of its original dimensions.

As for Francis Scott Key's tribute to the flag, it was officially designated as our National Anthem in 1931. The tune to the anthem is that of a song called "To Anacreon in Heaven," written by John Stafford Smith for an English social club.



Saluting the Flag



When attending a ceremony in which the flag is raised or lowered, or when the flag is passing in a parade or in a review, all present should face the flag and stand at attention. Individuals should remove their hats and hold them over their left shoulder so that the hand is over the heart. People without hats should stand with their right hand

over their heart. Those in military uniform should stand at attention and salute. The salute should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

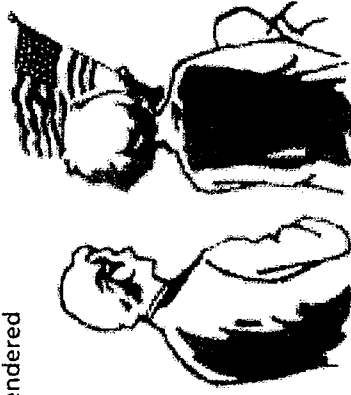
When the "Star-Spangled Banner" is played at a ceremony, all present should stand and face either the flag or the musician. Those in uniform should salute.

Remain standing, facing the flag or the musician until the national anthem

has ended. If a parade passes you, and the

flag is there, stand at attention as

it passes. The flag is your flag. Respect it as your own. For in reality, it is yours.



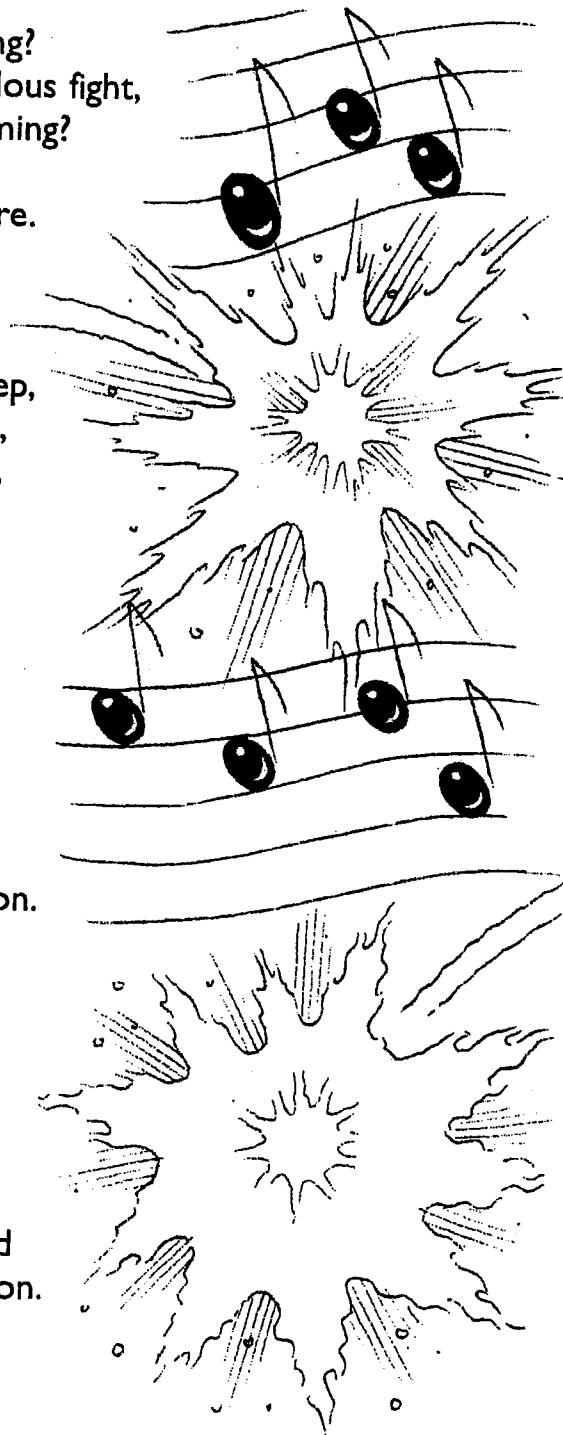
"The Defense of Fort McHenry"/ "The Star-Spangled Banner"

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.
Oh! 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 mist 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, half conceals, half 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. Oh! 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 washed 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 home and the war's desolation,
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto—"In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.



THE AMERICAN'S CREED

"I believe in the United States of America as a Government of the people by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a Republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my Country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

Historical Notes: The American's Creed was a result of a nationwide contest for writing a National Creed, which would be a brief summary of the American political faith founded upon things fundamental in American history and tradition. The contest was the idea of Henry Sterling Chapin, Commissioner of Education of New York State. Over three thousand entries were received, and William Tyler Page was declared to be the winner. James H. Preston, the mayor of Baltimore, presented an award to Page in the House of Representatives Office Building on April 3, 1918. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the commissioner of education of the state of New York accepted the Creed for the United States, and the proceedings relating to the award were printed in the *Congressional Record* of April 13, 1918. It was a time when patriotic sentiments were very much in vogue. The United States had been a participant in World War I only a little over a year at the time the Creed was adopted.

The author of the American's Creed, William Tyler Page, was a descendant of John Page, who had come to America in 1650 and had settled in Williamsburg, Virginia. Another ancestor, **Carter Braxton**, had signed the Declaration of Independence. Still another ancestor, John Tyler, was the tenth president of the United States. William Tyler Page had come to Washington at the age of thirteen to serve as a Capitol Page. Later he became an employee of the Capitol building and served in that capacity for almost sixty-one years. In 1919 he was elected clerk of the House. Thirteen years later, when the Democrats again became a majority party, they created for Page the office of minority clerk of the House of Representatives. He held this position for the remainder of his life.

Referring to the Creed, Page said: "It is the summary of the fundamental principles of the American political faith as set forth in its greatest documents, its worthiest traditions, and its greatest leaders." His wording of the Creed used passages and phrases from the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and Daniel Webster's reply to Robert Y. Hayne in the Senate in 1830.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was first published in a Boston magazine called *The Youth's Companion* on September 8, 1892. It was written by Francis Bellamy to be used in observing the National Public School Celebration of Columbus Day in 1892. The pledge was repeated by school children everywhere to celebrate the 400th observance of the discovery of America. The original pledge was written:

*I pledge Allegiance to my Flag
and to the Republic for which it stands,
one Nation, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.*

At the flag conference held in 1923 the original phrase "my Flag" was changed to "the Flag of the United States." In 1924, the words "of America" were added and in 1954, the words "under God" were approved. The pledge now reads:

*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.*

Reciting the Pledge is the traditional way for a person to state his loyalty and love for the United States and the Flag, and their belief in its democratic principles. When pledging allegiance to the flag, you should stand facing the flag with your right hand over your heart. Men remove their hats, women do not.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

During the War of 1812, a Washington, D.C. lawyer, Francis Scott Key, wrote the national anthem. He was present on the night of September 13 and 14, 1814, when the British Navy bombed the Americans at Fort McHenry. The shelling lasted all night. In the morning light he saw the American flag still flying and he began to write a poem to commemorate the event. He called the poem *The Star Spangled Banner*. Soon Americans were singing it to music. It became so popular that it was adopted by an Act of Congress in 1931 as the National Anthem of the United States of America.

The "star spangled banner" that waved triumphantly over Fort McHenry, and which inspired Key's poem, was forty-two feet long and each stripe measured nearly two feet in width. At the time it had 15 stripes and 15 stars. It has been restored and is now in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

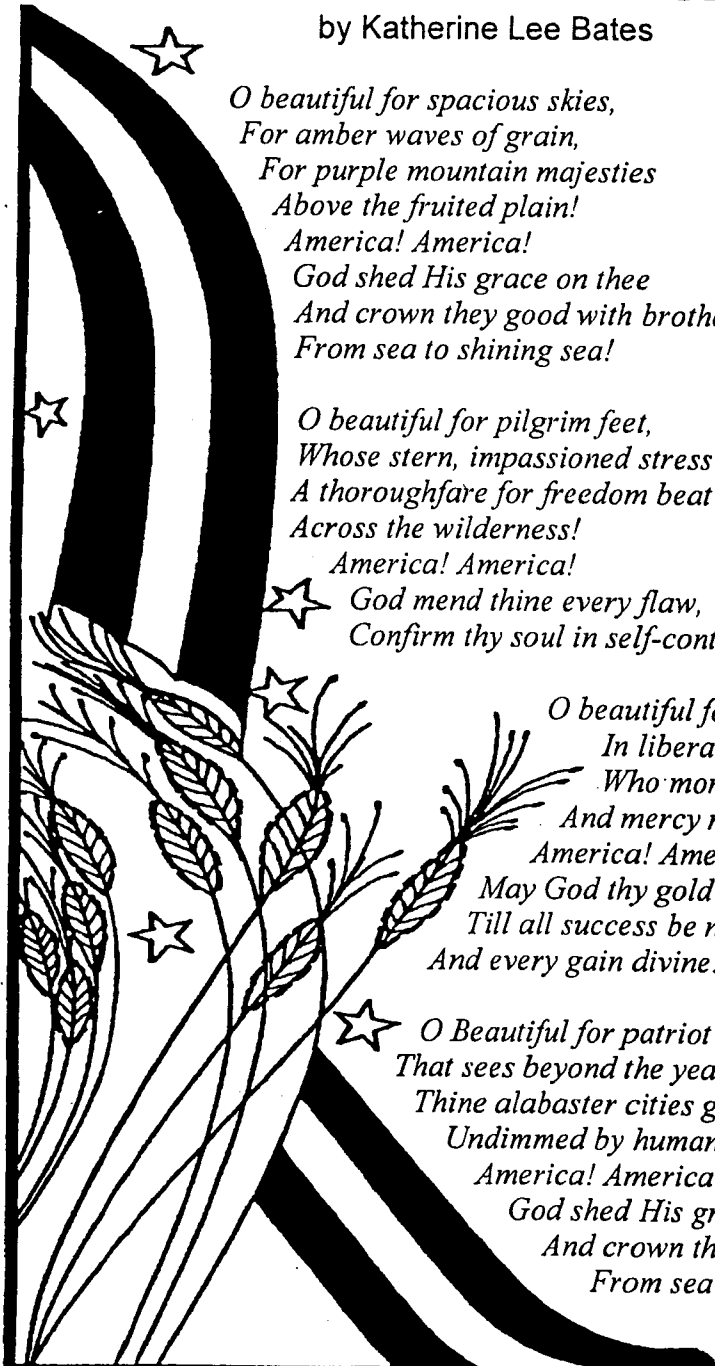
Always stand when the national anthem is played. If the United States flag is visible, face the flag and salute by placing the right hand over the heart. If no flag is visible, stand and face the music.

Patriotic Songs

People who love their country often enjoy singing patriotic songs about it. We have many patriotic songs in the United States. You may already know some of them. Sing these songs with your group. Listen to the words and think about what they mean. Discuss the words and their meanings with others. You may even like to try writing a patriotic song of your own.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

by Katherine Lee Bates



*O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!*

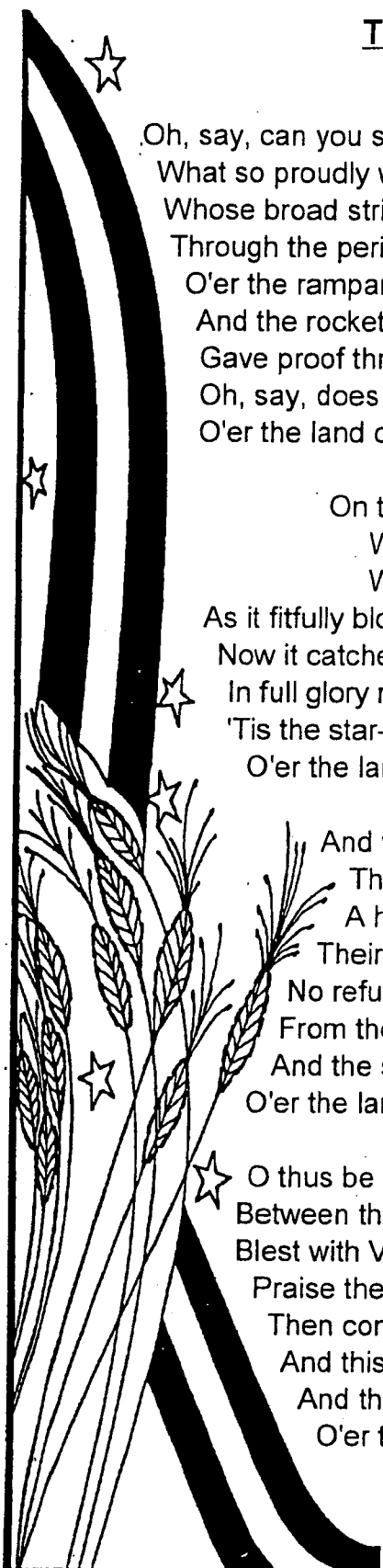
*O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!*

*God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!*

*O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!*

*O Beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!*

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER



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.
Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

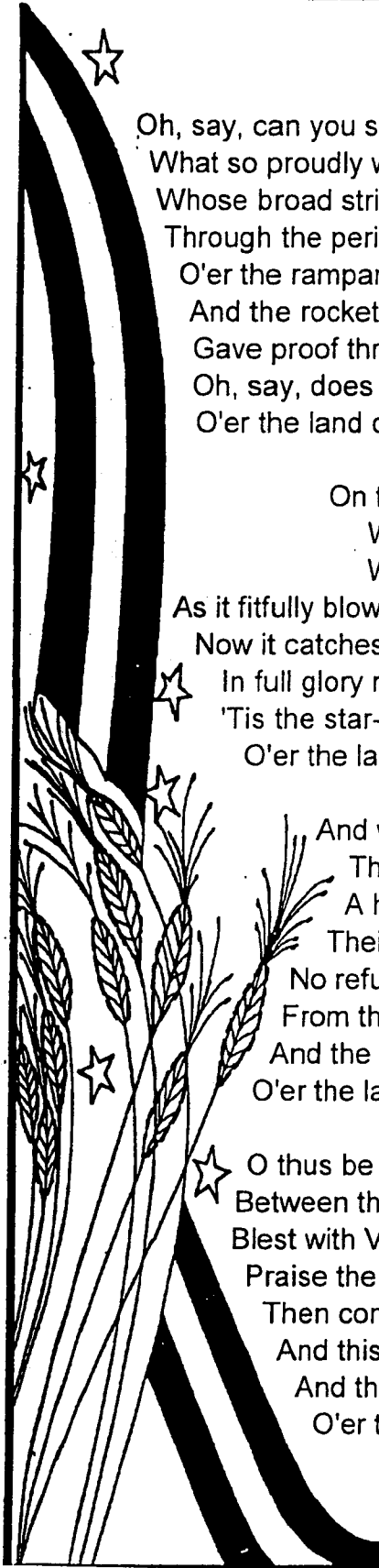
On the shore dimly seen thro' the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?

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 would leave us no more?
Their blood has wash'd 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.

O thus be it ever when free-men shall stand
Between their lov'd home and war's desolation;
Blest with Vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our Trust!"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
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THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER



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AMERICA

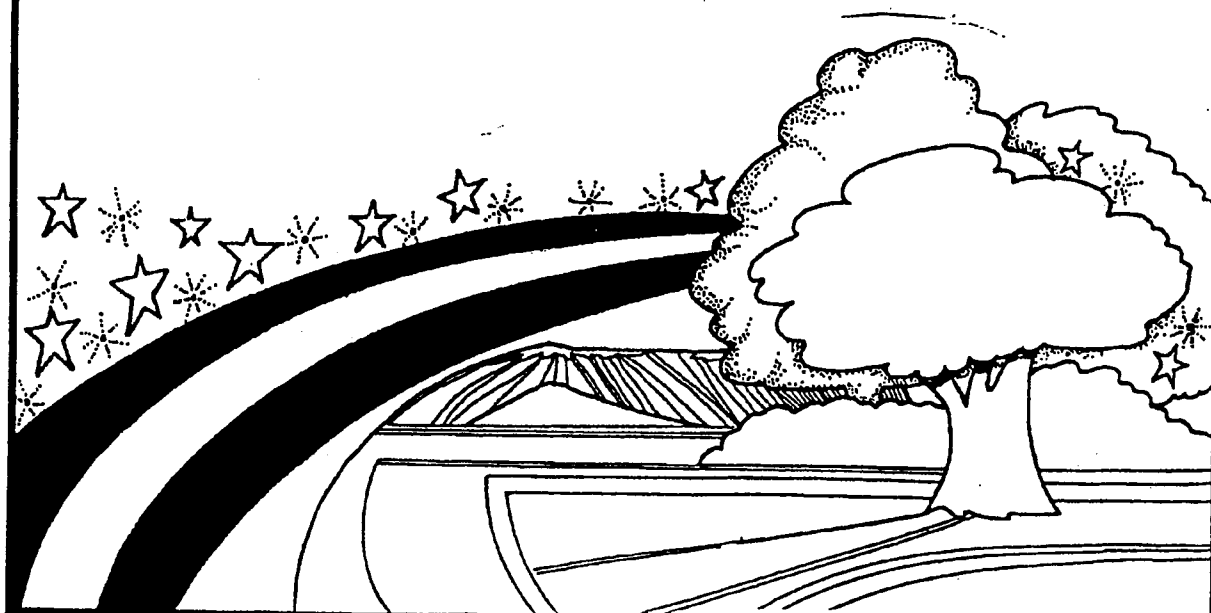
by Samuel Francis Smith

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
 Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain-side
 Let freedom ring.

My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
 Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
 Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake,
Let all that breathe partake,
Let rocks their silence break
 The sound prolong.

Our father's God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
 To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
 Great God, our King.



The Star-Spangled Banner

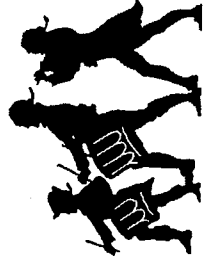
O say, can you see by the dawns early light
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through 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?

-Francis Scott Key

America, the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good
With brotherhood
Form sea to shining sea!

-Samuel Ward



The Pledge of Allegiance

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.



The American Flag



Our flag...

stands for generations of individuals who have never stopped believing in the principles of liberty, equality and justice.

Our flag...

13 red & white stripes waving freely in the wind, proudly guarding a field of blue with 50 white stars is a symbol of deeply held beliefs that have kept our country strong and free.

Our flag...

carries poignant memories of our Nation's triumphant past, and bears a powerful message of hope for the present and future of our Nation and world.

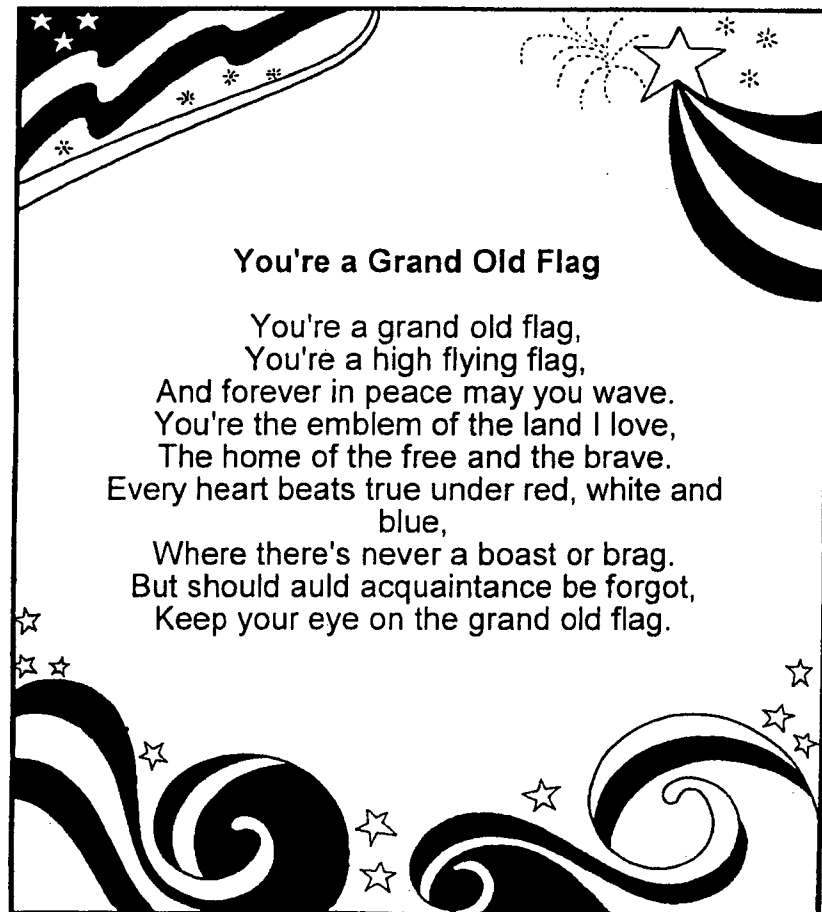
Our flag...

flies to bring the pledge of freedom and justice to all people.

POPULAR NAMES FOR THE FLAG

A flag floating in the breeze is a beautiful and stirring sight. Our sense of duty and loyalty has created many endearing terms for our flag. It has been known by names such as: *The Stars and Stripes*, *Freedom's Banner*, *Starry Flag*, *The Colors*, *Old Glory*, and *The Star-Spangled Banner*. It has been said that our Stars and Stripes is a "living" flag. It breathes vitality as it ripples in the breeze. It has illustrated strength, spirit and endurance in proclaiming the freedom of our citizens and their right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness through more than two centuries. It grows as our nation grows, adding a star for each new state taken into our union. More than a million people have given their lives for its defense. For Americans everywhere, it signifies honor and love of country. Our flag symbolizes to the people of the United States, and to the people of the world, human dignity, liberty under law, equal opportunity for the fulfillment of the American dream, and above all, freedom.

George M. Cohan (1878-1942) wrote the words and music for "*You're a Grand Old Flag*" in 1906. Cohan's idea for his song came after talking to a veteran who told him he had been a color bearer during Pickett's charge at Gettysburg. Pointing to an American flag, he said, "She's a grand old flag."



COPY ONE FOR EACH GIRL

PATRIOTIC POETRY

Let girls create and decorate their own patriotic poetry.



FLAG HISTORY



Origins of the American Flag

Early flags designed for use in the American colonies reflected the Old World origin of the colonists. In the British colonies many flags were adaptations of the British Union Jack. The colors red, white, and blue, which symbolized colonial unity, were first used in a flag in New England in 1737. The flag was blue with a white canton quartered by a red cross. In one upper quarter of the canton was a globe symbolizing the New World.

As relations with Great Britain became more strained, the colonists designed a large number of flags expressive of their political sentiments and ideals. A favorite emblematic device in the flags of the southern colonies was a rattlesnake, usually depicted as coiled and ready to strike and having 13 rattles. In South Carolina it was emblazoned on a yellow flag and was accompanied by the inscription "DONT TREAD ON ME." Another South Carolina colonial flag consisted of 13 horizontal stripes, 7 red alternating with 6 blue; extending diagonally across the flag toward the upper corner near the staff was a rattlesnake depicted with its forked tongue projecting. A similar Virginia colonial flag differed from the latter South Carolina emblem in two respects: it contained 6 white instead of 6 blue stripes, and beneath the serpent was inscribed "DONT TREAD ON ME." Another Virginia flag was white and emblazoned with crossed swords and the motto "LIBERTY OR DEATH."

The idea of liberty appeared on many other flags besides that of Virginia. The word was inscribed on an otherwise plain red flag raised in New York by the Sons of Liberty, a secret patriotic organization, in defiance of a British regulation forbidding the display of any but the British flag. "LIBERTY" also formed the inscription of a Taunton, Massachusetts, flag consisting of a red field and a blue canton containing the British Union Jack. A favorite device in other colonial flags was the pine tree, called the liberty tree, on a yellow flag borne by the minutemen in 1775. In New England the liberty tree device appeared on a yellow flag bearing the inscriptions "AN APPEAL TO GOD" and "DONT TREAD ON ME." The tree also appeared in the white canton of a red flag that, with other emblems, was borne by the Americans at the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775. The first American colonial flag with stars of which there is a record was that displayed in 1775 by the armed schooner *Lee*. The flag of the *Lee* was white. Near its center was a blue anchor partially enclosed by a scroll, and above the anchor was inscribed the word "HOPE." In the upper corner of the flag was a blue canton containing 13 five-pointed stars.

To meet the growing need for a flag symbolic of its cause, the Continental Congress appointed a special committee in the latter part of 1775. The committee, which consisted of Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, the statesman Benjamin Harrison of Virginia, and the planter Thomas Lynch of South Carolina, conferred with George Washington and other revolutionary leaders. Because the political sentiment prevailing at that time among these leaders was opposed to separation from Great Britain and envisaged eventual reconciliation, the flag finally adopted signified the two dominant contemporary political ideas: colonial unity against oppression and continued union with Great Britain. The first idea was represented in the flag by 13 horizontal stripes, 7 red alternating with 6 white. The second idea was symbolized by including, in a blue canton at the top of the flag near the staff, the crosses of the British Union Jack—the cross of St. George and the cross of St. Andrew. This flag, which may have been designed in detail by Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was raised for the first time at Charlestown, Massachusetts, on January 1, 1776. It was known as the Continental flag, or the Congress colors. In later times it came to be called the Grand Union, or Cambridge, flag.

Evolution of the United States Flag

No one knows with **absolute certainty** who designed the first stars and stripes or who made it. Congressman Francis Hopkinson seems most likely to have designed it, and while historians debate on the fact, a few historians believe that Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia seamstress, made the first one.

Until the Executive Order of June 24, 1912, neither the order of the stars nor the proportions of the flag was prescribed. Consequently, flags dating before this period sometimes show unusual arrangements of the stars and odd proportions, these features being left to the discretion of the flag maker. In general, however, straight rows of stars and proportions similar to those later adopted officially were used. The principal acts affecting the flag of the United States are the following:

On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the **first Flag Act**: "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation." Official announcement of the new flag was not made until September 3, 1777.

When the flag was first flown has not been determined. Historical research has failed to establish a factual foundation for the traditional story that the flag maker Betsy Ross made the first American flag.

Because Congress had made no rule for the arrangement of the stars, they were displayed in different ways. The most usual arrangement was a circle. Occasionally the circle was made to consist of 12 stars with the 13th star forming the center of the circle.

Act of January 13, 1794 - provided for 15 stripes and 15 stars after May 1795.

Act of April 4, 1818 - Legislation enacted in 1818 reestablished the number of stripes at 13 and instituted the policy, "That on the admission of every new state into the Union, one star be added to the union of the flag ..." The star for each state, is to be added to the flag on the 4th of July following the admission of each new state, signed by President Monroe.

At the time of the Mexican War in 1846, the American flag contained 29 stars. At the start of the American Civil War in 1861, the flag contained 34 stars, including those of the seceding states. By the time of the Spanish-American War in 1898, the flag contained 45 stars. The 49th and 50th stars were added in 1959 and 1960, respectively, after Alaska and Hawaii were admitted to the Union.

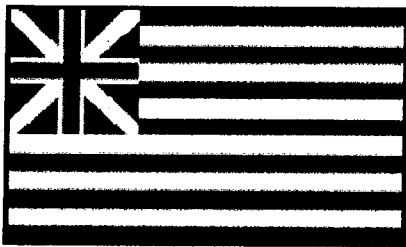
Pictorial View of the Progression of the American Flag



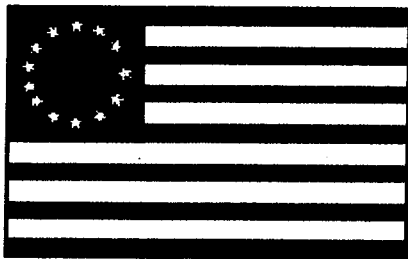
American ships in New England waters flew a "Liberty Tree" flag in 1775. It shows a green pine tree on a white background.



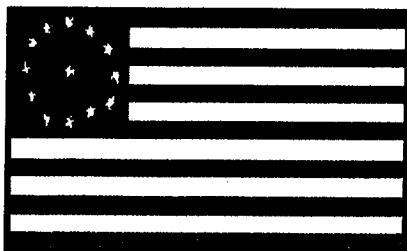
The Continental Navy used this flag upon its inception.



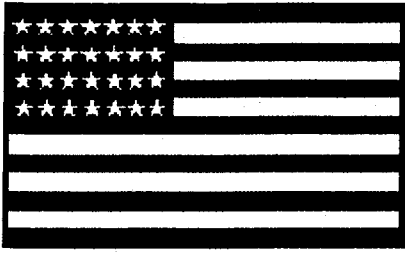
The "Grand Union" shown here is also called The "Cambridge Flag." It was flown over Prospect Hill, overlooking Boston, January 1, 1776. In the canton (the square in the corner) are the crosses of Saint Andrew and Saint George, borrowed from the British flag.



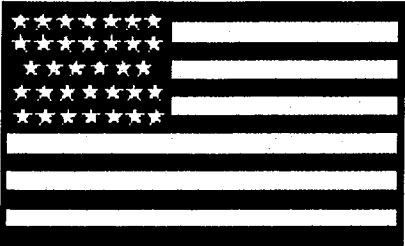
The "Betsy Ross" flag.



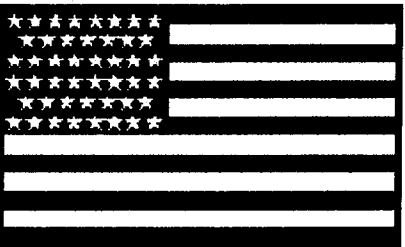
According to some sources, this flag was first used in 1777. It was used by the Third Maryland Regiment. There was no official pattern for how the stars were to be arranged. The flag was carried at the Battle of Cowpens, which took place on January 17, 1781, in South Carolina. The actual flag from that battle hangs in the Maryland State House.



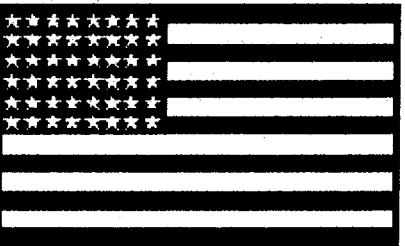
Following the Mexican-American War in 1846, the nation had 28 states.



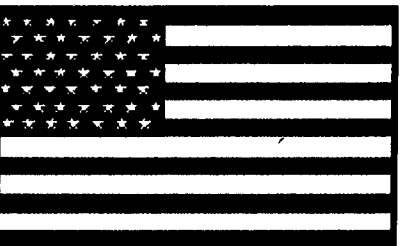
By 1861, the nation had 34 states. Even after the South seceded from the Union, President Lincoln would not allow any stars to be removed from the flag.



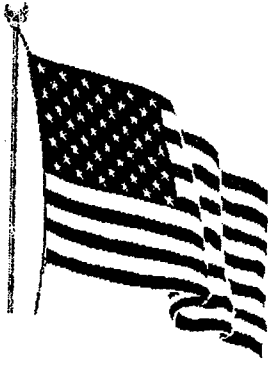
In 1908, the United States had 46 states. It's interesting to note that there was no official design for the 46-star flag used from 1908 to 1912.



In 1912, the United States had 48 states. A Presidential order was issued fixing the position of the stars for this flag. Presidential orders followed the adoption of the flags of 1959 and 1960, as well.



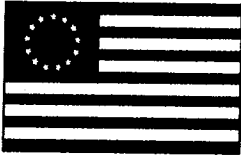
This flag was used starting on July 4, 1959, after the admission of Alaska to the Union on Jan. 3, 1959.



The United States flag today. The 50th star was added on July 4, 1960 for Hawaii, which entered the Union on August 21, 1959.

Another Pictorial View of the Stars and Stripes

Betsy Ross Flag



The 13 Star Flag



The Star Spangled Banner



The 1818 20 Star Flag



The 21 Star Flag



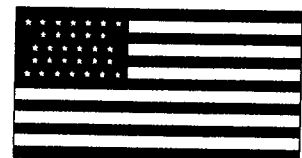
The 23 Star Flag



The 24 Star Flag



The 31 Star Flag



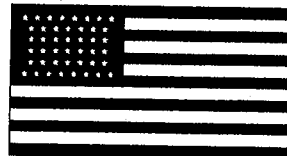
The Civil War 35 Star Flag



The 37 Star Flag



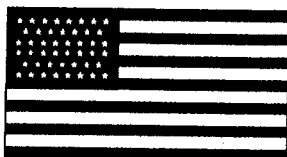
The 44 Star Flag



The 45 Star Flag



The 46 Star Flag



The 48 Star Flag

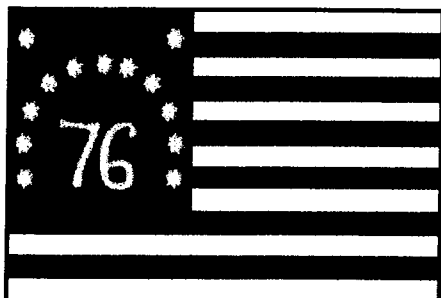


The 49 Star Flag



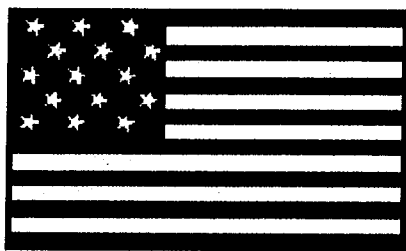
The 50 Star Flag



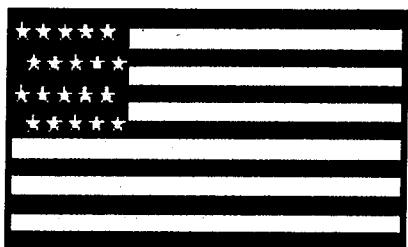


At the Battle of Bennington in August 1777 were two famous flags. One, shown here, is called the Bennington Flag or the Fillmore Flag. Nathaniel Fillmore took this flag home from the battlefield. The flag was passed down through generations of Fillmores, including Millard, and today it can be seen at Vermont's Bennington Museum. The other (not pictured) has a green field and a blue canton with 13 gold-painted stars arranged in rows. General John Stark gave his New Hampshire troops a rallying speech that would be the

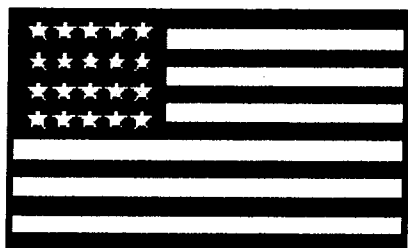
envy of any football coach today. He said, "My men, yonder are the Hessians. They were brought for seven pounds and ten pence a man. Are you worth more? Prove it. Tonight, the American flag floats from yonder hill or Molly Stark sleeps a widow!"



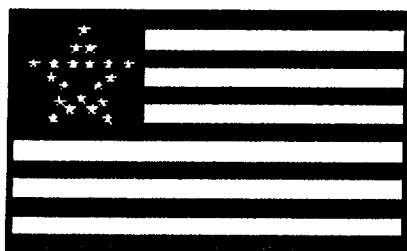
Vermont and Kentucky joined the union in 1791 and 1792. This flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes was adopted by a Congressional act of 1794. The flag became effective May 1, 1795.



By 1818, the union consisted of 20 states. A Congressional act mandated that the number of stripes be fixed at 13 and that one new star was to be added for each new state, the July 4 following its admission. However, nothing was written about what arrangement the stars should be in. This and the following two flags were all used simultaneously.



Another 1818 flag (see above).



And another 1818 flag (see above). This was called the "Grand Star" flag.

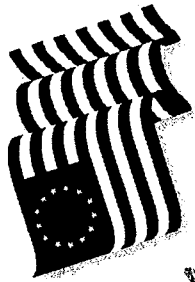
1912 - Executive Order of President Taft fixed the debate over the overall width and length of the U.S. flag, known technically as the hoist and fly. This order also provided for arrangement of the stars and stripes.

The 13 stripes were fixed at equal width. The hoist of the blue field containing the stars was fixed at seven-thirteenths of the overall hoist, that is, as extending from the top of the flag to the bottom of the seventh stripe. The fly of the blue field was fixed at a tiny fraction over three-fourths of the overall hoist. The diameter of each star was established as a minute fraction under one-sixteenth of the overall hoist. The stars were set in six horizontal rows of eight each, a single point of each star to be upward.

The flag was again changed when in January 1959, an Executive Order of President Eisenhower provided for the arrangement of the stars in seven rows of seven stars each, staggered horizontally and vertically.

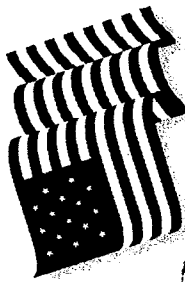
The stars were moved once again in another Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated August 21, 1959 - provided for the arrangement of the stars in nine rows of stars staggered horizontally and eleven rows of stars staggered vertically.

27 Flags of the United States



1795-1818

The Betsy Ross Flag. To this day, the actual maker of this flag remains unknown. This almost casually constructed national emblem incorporated the unchanging design of thirteen stripes with a thirteen-star union. Although this claim is seriously in doubt, Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia seamstress, is said to have made the first American flag. This claim was first made by William J. Canby, her grandson, in 1870. His claim is based on the signed statements of several persons, including Betsy Ross' daughters, nieces and granddaughters. Historical records do show that she made flags for the government in 1777, but there is no proof she made the first flag. The second claim as the maker of the first flag was by Congressman Francis Hopkinson. Shortly after the adoption of the first flag by Congress in 1777, Hopkinson came forward and asserted that he was the maker of the original flag. This claim is unsubstantiated by historical records, and so the real maker of the flag will probably always remain in doubt. It's unfortunate, for this design has remained unchanged for almost 200 years.

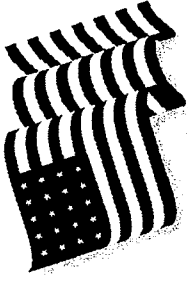


1818-1862

In 1791, Vermont was admitted to the Union and the following year Kentucky was also admitted. By 1794, it became apparent to Congress that the country needed a new flag. Congress decided to change the basic structure of the flag and add not only two more stars, but two more stripes. The 15-stripe flag was ordered flown after May 1, 1795. This 15-star flag was flown during the War of 1812 and during the United States' war with the Barbary States. It was this flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the "Star-Spangled Banner." It also inspired a heated debate in the Congress over the change from 13 to 15 stripes in the banner. Between 1795 and 1818, five new states were admitted to the Union and a new flag was needed. A navy captain redesigned the flag and returned to the 13 original stripes, but added a star for each new state. Finally, the idea was accepted by Congress because it was easier to change the stars than the stripes. Congress adopted this idea and also stipulated that on the July 4th following the admission of a new state, a new star would be flown in the flag to represent the state.

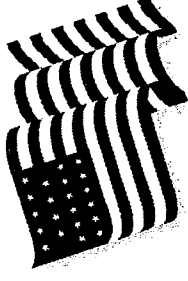
3 1818

Our third flag saw a return to tradition as Congress decided to return to the thirteen stripes, but to add a star as each new state joined the Union. Designed by navy captain Samuel Reid, this flag was proposed to Congress on April 4, 1818, and changed back to thirteen stripes. This flag had 20 stars and became official July 4, 1818. This flag is also called the "Great Star Flag" because the 20 stars were sometimes arranged to form a star.



4 1819

The 21st star in the flag represented the admission of the state of Illinois on December 3, 1818. The Northwest Territory was rapidly becoming settled and four new states would be carved out of this section of the country. 1818 was also the year that the United States-Canada boundary dispute was settled, making it the longest open border in the world.



5 1820

The hot issue of the day was whether the nation could keep the balance between free and slave states. Alabama was admitted in 1819, giving the country an equal number of both. But in 1820, Maine was admitted as a free state, thus tipping the numbers in favor of the free states. In 1820, our fifth flag appeared with 23 stars in the Union.



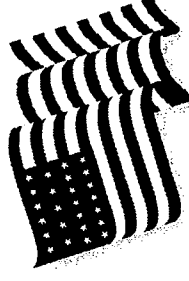
6 1822

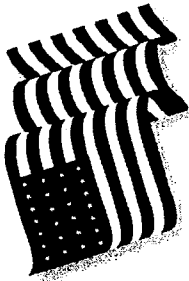
The Missouri Compromise of 1820 would settle the question of slaves states versus free for 30 years. No state would be admitted to the Union as a slave state above the line 36°-30' in the new Louisiana Purchase. Another tenet of the Compromise was that Missouri would be admitted as the 24th state and take its place alongside the slave states.



7 1836

During the last months of President Andrew Jackson's administration, Arkansas was admitted to the Union as the 25th state. On July 4, 1836, a new flag was flown over the country bearing 25 stars. In the same year, Texas became an independent nation.





1837

8

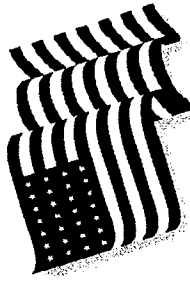
Michigan, since the days of the Revolutionary War, had been a favorite spot for fur trappers and traders. The Erie Canal, recently opened, allowed travelers and pioneers to move from Albany, New York to Lake Erie. This massive wave of pioneers brought about a growth in Michigan that enabled it to be admitted as the 26th state. In addition, Michigan was given the upper peninsula for giving up land claims in Ohio.



1845

9

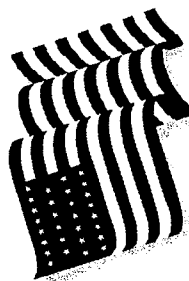
Florida, admitted to the Union as the 27th state in 1845, completed the present Atlantic seaboard of the United States. Florida had been purchased from Spain in 1819 after having been a part of the Spanish Empire for 300 years. The southern expansion of the United States was now complete and the nation turned its attention to pushing back western frontiers.



1846

10

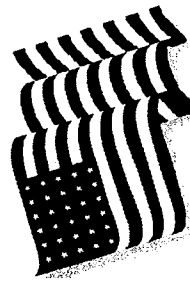
Texas had once been an integral part of the Spanish domain on the North American continent. Spain controlled Texas for nearly 300 years until 1821. In 1836, Texas declared its independence from Mexico and became an independent nation. In 1845, President James K. Polk admitted Texas as the 28th state. This action directly led to war with Mexico and thus fixed the southern boundary of Texas as the Rio Grande.



1847

11

In late 1846, the Midwest gave birth to another state - Iowa. Once a part of the Louisiana Purchase, Iowa was admitted to the Union as a free state to become the first free state to come from that purchase. An uprising by the Sioux Indian Nation plagued Iowans during their early years of statehood.



1848

12

Wisconsin preserved the balance that was precariously being kept between free and slave states when admitted to the Union in 1848. There were 15 free and 15 slave states in 1848. During the drive for statehood, the Ripon Convention was held, later to be claimed as the beginnings of the Republican Party.

13 1851

In 1848, the discovery of gold in the American River at Sutter's Mill, CA, touched off the "Gold Rush" of 1849. This set into motion a tide of settlers. Previously in 1846, a small group of Americans had proclaimed California independent from Mexico. The need for immediate government organization led to the admission of California as the 31st state in 1850.

14 1858

In 1851, by the Treaty of Mendota, the Indians gave up all claims to land in Minnesota and throngs of settlers swarmed into the territory. There were enough people in the state to grant admission to the Union and Minnesota became our 32nd state on May 11th of that year.

15 1859

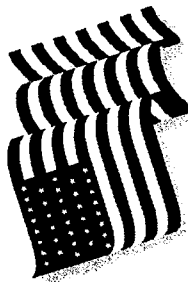
During James K. Polk's presidential campaign, the issue was the Oregon Territory. "Fifty-four Forty or Fight" was the slogan. Statehood for Oregon would mean the consolidation of the Pacific coastline as members of the United States. In 1859, Oregon became the 33rd state in the Union. Our 15th flag was raised that year.

16 1861

January 29, 1861, Kansas was admitted to the Union as the 34th state. Kansas had been a state for less than three months when the nation went to war. On April 12, 1861, Confederate batteries opened fire on Ft. Sumter and four years of a bitter civil war battle were fought. This flag was carried into battle by Union troops until 1863. It carried 34 stars.

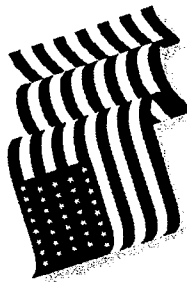
17 1863

As Virginia decided to throw its lot in with the new Confederacy, several northwestern counties of the state decided to remain loyal to the Union. The result was the formation of a new state, West Virginia, marking the first time a new state has resulted from a rebellion against the original state. This fledgling was admitted as the 35th state, June 20, 1863.



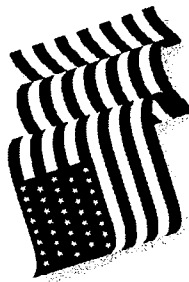
1865
18

The Confederate States of America were in their last hours when Nevada was admitted to the Union as the 36th state. Because the war was ending with the victory of the Union, little jubilation went up for the admittance of Nevada. Little notice was paid to the fact that this flag bore 36 stars when it was raised in 1865.



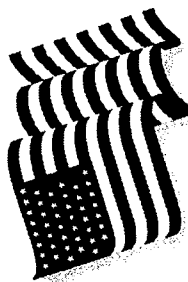
1867
19

Nebraska applied for admission into the nation as the Reconstruction era opened in American history. A bitter struggle developed between President Andrew Johnson and Congress. President Johnson vetoed the bill making Nebraska the 37th state, but Congress overrode the veto. Nebraska became the 37th state in 1867 and the 37th star on our flag.



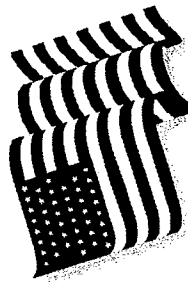
1877
20

Gold was discovered in the Colorado Territory in 1858 bringing in thousands of new settlers. Hostile Indians and the extremely hard terrain of the country did not deter the new pioneers. With them, they brought the determination to become a state and in 1876, Colorado was admitted as the 38th state.



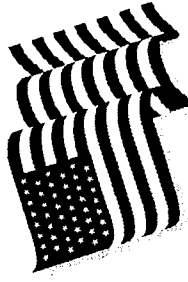
1890
21

With the admission of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington and Idaho in 1889-90, five new stars were added to our flag. These states were the last of the northwest territories to become states and completed the expansion of the country along the Canadian border. Completion of railroads speeded the growth of these states.



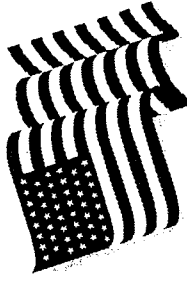
1891
22

The twenty-first flag was obsolete six days after it was raised. On July 10, 1890, Wyoming was admitted to the Union as the 44th state. Wyoming had become a territory in 1845 when Texas was annexed to the United States and relinquished its claim to this area. On July 4th, 1891, the twenty-second flag was raised with 44 stars.



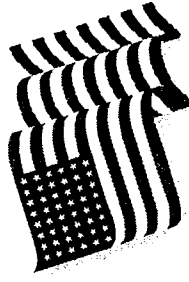
1896
23

Utah became a territory of the United States in 1848. Its first constitution was established in 1849 as the Mormon state of the Deseret. Congress changed the name to Utah in 1850, and a running argument began between Utah and the U.S. Congress over the question of polygamy. In 1890, the Mormon Church outlawed this practice and in 1896, Utah became the 45th state.



1908
24

The Indian Territory of Oklahoma was opened to settlers in 1889 and resulted in the first Oklahoma land run. Thousands of settlers, farmers, ranchers and pioneers rushed into the new territory to begin a new life. This migration resulted in the admission of Oklahoma to the Union on November 16, 1907, as the 46th state.



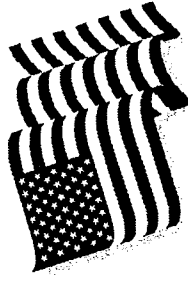
1912
25

In 1912, New Mexico and Arizona were the 47th and 48th continental states admitted into the union. The 48-star flag came into existence in that year and lasted for 47 years, longer than any other US flag. Under this banner we fought World War I, World War II and the Korean War.



1959
26

On July 7, 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill making Alaska the 49th state of the Union. The admission of Alaska marked the first time a state had been admitted that had not been in the continental United States. Secretary of State William Seward purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7 million, or two cents an acre. Alaska became the 49th star.



1960
27

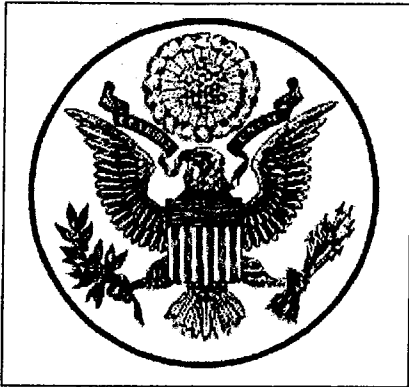
At Hawaii's request in 1898, Hawaii was annexed by the United States. In 1903, the territorial legislature petitioned Congress for admission to the Union, but was denied. Not much was thought of Hawaii until the bombing of Pearl Harbor when Americans realized what an integral part of the U.S. Hawaii was. On March 18, 1959, Hawaii became our 50th state and the last star in the flag.

MEANINGS OF THE COLORS, STARS AND GOLD FRINGE

What do the colors of the American Flag mean?

Writers and speakers often attribute meaning to the colors of the flag. But, in truth, the Continental Congress never spoke about what the colors represented. Statements on this subject attributed to George Washington and other founders of the country are erroneous.

But the red, white, and blue colors included in the Great Seal of the United States, which first appeared 1782, did purportedly represent ideals and beliefs of our Founding Fathers.



Their significance was explained by Charles Thompson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, and included in the book "Our Flag," published in 1989.

White - Purity and innocence
Red - Hardiness and valor
Blue - Vigilance, perseverance, and justice

From the book "Our Flag" published in 1989 by the House of Representatives...

"On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution authorizing a committee to devise a seal for the United States of America. This mission, designed to reflect the Founding Fathers' beliefs, values, and sovereignty of the new Nation, did not become a reality until June 20, 1782. In heraldic devices, such as seals, each element has a specific meaning. Even colors have specific meanings. The colors red, white, and blue did not have meanings for The Stars and Stripes when it was adopted in 1777. However, the colors in the Great Seal did have specific meanings. Charles Thompson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, reporting to Congress on the Seal, stated:

"The colors of the pales (the vertical stripes) are those used in the flag of the United States of America; White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness & valour, and Blue, the color of the Chief (the broad band above the stripes) signifies vigilance, perseverance & justice."

What do the stars on the American Flag mean?

Also this from a book about the flag published in 1977 by the House of Representatives...

"The star is a symbol of the heavens and the divine goal to which man has aspired from time immemorial; the stripe is symbolic of the rays of light emanating from the sun."

Flags of the Revolution

Grand Union Flag



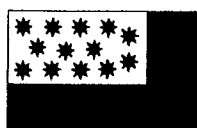
Gadsden Flag



Bennington Flag



Guilford Flag



Washington Flag



Culpepper Flag



Join or Die Flag



Serapis Flag



Bedford Flag



OTHER OFFICIAL U.S. FLAGS

The official flag of the president is a blue or azure emblem containing a white star in each corner and, in the center, a representation of the official presidential seal. Each of the heads of the executive departments has an official flag, as do many of the agencies of these departments and the independent federal agencies. The branches of the armed forces also have official flags.

Presidential Flag



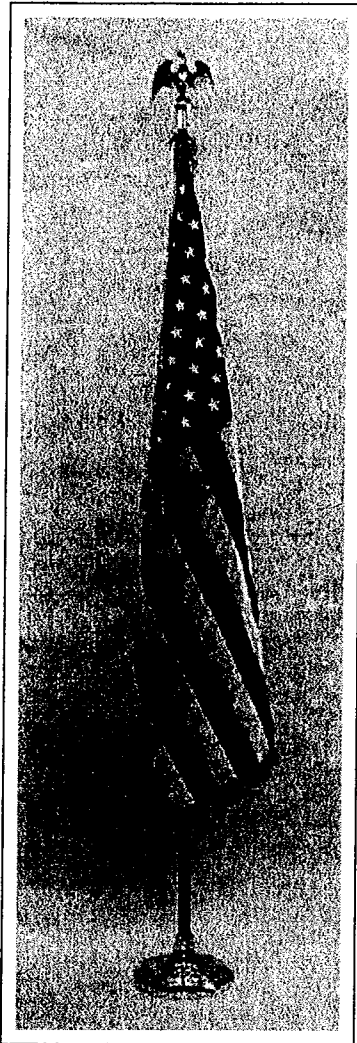
Vice Presidential Flag



Nicknames

The Flag of the United States, popularly called the American flag, is the official national flag of the United States. Because of its stars, stripes, and colors, the American flag is frequently called the Star-Spangled Banner, the Stars and Stripes, or the Red, White, and Blue. Another popular, patriotic designation, Old Glory, is of uncertain origin.

What does gold fringe on the American Flag mean?



The quote below concerning **gold fringe on the Flag** is from the book "So Proudly We Hail, The History of the United States Flag" Smithsonian Institute Press 1981, by William R. Furlong and Byron McCandless.

"The placing of a fringe on Our Flag is optional with the person of organization, and no Act of Congress or Executive Order either prohibits the practice, according to the Institute of Heraldry. Fringe is used on indoor flags only, as fringe on flags on outdoor flags would deteriorate rapidly. The fringe on a Flag is considered and 'honorable enrichment only', and its official use by the US Army dates from 1895.. A 1925 Attorney General's Opinion states: 'the fringe does not appear to be regarded as an integral part of the Flag, and its presence cannot be said to constitute an unauthorized addition to the design prescribed by statute. An external fringe is to be distinguished from letters, words, or emblematic designs printed or superimposed upon the body of the flag itself. Under law, such additions might be open to objection as unauthorized; but the same is not necessarily true of the fringe.'"

The gold trim is generally used on ceremonial indoor flags that are used for special services and is believed to have been first used in a military setting. It has no specific significance that I have ever run across, and its (gold trim) use is in compliance with applicable flag codes and laws.

<http://www.usflag.org/colors.html>



Patriotic Holidays

Patriotic Holiday Information Sheet

Presidents' Day

We celebrate Presidents' Day on the third Monday in February each year. It is a day on which we remember the people who have served our nation as the Presidents of the United States.

Two presidents are especially remembered on this day: George Washington, born on February 22, 1732, and Abraham Lincoln, born on February 12, 1809. Although the two men came from different times and different backgrounds, they both believed strongly in the ideals of democracy, equality, and freedom.



George Washington is known in American history as the "Father of our Country." He "fathered" our country in several ways. As commander of the Continental Army, he helped win independence for America from Great Britain during the Revolutionary War. Another thing he did was to serve as president to the convention that wrote the Constitution of the United States. And, as we all know, George Washington was the first President of the United States. He was well-loved and respected throughout the new nation. One of his officers, Henry Lee, said of George Washington that he was, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President, was a remarkable man and great leader. He believed in the ideals of democracy on which the United States was established. In the time of the great conflict of the Civil War, he knew that the most important thing he could do would be to save the Union. The United States was the example of democracy in the world and could not fail. He spoke constantly and clearly about the need to preserve this democracy the people of the United States had worked so hard to establish and maintain. Lincoln's strong belief that the country would not be divided in half, but could come together as one, gave hope to a country who needed such a leader. Many people saw Lincoln as the man who saved the United States. They also saw a man whose humble beginnings proved that in a democracy, even a poor boy from a small farm could grow up to be President.

These two men will always be remembered for their inspirational lives and outstanding leadership as Presidents of the United States.

Patriotic Holiday Information Sheet

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is an American patriotic holiday when we honor those who gave their lives in the service of their country. It is a time for us to think about those people whose lives have been lost and thoughtfully remember them.



The idea of a day for remembering those who have died for our country began in the time after the Civil War. Henry C. Welles, a resident of Waterloo, New York, decided that something should be done to honor those soldiers who died in the Civil War. It was a time when nearly all families suffered the loss of loved ones. It was a time when the states of the United States were torn apart, when brother fought brother, father fought son, and cousin fought cousin. Welles believed that respect could be shown for the dead by decorating their graves with flowers and flags. Those who fought in the war and survived could also be honored by a parade on the way to the grave decoration ceremony at the cemetery. On May 5, 1866, the first Decoration Day was held.

Near the same time, General John A. Logan commanded a large group of veterans from the North called the Grand Army of the Republic. They decorated the graves of Union soldiers on May 30. In 1868, the two decoration days were celebrated together on May 30. Many of the Southern states had (and continue to have) days for honoring the Confederate dead.

The name for the day of remembering was changed from Decoration Day to Memorial Day in 1882. In 1971, Memorial Day became a national holiday. It is celebrated on the last Monday in May with parades and memorial services. It is a day set aside for remembering all who have died in the service of the United States in times of war.

Patriotic Holiday Information Sheet

Flag Day

While Flag Day is not an official national holiday, it is a day that is recognized by the President of the United States each year as the day to honor our flag. Flag Day is celebrated on June 14 to commemorate the day in 1777 when the Continental Congress officially adopted the flag of stars and stripes as the symbol of our country.

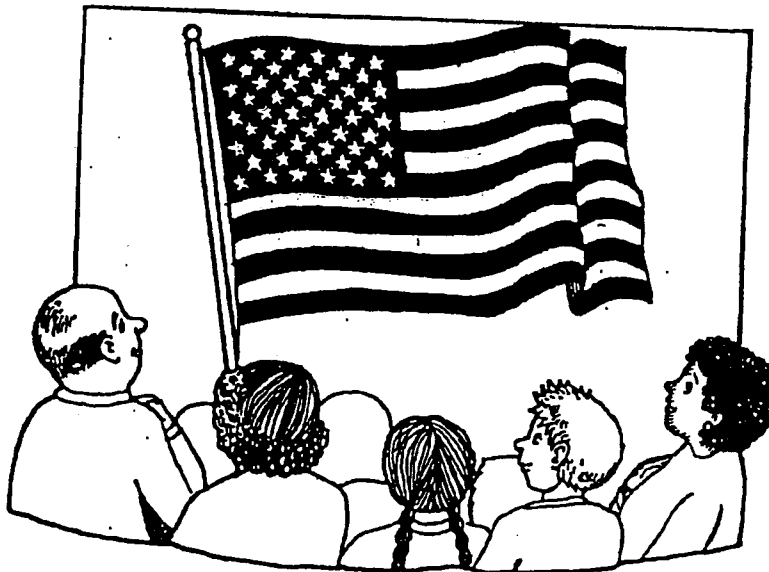
The congressional resolution stated:

"That the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternately red and white, and that the Union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

The first Flag Day celebration was on June 14, 1877, the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the flag. Each year after, special ceremonies marked this day. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 as Flag Day. Later, during the time of World War I, President Wilson remarked in one of his speeches,

"This flag, which we honor, and under which we serve, is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thought, and our purpose as a nation."

President Harry Truman signed the National Flag Day Bill in 1949, officially making



June 14 Flag Day.

Each Flag Day, people all over the United States show their feelings for the flag of their country by displaying it proudly. Many schools and organizations hold special ceremonies to honor the flag and discuss its history. Often, there are Flag Day parades.

Flag Day is a day that is special to all who cherish the flag.

Patriotic Holiday Information Sheet

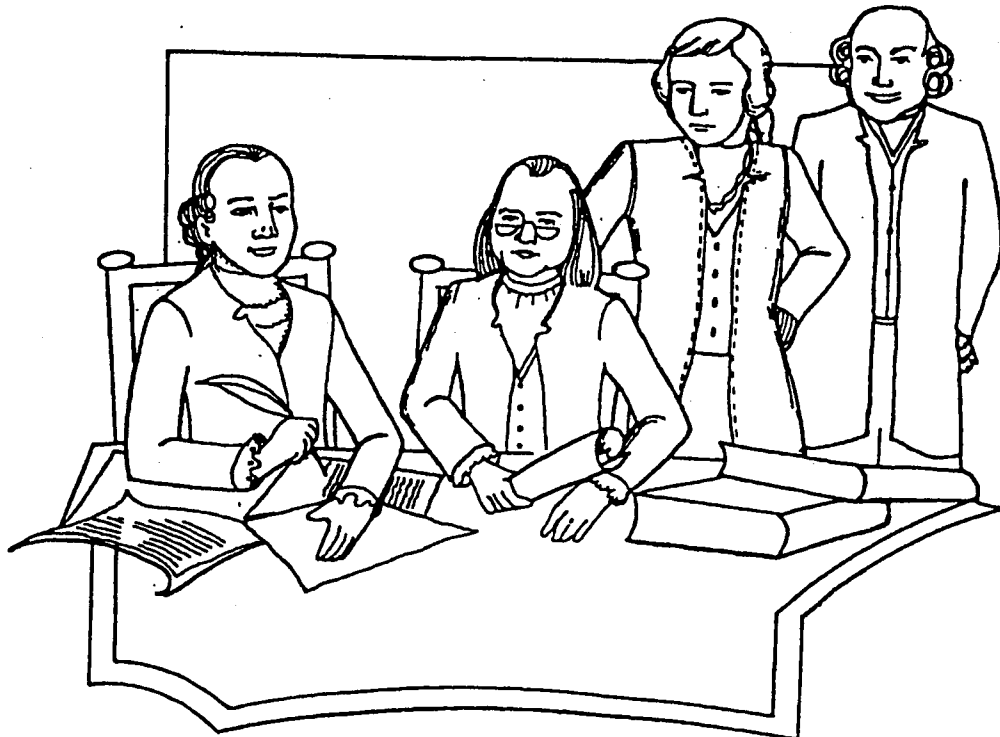
Independence Day

On Independence Day, the Fourth of July, the people of the United States celebrate the anniversary of the founding of our democratic nation. The signs of the holiday are all around. Flags are unfurled around the countryside, people cover the parks and recreation areas with picnics, Uncle Sam leads town parades, patriotic music fills the air, and spectacular fireworks light up the sky! It is a noisy, joyous day!

Independence Day is the birthday of the United States. On July 4, 1776, over 200 years ago, the United Colonies of America adopted the document which declared the United States to be "Free and Independent States," and that "all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved." This document was the Declaration of Independence which gave all who lived in these new United States the equal right to "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

The Declaration of Independence set up the foundation for freedom and democracy in our country and inspired many people throughout the world to be free.

The first Independence Day celebration took place in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777. It was a grand day of celebration. Through the years, the Fourth of July has been kept as a special holiday by the people of the United States. It's a day filled with historic remembering, a rededication to democracy, and a whole lot of fun!



Patriotic Holiday Information Sheet

Labor Day

To labor means to work. Labor Day is a national holiday that honors all people who work by giving them a day off work to rest and "play." It is celebrated on the first Monday of September. But there was not always a Labor Day. The idea for a Labor Day began over 100 years ago in New York City.

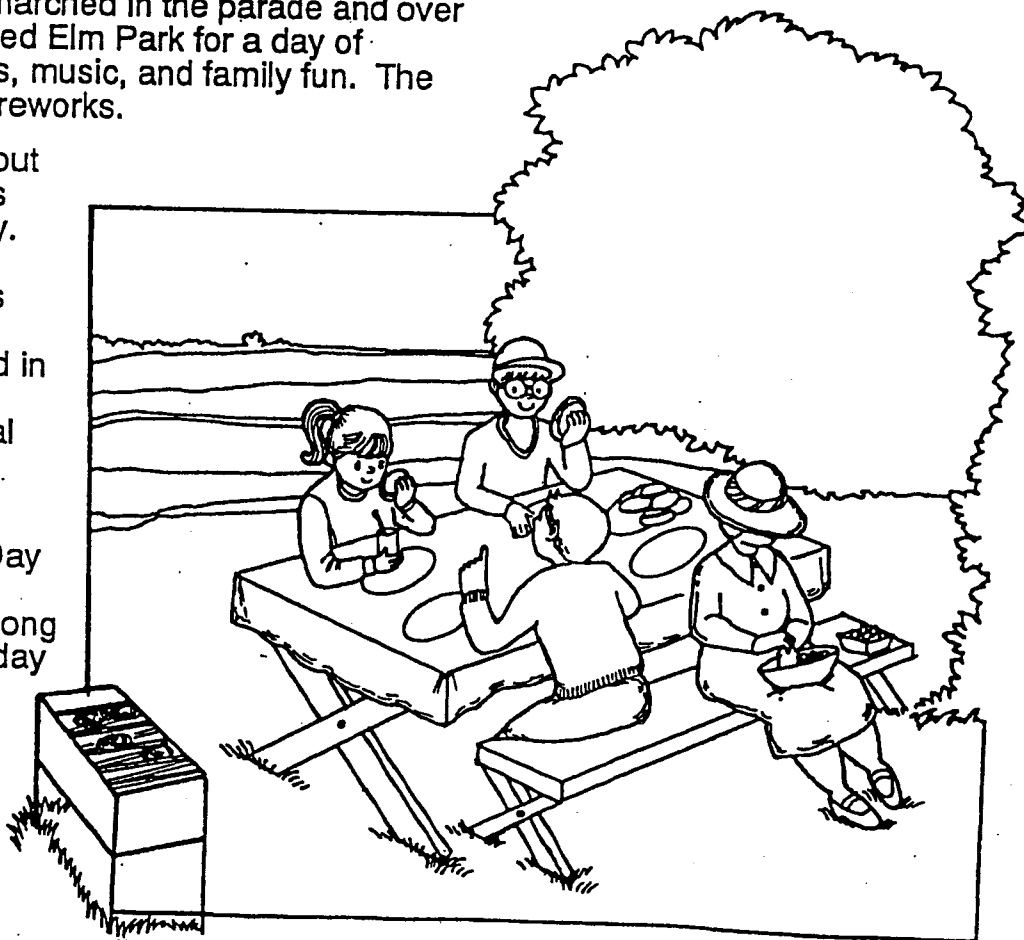
The people in New York City and other places throughout the country wanted to work. They took pride in what they did. But the conditions they worked under were not the best. They often worked long hours, sometimes 12 to 14 hours a day, six or seven days a week. Laborers were underpaid and worked in places that were not safe. By the time children were 11 or 12, they often had to work to help support the family, and their workday was usually 10 hours.

The unhappy workers joined together to form unions, which united people in the same trades. These unions were able to speak in a louder voice to make their needs known. Some of the smaller unions joined together to form a Central Labor Union. These union members fought to get better working conditions. And along with improved conditions for work, they also wanted a special holiday to honor all laborers.

The first Labor Day was organized by the New York Central Labor Union and scheduled to be on Monday, September 5, 1882. It was a huge success. Over 10,000 workers marched in the parade and over 50,000 people filled Elm Park for a day of picnics, speeches, music, and family fun. The day ended with fireworks.

Workers throughout America liked this idea of Labor Day. The next year, hundreds of cities held Labor Day celebrations. And in 1894, Labor Day became a national holiday.

We continue to celebrate Labor Day in the tradition of those workers of long ago. We have a day off work and school, sharing food and fun with our families and friends.



Patriotic Holiday Information Sheet

Veterans Day

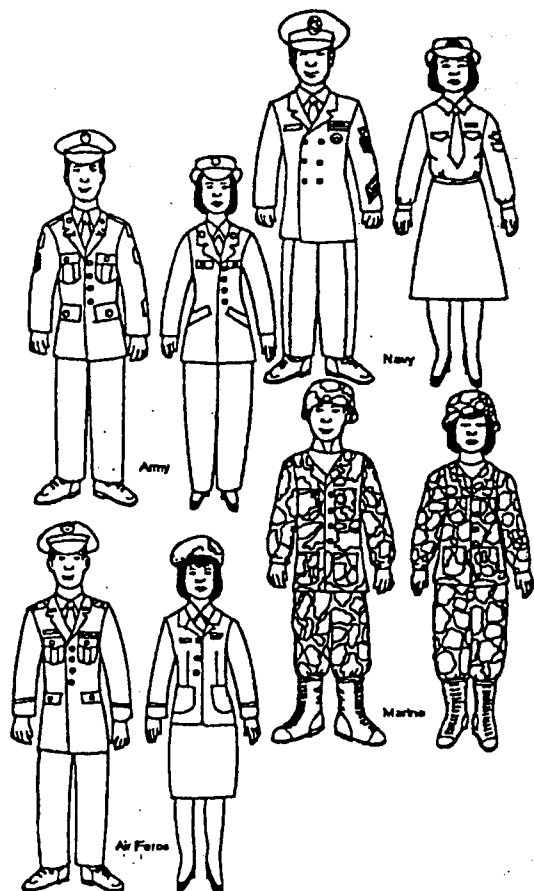
Veterans Day is a day that honors those men and women who have served their country in the United States Armed Forces. November 11 is the day these special people are honored.

In our country, Veterans Day was not always known by that name. On November 11, 1918 (The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month), World War I ended. This war was known as "The War to End All Wars" and people the world over rejoiced. The day became known as "Armistice Day" in honor of the truce of peace that was made on this day.

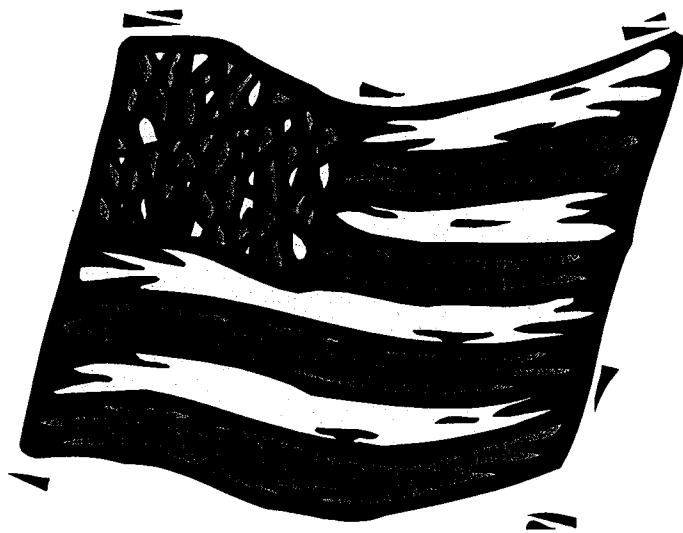
Armistice Day became a day to recognize those people who had fought so courageously in World War I and to celebrate the peace that now existed. November 11 was made a federal holiday in 1938. But shortly after this holiday was declared, World War II broke out. The dream of The War to End All Wars was now gone. Many lives were lost during this second world war, and those who lost loved ones and those who fought for their country needed to be recognized as well as those World War I patriots.

In 1954, Congress changed the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day, in order to honor all United States Veterans. At this time, President Eisenhower asked all Americans to strive for peace.

In the United States, people remember Veterans Day with celebrations, parades, speeches, and special services. It is a day to honor all the veterans who have served the United States.



Flag Etiquette and Display



With Another Flag Against a Wall from Crossed Staffs

Should be on the right, the flag's own right which is the viewer's left, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the



When the flag is displayed on a car



The staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.

Display Indoors

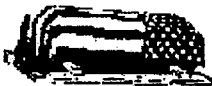
From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium on a Podium

The flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker (to the right of the audience).



Custom and not the flag code hold that the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence as part of the audience, in the position of honor at the audience's right. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker (to the right of the audience).

Used to Cover a Casket



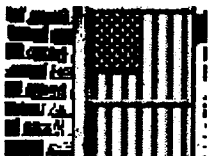
It should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

Other than being Flown from a Staff

When the flag is displayed in a manner other than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window it should be displayed in the same way, which is with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. When festoons, rosettes or drapings are desired, bunting of blue, white and red should be used, but never the flag.



When hung in a window where it is viewed from the street



Place the union at the head and over the left shoulder.

When to Fly the Flag

The flag can be displayed on all days, but in particular it should be flown on:

- **New Year's Day**, January 1
- **Inauguration Day**, January 20
- **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
- **Other days** as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States
- **The birthdays of States** (date of admission)
- **State holiday**

**On Memorial Day, the flag should be hung at half-staff until noon, when it should be raised to the top of the staff.*

Flags that Fly 24 Hours a Day

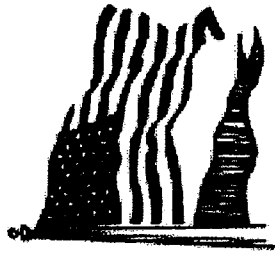
The U.S. flag is generally taken down at night. However, the flag flies 24 hours a day at the following locations, by Executive Order:

White House (Washington, D.C.)
Betsy Ross House (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
U.S. Capitol (Washington, D.C.)
Washington Monument (Washington, D.C.)
Marine Corps War Memorial (Arlington, Virginia)
Fort McHenry (Baltimore, Maryland)
Winter encampment cabins (Valley Forge, Pennsylvania)

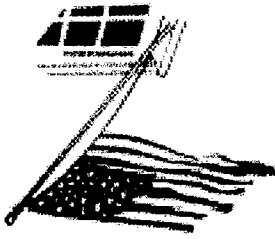
Battleground in Lexington, Massachusetts (site of first shots of the Revolutionary War)
All custom points and points of entry into the U.S.
Star-Spangled Banner House, where the flag that flew over Fort McHenry was sewn (Baltimore, Maryland)
Jenny Wade House (Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; Wade was the only civilian killed at the battle of Gettysburg)
USS Arizona Memorial (Pearl Harbor, Hawaii)



Important Things to Know



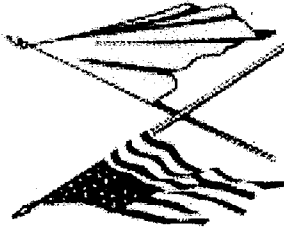
When a number of state flags, flags of localities, or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs, the United States flag should always be at the peak.



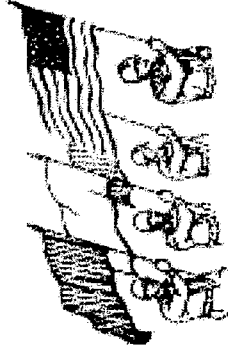
When displaying a flag from a staff projecting from a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.



About Displaying the Flag



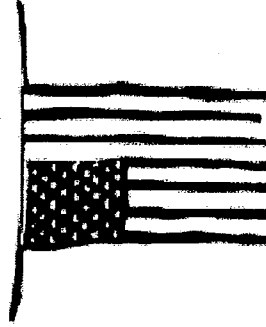
When displayed against a wall with crossed staffs with another flag, the United States flag should be on the right, (the flag's right) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.



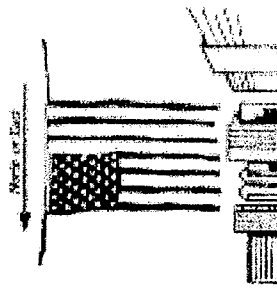
When another flag or flags are carried in a procession, the US flag should be on the right (the flag's own right) or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.



When a number of state flags, flags of localities, or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs, the United States flag should be in the center and the highest point in the group.



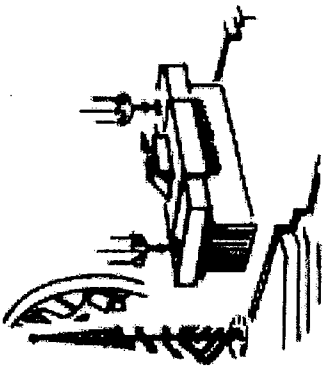
When suspended over a side-walk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from a rope extending from house to pole at the edge of the sidewalk.



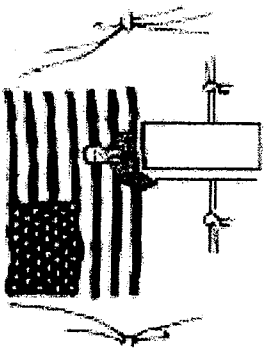
When displayed over a street, the flag should be suspended vertically with the union to the north on an east and west street or the east on a north and south street.



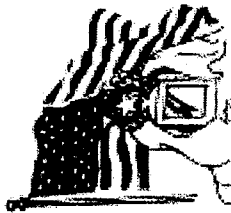
In times of peace when flags of multiple nations are displayed, fly from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size.



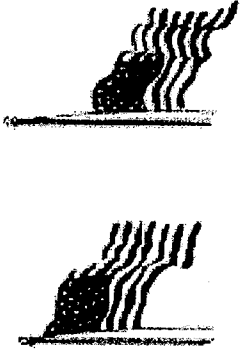
When displayed from a staff in a church or on the speaker's platform in a public auditorium, the flag should occupy the position of honor and be placed at the clergyman's or speaker's right as they face the audience. When the flag is displayed from a staff in a position other than in the chancel or on the platform, it should be placed in the position of honor at the right of the congregation or audience as they face the chancel or platform. Any other flags so displayed should be placed on the left of the congregation or audience as they face the chancel or platform.



When displayed flat against a wall on a speaker's platform, the flag should be placed above and behind the speaker with the union in the upper left corner as the audience faces the flag.



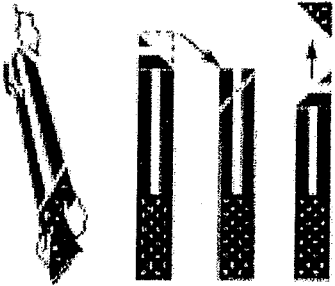
When unveiling a statue or monument, the flag should form a distinctive feature of the ceremony, but it should never be used as the covering for the statue or monument.



When flown at half-staff, the flag should be raised to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should again be raised to the peak before it is lowered at the end of the day.



When used to cover a casket, the flag should be placed so that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or be allowed to touch the ground.



After you have lowered your flag, take the greatest care that no part of it touches the ground, nor anything beneath it. To store your flag, fold it into the cocked hat design. To attain this design, fold your flag width-wise twice, leaving the union exposed. Begin with the striped end and folding into the union, fold the flag into triangles. Take the left hand striped corner and fold it on a diagonal to your right hand. Then fold it straight up. Repeat until only the union is exposed. Take the remaining fold and tuck it inside the folds to hold your flag tightly. Store in a safe place.

Proper American Flag Disposal

As we approach the fourth of July, many of us think about displaying the American flag on our homes. Maybe it's time to buy a new one because the old one has become too tattered, faded or torn to fly. What do you do with the old one? It can't be recycled and it can't be reused. Old American flags must be properly disposed of. The accepted method of disposal is to burn the flag, however...it is

strongly recommended that you contact your local American Legion Post, Boy Scouts of America, or Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post. They generally have a central collection site where flags are collected and disposed of in a proper ceremony. Many stores will also accept your old flag when you purchase a new one - they generally arrange with the local VFW or American Legion for pickup of used flags.



When the Flag should be flown at Half-Staff

Flags will be flown at half-staff on Memorial Day (until noon, when it should be raised to the "top of the staff") and on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

The Statute (4 U.S.C. 7(m)) sets forth the requirement that the flag will be flown at half-staff on the following occasions:

30 days from the death of the President or a former President;

10 days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

from the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a State, territory, or possession;

and on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress.

The President of the United States may order the honor:

upon the death of "principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory";

In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law.

STATE GOVERNORS also have authority under the United States Code: "In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State . . . the Governor of that State . . . may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff."

HALF-STAFF



The U.S. national flag is sometimes flown at half-staff—raised just halfway up the flagpole—to honor an individual, who has died, usually an important government official such as the president.

The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. By "half-staff" is meant lowering the flag to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff.

Crepe streamers may be affixed to spear heads or flagstaffs in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.

Flag Maintenance

- The flag should never have placed upon it, nor attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing.
- When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.
(See retiring a flag, in the Ceremonies section.)
- The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.
- Care should be taken not to let the flag get torn, dirty, or damaged

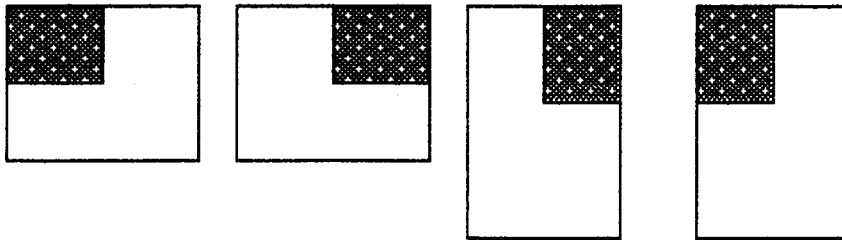
Facts



To use for quizzes,
use in ceremonies, or
whatever strikes your
fancy.

FLAG TRIVIA QUIZ

1. How many stripes are on the flag?
2. Are there more short stripes or long stripes on the American flag?
3. Are there more red strips of white stripes?
4. How many stars are on the flag?
5. Have stars always been arranged in rows? If not what other configurations have been used?
6. Which flags are shown in the correct position if they were hanging against a wall you are facing?



7. Our current flag has been in use since _____.
8. The flag which inspired "The Star Spangled Banner" had _____ stars and _____ stripes.
9. Which of these positions is correct for a flag on a stage as you face the stage?



10. What are some nicknames for the flag?

FLAG CARDS

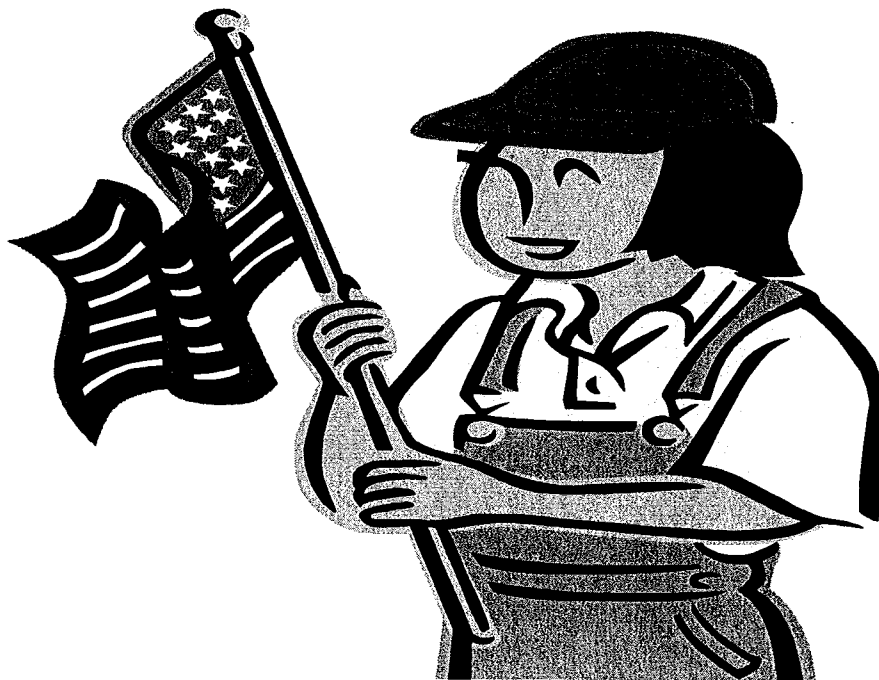
1. A country's flag is a symbol of the nation itself. It is a reminder of the principles and truths upon which the nation is founded. Our flag serves as a reminder of everything our country stands for and the struggles and sacrifices which have been necessary to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today.
2. Our flag did not always look the way it does today. There were many flags used in colonial times. Many demonstrated the resolve of individual groups to break from Great Britain.
3. The first flag that represented the 13 colonies is sometimes called the Grand Union flag. It had thirteen stripes as ours does today, but the upper left corner was a replica of the Union Jack flag of Great Britain. George Washington raised this flag in Cambridge Massachusetts in January 1776, so it is also sometimes called the Cambridge flag.
4. On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed a resolution that stated "... that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." According to legend, Betsy Ross made the first flag.
5. There is no official meaning for the colors, but by custom the red stands for courage, heroism and sacrifice as it reminds people of the blood shed by those who have defended our country and our freedoms.
6. The color white is said to stand for liberty and purity.
7. The blue part of the flag is called the Union or canton. By custom blue stands for loyalty, justice and strength. Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress also described the blue of the Great Seal of the United States as standing for vigilance, perseverance and justice. The flag is flown with the union in the flag's upper right corner.
8. The one exception to this rule is when it covers a casket in a military or other official funeral. This is also the only time the flag should be laid flat and used as a covering. The flag is placed on the casket with the union on the left side, over the heart of the fallen hero. The flag is not lowered into the grave and should not touch the ground.
9. In 1795, after Vermont and Kentucky joined the original 13 states, a new flag design was used which had 15 stripes and 15 stars.
10. In 1913 a Baltimore woman named Mary Pickersgill was commissioned to make a flag using this design to measure 30 feet by 42 feet long to hang at Fort McHenry.
11. It was this flag that Francis Scott Key saw when he wrote a poem entitled "The Defense of Fort McHenry." Within days the poem was being sung to a difficult but popular English tavern song. Within a year the title of the song was changed to "The Star Spangled Banner." It became a favorite sung around the country and used at many ceremonies, though it was not until 1931 that it was officially proclaimed the national anthem.


12. The flag that had flown over Fort McHenry became known as the Star Spangled Banner flag. While it was seen proudly waving in the dawn's early light, it had been hit 11 times by cannon fire during the night.
13. In addition, material was cut from the flag to wrap the body of one of the soldiers who died in the battle. Furthermore, over the next several years, many Americans cut away small pieces of the flag as souvenirs.
14. By 1907, the flag measured only 34 feet long. In 1912 the flag was given to the Smithsonian. The flag made of cotton and wool has continued to deteriorate and is currently undergoing preservation.
15. In 1818, Congress reduced the number of stripes to the original 13 and declared that each new state would be represented by a new star. The President determines placement of stars as new states are admitted to the union.
16. This was not always the case as the original flag declaration made no mention of positioning of stars.
17. The circular design attributed to Betsy Ross was perhaps the most commonly seen design during the Revolution, but flag makers often did their own star placement.
18. The Bennington military flag of 1776 not only showed the stars in a horseshoe over the numbers "76" but used six-pointed stars.
19. The Great Star flag of 1818 placed the stars in the shape of a star.
20. Between 1818 and 1912 there were officially 22 flag configurations, though most people did not buy a new flag every time a state was added.
21. In 1912 the 48 star flag made its debut and to date served the longest time as the official flag. It remained in use until Alaska was admitted to the Union in 1959.
22. The flag we fly today came into use in 1960 when Hawaii was 50th state admitted at the to the union. Today's flag has 9 rows of stars. The odd numbered rows have 6 stars each and the even rows have five stars.
23. Officially, states are not represented by a particular star. By custom, however, many assume a state is represented by the order of its admittance to the union, beginning in the upper left corner.
24. Following this order Maryland is the 1st star in the second row and Virginia is the 4th star in the second row. The District of Columbia is not a state so it is not represented by a star ... yet.
25. During the Civil War the flag of the United States, carried by Union troops, bore stars for both the Union and Confederate Sates, because Abraham Lincoln refused to recognize the cession of the Southern States.
26. To ensure that the flag is treated with respect, the code of flag etiquette was adopted in 1942.
27. The flag is generally flown from sunrise to sunset, but may be flown at night if properly illuminated.
28. The flag should not be flown during inclement weather unless an all weather flag is used.
29. The flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly.

30. While the flag should be displayed every day weather permits, the flag code specifies days of special importance to display the flag.
31. On Memorial Day, the flag should be flown at half-staff until noon before being raised the remainder of the way.
32. Presidential proclamations and laws have authorized that flags fly continuously at the following locations: The US Capitol; the White House; the Washington Monument; Fort McHenry National Monument; Flag House Square, Baltimore; the Iwo Jima Marine Corp Memorial; on the Green, Lexington, Massachusetts; US Customs Ports of Entry which are continually open and the National Memorial Arch, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.
33. When displayed with state, city or local flags or pennants of societies (such as Girl Scout flags), the American flag should be on the flag's right, in front of or above the other flags.
34. It should be raised or posted first and lowered or removed last.
35. No flag should be flown above the American flag, except during church services at sea conducted by a naval chaplain in which case the church pennant may be flown above the flag.
36. At the headquarters of the United Nations, the UN flag may be displayed in a superior position and all national flags, including the United States are flown with equal prominence and honor.
37. When displayed from a vehicle, it should be flown from a staff firmly attached to the chassis or right bumper, not draped over any part of the vehicle.
38. When the flag is displayed against a wall, either horizontally or vertically, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, meaning to the observer's left.
39. When displayed on a platform or stage, the flag should be on the speaker's right as she faces the audience. Other flags should be placed on the left.
40. When displayed on the same level as the audience, it should be on the audience's right.
41. Only the President can order the flag flown at half-staff nationally (though state governors can do so within their state) upon the death of a principal government figure. The flag code specifies the length of time the flag is to be flown at half-staff, depending on the status of the official.
42. When flown at half-staff, the flag should first be raised to the peak for an instant then lowered to position. When the flag is retired, it is again raised to peak before lowering.
43. The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing, though state and other flags should be dipped to the American flag.
44. The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress or extreme danger to life or property.
45. The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, nor should it be held against the staff unless necessary to tilt it to go under a doorway or other object. Otherwise it should always be aloft and free.

46. The flag should never be used for clothing, bedding or drapery.
47. The flag should be protected from getting torn, soiled or damaged.
48. It should be cleaned and mended when necessary.
49. The flag should not have any words, letters, drawings, or other marks placed on it.
50. The flag should not be used for advertising purposes in any manner.
51. The flag design should not be placed on paper napkins, boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use to be discarded.
52. The flag should not be used as a receptacle for carrying anything.
53. No part of the flag should be used as a costume or athletic uniform.
54. A flag patch may be used on the uniform of military, fire, police personnel and patriotic organizations.
55. If a flag becomes worn out or too dirty to clean, it should be disposed of in a dignified manner, preferably by burning. A flag burning ceremony should be a quiet, private event.
56. Saluting the flag is a sign of respect.
57. The flag should be saluted when it is raised or lowered or when it passes by in a parade or review. The salute should also be given when the Pledge of Allegiance is recited or the National Anthem is played or sung.
58. Citizens not in military uniform salute by facing the flag, remove head coverings if appropriate and placing their right hand over their heart.
59. People in military uniform use the military salute unless they are performing official duties preventing them from saluting.
60. During an outdoor flag raising ceremony the salute begins when the 1st hook is attached to the union and held until the flag is secured in position.
61. In a flag lowering ceremony, the salute begins as soon as the flag begins its descent and is held until the flag is completely unhooked.
62. Because the flag is sometimes called the "colors," the people who carry and walk next to the flag in a ceremony are called the color guard. It is their job to watch and protect the flag.
63. The color guard does not salute, though may be given an opportunity to do so once the flag is secured.
64. When the flag is folded, it folded into a triangle shape reminiscent of the three-cornered hats worn during the Revolution. If properly folded, only the Union portion of the flag should be visible. The folded flag is handed to the flag bearer who leads the color guard as they "retire."

Recognitions

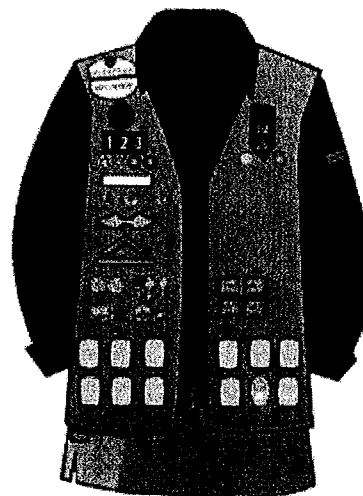
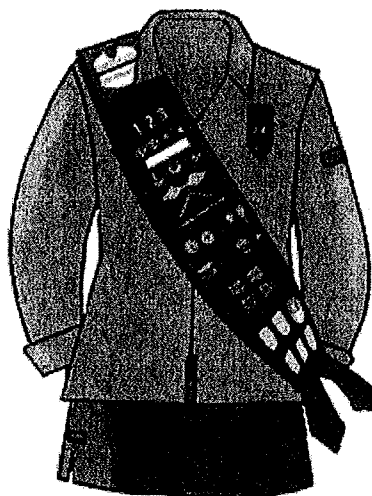



[SITE MAP](#) | [HELP](#) | [FAQS](#) | [CONTACT US](#) | [GIRLS](#)
 OFFICIAL WEB SITE OF GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA
 SEARCH: _____
[WHO WE ARE](#) | [RESEARCH](#) | [NEWS](#) | [FOR ADULTS](#) | [SHOP](#)
[Girl Scout Central](#) | [Girl Scout Councils](#)

- Awards, Badges, and Other Insignia**
- Insignia List
 - ▶ Where to Place Insignia on a Uniform
 - Insignia Found Online
 - Girl Scouts' Highest Awards

Where to Place Insignia on a Uniform Girl Scouts 11-17

- BABY
- BROWNIE
- JUNIOR
- GIRLS 11-17**
- ADULT



American Flag Patch

Girls 11-17 may wear the American Flag Patch above the council and Girl Scouts of the USA identification strips on their uniform. (You may need to lower everything on the sash or vest in order to assure the flag is placed in a position of respect.)


Girls may also wear the American Flag/Girl Scout Pin on the left lapel/side of the uniform or clothing.

Girl Scout badges, patches, awards, and other insignia that are earned for the accomplishment of skill-building activities or any set requirements should be presented, worn, or displayed only after Girl Scouts have completed the requirements outlined in the appropriate program materials.

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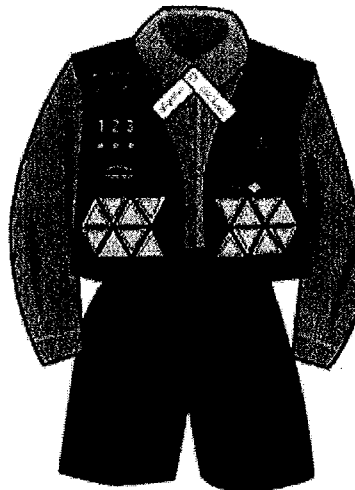
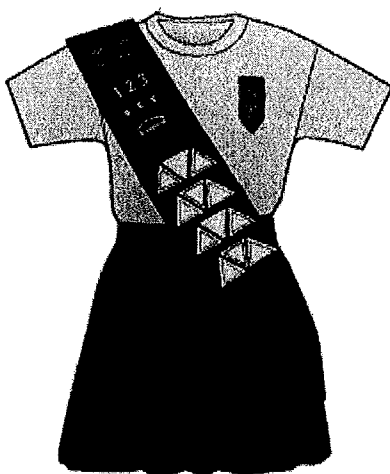
INSIGNIA ON UNIFORM FOR GIRL SCOUTS

- > American Flag Patch
- > Apprentice Trail
- > Bridge to Girl Scout 14 Award
- > Bridge to Girl Scout 17 Award
- > Brownie Wings
- > Challenge Pins
- > Career Exploration
- > Community Service
- > Counselor-in-Training Award
- > Counselor-in-Training Pin
- > Counselor-in-Training Pin
- > From Dreams to Reality Award
- > Girl Scout Bronze
- > Girl Scout Cook Activity Pins
- > Girl Scout Gold
- > Girl Scout Inter-Awards
- > Girl Scout Membership
- > Girl Scout Silver
- > Identification Strips
- > Insignia Tab
- > Juliettes Emblem
- > Junior Girl Scout Leadership Pin
- > Leader-in-Training
- > Leader-in-Training
- > Leadership Award
- > Membership Strips
- > Numeral Guard
- > Participation Patches
- > Patrol Leader's
- > Personalized Identification Pin
- > Program Aide A
- > Program Aide P
- > Religious and Other Awards
- > Safety Awards


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[Girl Scout Central](#)

- Awards, Badges, and Other Insignia**
- Insignia List
 - Where to Place Insignia on a Uniform
 - Insignia Found Online
 - Girl Scouts' Highest Awards

Where to Place Insignia on a Uniform Brownie Girl Scouts (Ages 6-8)



American Flag Patch

Brownie Girl Scouts may wear the American Flag patch above the council and Girl Scouts of the USA identification strips on their uniform. (You may need to lower everything a bit so that the flag is placed in a position of visibility and respect.)

INSIGNIA ON A GIRL SCOUT UNI

- > American Flag P
- > Bridge to Brown Scouts Award
- > Brownie Girl Sc Membership Pin
- > Brownie Girl Sc
- > Girl Scout Cook Activity Pins
- > Identification SI
- > Insignia Tab
- > Juliettes Emblem
- > Membership St
- > Participation Pa Pins
- > Religious and O Awards
- > Safety Award fc Girl Scouts
- > Troop/Group Nu
- > World Trefoil Pi

ALSO SEE:

- > GS Central: Ins for Brownie Girl
- > Shop: Iron-On Flag Patch

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Wave the Flag Try-It

For Brownie Girl Scouts The United States of America is a very special country. For hundreds of years, people from other countries have come to visit, live, or work here. Girls try these activities to celebrate what makes America special.

Complete four activities.

1. Flag Facts

Find out some interesting facts about the American flag. Who made the first flag? What do the stars and stripes stand for? Why has the number of stars changed over the years? Share the answers to questions like these with two other people.

2. Show It Off

Choose or draw pictures that stand for America. Put them together to make a bigger picture or a collage.

3. Celebrate

Plan a celebration for one of these holidays: Independence Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, or Veterans Day.

4. Check It Out

Walk around your neighborhood and look for things that stand for America. Do you see a monument? a statue? a plaque? a garden, park, or planting? Find out why it was put there.

5. Through the Years

Who lived in your community before you? How old is your neighborhood, town, or city? How did it become a community?

6. Do Good

Help the country by making your community a better place. Do a good deed for someone else. Tell your parent, guardian, or Girl Scout leader what you did and why it was a good deed.

The Wave the Flag Try-It was adapted from one developed by Rockland County Girl Scout Council (New City, New York).

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United We Stand Badge For Junior Girl Scouts

America is a very special place to live. It provides all of its people with the freedoms necessary to lead a happy life. Find out how to celebrate the things that make the United States unique.

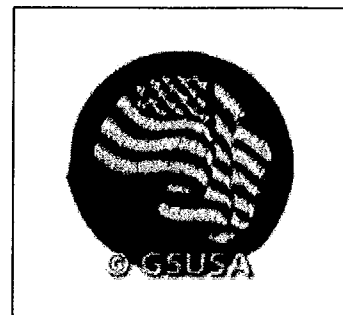
Complete at least six out of 10 activities.

1. Show the Colors

Learn the correct way to fly an American flag or carry one in a parade. How do you show that you respect the flag?

2. Write On!

With the help of an adult, send cards to people in the Army, Navy, or other U.S. armed forces. Thank these people for protecting your freedoms.



Note: For security reasons the US Department of Defense has discontinued special mail programs addressed to "any serviceman." If you want to do this particular activity, you need to address the cards or box of cards to a specific person. This is a great activity for those who have contacts on military bases or overseas. Check out the [DOD news release](#) on alternatives to sending mail.

3. Express Yourself

Write a poem or create a piece of art about what your country means to you. Submit it to your local or school newspaper, or your council newsletter.

4. Roots

One of the unique things about America is that it is a nation of immigrants. Find out what countries the people in your community or their ancestors came from. How many different nationalities, religions, and cultures are within your own town? city? state?

5. The Pledge of Allegiance

Learn the Pledge of Allegiance in sign language. Visit the [Michigan State's American Sign Language Browser Web site](#) to learn ASL signs.

6. Sing Out

Learn a patriotic song like:

- America the Beautiful
- God Bless America
- America
- The Star-Spangled Banner
- This Land Is Your Land
- Yankee Doodle
- When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again

Sing the song with your family, friends, or Girl Scout troop. Visit the [University of Virginia Library: Lift Every Voice, Music in Everyday Life](#) for more ideas.

7. ... For Which It Stands

The American flag isn't the only American symbol. Find out about two other American symbols and what they stand for.

8. Check It Out

With your troop or some friends visit a historical site, museum, memorial, or park in your community.

9. Days Gone By

What did kids your age do centuries ago? Pick a time (the 1600s, 1700s, 1800s) and find out.

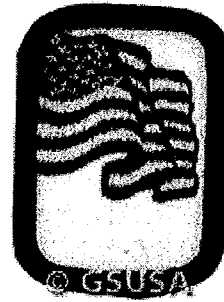
10. Lend a Hand

Show your patriotism by helping people in your community who are in need. Spend one morning or afternoon lending a hand.

The United We Stand badge was adapted from one developed by Rockland County Girl Scout Council (New City, New York).

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American Patriotism Interest Project Award

For Girl Scouts 11-17 America is a unique place to live and work. It offers many freedoms, and each one comes with responsibilities. Girl Scouts 11-17 can find out what those freedoms and responsibilities are by doing this Interest Project.

Complete two activities in the Skill Builders section, one activity in each of the other three sections, and two other activities in any section you choose.

Skill Builders

1. **Learn the American flag folding ceremony**, and practice it with your troop/group. Consider volunteering for a future flag ceremony in your local Girl Scout council or community.
2. **Visit a historic place** where Americans signed documents of freedom. What is the significance of the documents signed?
3. **Learn about who was living in North America** before the French, Spanish, and English "discovered" it. Find two or three ways that the previous inhabitants' culture differed from the Europeans'.
4. **What are the first 10 amendments to the Constitution?** Why is the Bill of Rights so important to Americans today?
5. **Learn the history of "The Star-Spangled Banner."** When and why was it written?
6. **Freedom of the press is an important right in our country.** What does it mean? Is there any topic that should never be allowed in print?

Technology

1. **Create a logo or theme** expressing what patriotism means to you, and put it on a T-shirt, hat, or other apparel visible to others.
2. **How has technology changed** the way we vote in the United States?
3. **Learn how the American flag is made.** Can any company produce it? Does the manufacturer have to abide by certain criteria? Discuss your findings with your troop.
4. **How do 24-hour news networks** influence the way we view world events? Think of several recent events covered on television or radio. How did you feel watching, or listening to, them live?
5. **Use the Internet to visit famous national exhibits** at the [Smithsonian Institution](#) or [Library of Congress](#). Or visit the [National Geographic Society](#) online to discover the places and people that make America unique.

Career Exploration

1. **What career choices** would you have had in America in the 1700s, 1800s, or early 1900s? Pick one career and see how it changed.
2. **Invite to your troop someone who belonged to one of the U.S. armed forces.** Ask the person to talk about what patriotism is, what she or he did to serve our country, and what to do if you are interested in a career in the armed forces.
3. **Find out about careers available** in two or three government agencies. What qualifications do you need to get the jobs? What would you have to do once you got them?
4. **Write a job description** for the next president of the United States. What skills, abilities, and characteristics should the ideal candidate have? Compare your requirements with those listed in the Constitution.
5. **Interview any elected official** in your area, and find out what inspired her or him to run for office.

Service Projects

1. **Learn when an American flag is considered unusable** and how to dispose of it properly. Research the flag disposal ceremony's history and presentation, then teach a younger troop, a group of children, or your family about disposing of an unusable flag.
2. **Plant a tree as a living legacy** to our nation's freedoms, working with your troop or some friends. Invite another group or someone who has been in the armed forces to join you.
3. **Send cards or greetings to military members overseas** during a patriotic holiday, and thank them for doing a great job in protecting or defending our country's freedom. But be sure to check the online Department of Defense News Release on ways to express support for the military.
4. **Work with your community to restore or maintain a historic site,** memorial, cemetery, or garden. Spend at least one day helping to get it back in shape.
5. **Help your community be prepared.** Participate in a project that educates others about homeland security or disaster preparedness.

The American Patriotism Interest Project award was adapted from one developed by Rockland County Girl Scout Council (New City, New York).

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Basic Flag Ceremony Commands (Indoor)

Opening Flag Ceremony (Outdoors: Colors)

"Would you all please stand for the presentation of the flag"

If you have an "audience", such as at an Investiture/Rededication Ceremony (parents, invited guests, etc.), this is the signal that the ceremony is about to start.

"Girl Scouts (or Horseshoe) Attention"

This is the signal that the girls should be ready to start.

"Color Guard Attention"

If the Color Guard has been standing "At Ease", it comes to "Attention". It is also a signal to be ready to start.

"Color Guard Advance"

(indoors) The Color Guard carries the flag(s) toward the front of the room and stands in front of the flag stands.

"Color Guard, Post the Colors"

(indoors) The Color Guard places the flags in the stands, the American Flag last.

"Color Guard, Honor your Colors"

The Color Guard salutes the Flag and then returns to "Attention" The Pledge of Allegiance, songs, poems, Girl Scout Promise, are done now.

"Girl Scout : The Flag of Your Country - Pledge of Allegiance"

"Would you all please join me in the Girl Scout Promise"

"Color Guard Dismissed"

The Color Guard walks to the back of the room, or away from the flag pole.

Closing Flag Ceremony (Indoor: Retreat)

"Would you all please stand at attention for the retrieval of the flag"

If you have an "audience", such as at an Investiture/Rededication Ceremony (parents, invited guests, etc.), this is the signal that the ceremony is about to start.

"Girl Scouts (or Horseshoe) Attention"

This is the signal that the girls should be ready to start.

"Color Guard Attention"

If the Color Guard has been standing "At Ease", it comes to "Attention". It is also a signal to be ready to start.

"Color Guard Approach"

(indoors) - The Color Guard walks toward the front of the room and stands in front of the flag stands.

(outdoors) The Color Guard walks to the flagpole. Singing Taps, poems, other songs, are done now, if desired.

"Would you all please join me in the singing of Taps"

"Color Guard, Honor your Colors"

The Color Guard salutes the Flag and then returns to "Attention"

"Color Guard, Retrieve the Colors"

(indoors) The Color Guard removes the flags from the stands, the American Flag first.

(outdoors) The Flag Bearer lowers the flag slowly and with dignity. The Color Bearers fold the flag(s).

"Color Guard Dismissed"

The Color Guard carries the flag to the back of the room, or carries the folded flag to an appropriate place.

REMINDER: Other than saluting the flag immediately after posting, or before retrieving, the Color Guard remains at attention. They do not take place in any singing or speaking. In a troop setting, you may just wish to say the Pledge of Allegiance and the Girl Scout Promise while the flags remain in the stands. This is perfectly acceptable

Basic Flag Ceremony Commands (Outdoors)

Opening Flag Ceremony (Colors)

"Would you all please stand and form a horseshoe for the presentation of the flag"

If you have an "audience", such as at an Investiture/Rededication Ceremony (parents, invited guests, etc.), this is the signal that the ceremony is about to start.

"Girl Scouts (or Horseshoe) Attention"

This is the signal that the girls should be ready to start.

"Color Guard Attention"

If the Color Guard has been standing "At Ease", it comes to "Attention". It is also a signal to be ready to start.

"Color Guard Advance"

(Outdoors) The Color Guard carries the flag(s) toward the flag pole and stands at attention.

"Color Guard, Raise the Colors"

(Outdoors) The bearer Color Guard hands the flag to the guards to unfold and then prepared the rope/line & hooks for the flag.

The bearer latches the top most hook to the grommet nearest the blue star, then the lower grommet near the stripes. The guard pass the edges of the flag forward as the bearer raises the flag – guard make sure the flag NEVER drops to the ground..

"Color Guard, Honor your Colors"

The Color Guard salutes the Flag and then returns to "Attention" The Pledge of Allegiance, songs, poems, Girl Scout Promise, are done now.

"Girl Scouts : The Flag of Your Country - Pledge of Allegiance"

"Would you all please join me in the Girl Scout Promise"

"Color Guard Dismissed"

The Color Guard turns around (Still at attention) to face away and walks out of the horseshoe - away from the flag pole.

"Are there any announcements"

Program announcements are made and then

"Girl Scouts Dismissed"

Closing Flag Ceremony (Outdoor: Retreat)

"Would you all please stand and form a horseshoe for the presentation of the flag"

If you have an "audience", such as at an Investiture/Rededication Ceremony (parents, invited guests, etc.), this is the signal that the ceremony is about to start.

"Girl Scouts (or Horseshoe) Attention"

This is the signal that the girls should be ready to start.

"Color Guard Attention"

If the Color Guard has been standing "At Ease", it comes to "Attention". It is also a signal to be ready to start.

"Color Guard Approach"

(Outdoors) - The Color Guard walks to the flagpole and remains at attention.

"Would you all please join me in the singing of Taps"

"Color Guard, Honor your Colors"

The Color Guard salutes the Flag and then returns to "Attention"

"Color Guard, Retrieve the Colors"

(Outdoors) The Color Guard bearer unwinds the rope/line and slowly lowers the flag. The forward bear guard catches the edge of the flag as it comes down and passes it along to the other guards. The bearer unlatches the flag and rewinds the gift as the guards fold the flag and hand it to the bearer. All pause at attention..

"Color Guard Dismissed"

Color guard marches out of the formation/horseshoe in silence.

"Are there any announcements"

Program announcements are made and then

"Girl Scouts Dismissed"

REMINDER: Other than saluting the flag immediately after posting, or before retrieving, the Color Guard remains at attention. They do not take place in any singing or speaking. In a troop setting, you may just wish to say the Pledge of Allegiance and the Girl Scout Promise while the flags remain in the stands. This is perfectly acceptable