

Flag Ceremony

The flag of our country is more than a something. The flag is a symbol of our living country and itself is considered a living thing. When you show respect for the flag, you are showing respect for all it represents.

Planning

- Conduct a rehearsal.
- Make sure youth know the path and walking route (see graphic).
- Make sure youth know how to behave, if/how/when to salute, whether to take off their hat.
- Make sure the flag isn't too heavy for youth to carry or too big that the flag touches the ground. Check any barriers and explain to youth how to tilt the flag or navigate barriers (e.g., around basketball goals, doorways, low ceiling height). If not, have colors posted before the meeting.
- Put the flag stands in correct position at the front of the room (ensure US flag stand is on left side if stand sizes vary).
- Consider adding introductory statements (see *Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*).



Guidelines

- When in uniform, stand at attention and salute with your right hand.
- When not in uniform, stand at attention and place your right hand over your heart. Remove your non-uniform hat.
- When in uniform, with your head covered or uncovered, either indoors or outdoors, stand at attention and salute with your right hand when the US national anthem is played, the colors are raised or lowered, the Pledge of Allegiance is recited, or the US flag passes by in a parade.
- The reason the color guards do not participate in saluting, singing, or saying the Pledge of Allegiance with the group is because their job is to guard the flag at all times. They should salute after the US flag is posted.
- The US flag is posted on the left, as you look toward the front.
- During a flag ceremony (from the audience's perspective), the US flag is on their right-hand side, and other flag (unit) is on their left. When the flags get to the front the flags cross, so that the US flag ends up on the left-hand side of the stage, and the unit flag is at the left-hand side of the stage. See graphic.
- When the US flag is carried with another (e.g., state, pack flag), it should always be on "its marching right" in the procession.
- Include all youth in flag ceremonies at different times of the year. Youth with physical disabilities can proudly act as narrator or even flag bearers when adults see these events as possibilities instead of barriers.

Advancements:

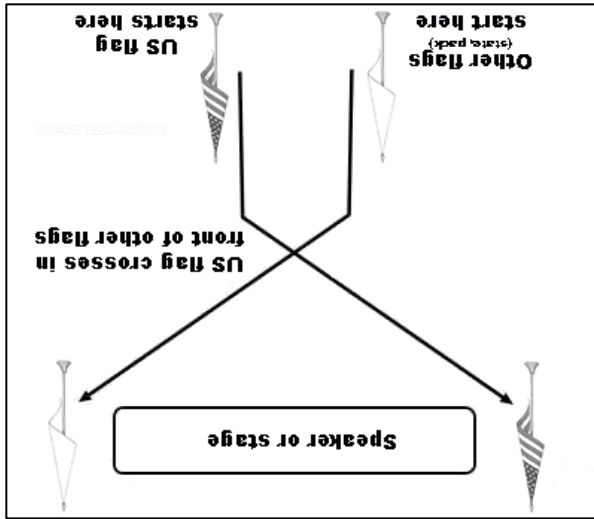
- **Lion:** Adventure: King of the Jungle 1. Participate in a flag ceremony with your den.
- **Tiger:** [Team Tiger](#) 2. With your den, talk about your Tiger team. Then make a chart showing all the different ways team members can help the den. Volunteer to take your turn doing at least two different jobs, one of which is leading the Pledge of Allegiance.
- **Wolf:** [Council Fire](#) 1. With your den or pack, participate in a flag ceremony, and learn how to properly care for and fold the flag.
- **Bear:** [Paws for Action](#) 1. Learn about our nation's flag. Display it at home for one month. Say the Pledge of Allegiance, and learn its meaning.
- **Webelos Scouts:** [Building a Better World](#) 1. Explain the history of the United States flag. Show how to properly display the flag in public, and help lead a flag ceremony.

References

- *Ceremonies for Dens and Packs* (#620581)
- *Your Flag* (#33188)
- *10 things to know about flag etiquette:* Scouting Magazine, September, 24, 2015: <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/09/24/10-things-know-flag-etiquette>

Script

Provide a script for Scout's who can read. A sample is provided below. Fold the paper in half horizontally and then vertically to form a booklet (creases will be on the top and left side).



As an American, I will do my best to
 Be clean in my outdoor manners,
 Be careful with fire,
 Be considerate in the outdoors, and
 Be conservation minded.

Outdoor Code

Closing Flag Ceremony

1. Color guard, attention.
2. Will the audience please rise?
3. Color guard, advance.
4. Color guard, salute.
5. Color guard, retire the colors. *(wait)*
6. Hand salute
6. Two.
7. Color guard, dismissed.
8. Audience, thank you for joining us.
You are dismissed!



A Scout is:
 Trustworthy
 Loyal
 Helpful
 Friendly
 Courteous
 Kind
 Obedient
 Cheerful
 Thrifty
 Brave
 Clean
 Reverent

Scout Law

On my honor, I will do my best
 to do my duty to God and my country
 and to obey the Scout Law;
 to help other people at all times;
 to keep myself physically strong,
 mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Oath



Opening Flag Ceremony

1. Color guard, attention.
2. Will the audience please rise?
3. Color guard, advance.
4. Hand salute. *(wait)*
5. Please recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
6. Two.
7. Color guard, post the colors.
8. Cub Scout sign.
9. Please recite the Scout Oath.
10. Please recite the Scout Law.
11. Please recite the Outdoor Code.
12. Two.
13. Color guard, dismissed.
14. Audience, please be seated.