

FLAG ETIQUETTE

I. RESPECTING THE FLAG

1. The United States Flag Code adopted by Congress provides the rules for honoring and displaying the flag

II. WHEN TO FLY THE FLAG

1. Can be flown every day provided weather permits
2. If weather-resistant material can be flown in any weather
3. Customary to fly the flag from sunrise to sunset although there is no law that says you can't fly it at night.
4. The flag should be especially flown on all national & state holidays & on other special days designated by the president of the United States.

III. RAISING & LOWERING THE FLAG

1. Fly at full staff. Raise briskly and lower slowly.
2. When flown at half-staff first raise it to the top of the flagpole and then lower it to half-staff. When lowering raise to top of the flagpole and then lower it
3. On Memorial Day, fly the flag at half-staff until noon, then raise it to full-staff

IV. RAISING THE FLAG

1. It takes 2 people to raise, lower and fold the flag correctly. For raising, one holds the folded flag to prevent it from touching the ground. The other attaches the flag to the flag line (halyard) & then raises the flag briskly, keeping the line taut. When the flag has left the arms of the first person & is flowing freely, he steps back and comes to a salute while the other person fastens the halyard to the cleat on the flagpole.

V. LOWERING THE FLAG

1. One person unfastens the halyard from the cleat and slowly lowers the flag while the other salutes. When the flag is within reach, the second person drops his salute and gathers the flag into his arms. The first person removes the flag from the halyard & ties the halyard to the cleat.

VI. FOLDING THE FLAG

1. Demonstrate

VII. GREETING THE FLAG

1. When you are wearing your Scout uniform with or without a cap, greet the flag with a Scout salute. Do this whenever you see it being hoisted or lowered, when you pass it, or when it passes you. Give the Scout salute when you recite the Pledge of

Allegiance, too.

2. When you are not in uniform, use the civilian salute. Greet the flag by placing your right hand over your heart. If you are wearing a hat, remove it and hold it in your right hand over your heart.

VIII. CARRYING THE FLAG

1. Always carry the flag aloft, and free, never horizontally.
2. When the flag is carried alone, there should be an honor guard to the left of it or one on each side of it.
3. Carried with other flags, the United States flag should be in front of the others or to the right if the flags are arranged in a line.
4. Never dip the flag of the United States in salute to any person or thing.

IX. DISPLAYING THE FLAG

1. When flags are displayed at different heights, the United States flag flies higher than the others, it is hoisted first and lowered last.
2. When flags are displayed at equal heights, the United States flag is either in front of or farthest to the right of the other flags.
3. When the flag is displayed flat on against a wall, horizontally or vertically, the blue union should be at the top, *at the flag's own right* (to the left as you look at it).
4. In a church, synagogue, temple, or auditorium, the flag on a staff is placed to the clergy's or speaker's right as he faces the crowd.
5. When displayed from a staff that projects from a window or from the front of a building, the flag goes to the peak of the staff, except when displayed at half-staff.
6. Across a street, hang the flag vertically with the union to the north in an east-west street, to the east on a north-south street.
7. When displayed on an automobile, the staff should be firmly clamped to the right front fender. It should not be draped on or over any part of the car.
8. The flag is never flown upside down except as a distress signal to call for help.

X. CARE OF THE FLAG

1. Never let the American flag touch the ground, floor or water. Place nothing on it. Never use the flag as drapery.
2. Clean the flag if it becomes soiled.
3. Mend it if it is torn.
4. When worn beyond repair, destroy it in a dignified way, preferably burning it.

A Sample Flag Ceremony

The group of people who raise or lower the flag is called the “Color Guard”. The name comes from the group of soldiers responsible for protecting an Army’s flag (the “colors”) and keeping it from being captured by the enemy. The absolute minimum size for a color guard is two people, because that’s how many people it takes to actually raise or lower it, but a third person is usually used to direct the color guard.

This sample flag ceremony is by no means the only correct way to raise or lower the U.S. flag, but it is easy enough for a patrol of Boy Scouts to do, and correctly honors our flag.

The color guard starts at the flag’s left (audience’s right), in single file. If more than one flag is being raised, the color guard lines up so the flags being carried are in the same order as the flagpoles on which they should be raised. In each group of two people, the second person carries the flag, while the first “guards” it.

LEADER: Color guard, attention!

Color guard comes to attention – standing straight, good posture, in line, head and eyes forward, hands to the side, not talking.

LEADER: Troop (or camp, or patrol, or whatever), attention!

All persons attending come to attention.

LEADER: Color guard, forward march.

Color guard walks in from the audience’s right, toward the flagpole or flagpoles, making sure to pass between the audience and the flagpoles.

LEADER: Color guard, halt.

Color guard stops at each flagpole.

LEADER: Color guard, right face.

Color guard turns right to face the flagpoles.

(Continue below for raising or lowering):

For a flag raising ceremony:	For a flag lowering ceremony:
<p>LEADER: Clear the halyards.</p> <p>For each flag, one person holds the flag. The other person steps to the flagpole and unties the flag line (halyard), untwisting it as necessary so it will run free. If needed, move the halyard up or down so the attaching clips are at the bottom of the flagpole, ready to take the flag.</p> <p>LEADER: Troop (camp/patrol), salute! All persons except the color guard salute the flag – Scout salute if in uniform, hand over heart if not.</p> <p>LEADER: Post the colors!</p> <p>The person who cleared the halyard unfolds the flag enough to find the two grommets (the reinforced holes at the top left and bottom left corners of the flag), attaches the flag to the</p>	<p>LEADER: Clear the halyards.</p> <p>For each flag, one person will hold the flag when it is lowered. The other person steps to the flagpole and unties the flag line (halyard), untwisting it as necessary so it will run free.</p> <p>LEADER: Troop (camp/patrol), salute! All persons except the person handling the halyard salute the flag – Scout salute if in uniform, hand over heart if not.</p> <p>LEADER: Retire the colors!</p> <p>If the flag is at half-mast, the person handling the halyard first raises the flag briskly to the top of the flagpole, then pauses for a couple of seconds. Slowly lower the flag. If more than</p>

clips on the halyard, and begins to briskly raise the flag up the flag pole. The other person continues to hold the flag, making sure it does not fall or touch the ground. As soon as the flag is hoisted out of his arms and flying free, the flag holder steps back slightly and salutes facing the flagpole, holding the salute until the audience is commanded to drop the salute. The flag is raised briskly to the top of the pole. If the flag is to be displayed at half-mast, pause with the flag at the top for a couple of seconds, and then slowly lower it to midway on the pole. If more than one flag is being raised, the American flag goes up first and fastest.

Raising the other flags is timed so they reach the top of the pole after the U.S. flag does.

LEADER: Two!

Color guard and audience drop salute.

LEADER: Secure the halyards.

The person who raised the flag ties the halyard to the flagpole, and then steps back to be in line with the person saluting, but still facing the flagpole.

(Continue below)

one flag is being lowered, the other flags start down first, then the U.S. flag. Lowering is timed so that the U.S. flag reaches the bottom after all the others. The flag is lowered slowly because "These Colors Don't Run." As the flag comes down, the color guard member saluting drops his salute and steps up to the flagpole in time to catch the flag, preventing it from falling or touching the ground. As the flag reaches the bottom of the pole, this person gathers the flag into his arms. The person handling the halyard un-clips the flag from the halyard.

LEADER: Two!

Audience drops salute.

LEADER: Secure the halyards.

The person who lowered the flag ties the halyard to the flagpole.

The color guard folds the flag. The person who gathered in the flag ends up holding the folded flag in his arms. The color guard comes to rest in line, facing the flagpole.

(Continue below)

LEADER: Color guard, right face.

Color guard turns to face to the audience's right.

LEADER: Color guard, forward march.

Color guard walks in line to the audience's right, returning to where they started at the beginning of the ceremony.

At this point, the LEADER may dismiss the troop/camp/patrol, may command them to be "at ease" (a slightly more relaxed posture allowing one foot to be moved, but still no talking), or may turn leadership over to another individual.