

Oh What a Flag!



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This patch program was created so that all Girl Scouts can learn about the flag of our nation, its history, and many more things that one might not have known before. To earn the patch, the starred items must be completed. Then, the other items can be chosen from the list and can be whichever ones you like. The other activity can be chosen from the list, but cannot be one that is already starred.

The starred () items are required for everyone.*



Daisies: Starred items only

Brownies: Starred items, plus 1 additional item

Juniors: Starred items, plus 2 additional items

Cadettes: Starred items, plus 3 additional items

Seniors: Starred items, plus 4 additional items

Ambassadors: Starred items, plus 4 additional items

*Requirement #1

Colors and Symbols

- What do the colors and symbols of the flag mean?
- Design a flag of your own.
- What do the colors and symbols of your flag mean to you, and what do they represent?

*Requirement #2

Flag Ceremonies

- Learn how to properly carry out a flag ceremony, and be a member of the Color Guard for a Girl Scout flag ceremony.
- What are some differences between indoor and outdoor flag ceremonies?

Here is what you will need to perform a flag ceremony:

Positions:

Caller

Flag Bearer (American Flag)

Flag Bearer (State Flag)

Flag Bearer (Girl Scout Flag)

Flag Bearer (WAGGGS Flag) *optional*

Guard for each flag

At an outdoor flag ceremony girls stand in a horseshoe-shaped formation, with the flagpole at the opening of the horseshoe. At an indoor flag ceremony, the audience is asked to stand where they are.

Commands Called out by the Caller for an opening flag ceremony:

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

"Color Guard, attention." Calls the color guard to get ready to begin.

"Color Guard, advance." Signals the color guard to advance with the flags.

"Color Guard, post the colors." Directs the color guard to place the flag in flag stands or to attach the grommets on the flag to the flagpole rope, and raise the flag up the pole.

"Color Guard, honor your flag." Signals the color guard to salute the American Flag.

"Please join us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance." This may be followed by an appropriate song, quote, or poem. (*The color guard stands at attention the entire time, and does not participate in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance or the Girl Scout Promise and Law.*)

"Please join us in saying the Girl Scout Promise, followed by the Girl Scout Law."

"Color guard, retreat." Prompts the color guard to leave, in formation, and return to their starting point.

"Color Guard, dismissed." Dismisses the color guard to join the rest of the group.

"Girl Scouts, dismissed." Indicates that girls may leave, or stay in place while waiting for further instruction from leaders.

Commands Called out by the Caller for a closing flag ceremony:

"Girl Scouts, attention." Announces that the flag ceremony is about to begin.

"Color Guard attention." Calls the Color Guard to get ready to begin.

"Color guard, advance." Signals the color guard to advance to prepare to retrieve the flags.

"Color guard, retire the colors." Prompts the color guard to remove the flags from stands, or to lower the flag, detach it from the rope, and fold it appropriately.

At this point "Taps" may be sung, or played by a bugle or other instrument.

"Color Guard, retreat." Signals the color guard to walk in formation back to their starting point.

"Color Guard, dismissed." Signals the color guard to join the rest of the group.

"Taps"

Day is done,

Gone the sun,

From the lake, from the hill, from the sky,

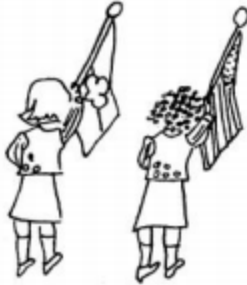
All is well

Safely rest

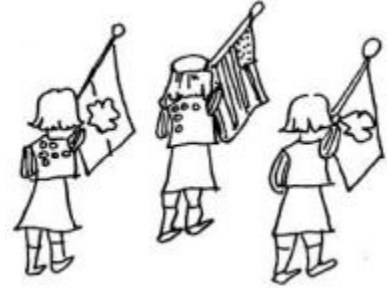
God is nigh

Proper Flag Positions for Ceremonies and Displays

When carrying 2 flags, the US Flag is on the right



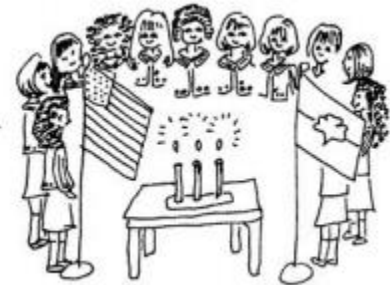
When carrying 3+ flags, the US Flag is in the center



When standing in a line, the US Flag is to the right, and at the same level as the other flags



When posting the flags at the same level, not on a platform, the US Flag is to the right of the audience



How to properly fold an American Flag

1. Begin by holding the flag waist high, along with 2-3 other people, so that its surface is parallel to the ground.



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



3. Fold the flag again lengthwise, with the blue field on the outside.



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



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



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



7. When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible. The Flag Bearer carries it with the point forward, away from her body.



Requirement #3

Flag Retirement

- When is it necessary to retire a flag?
- Participate in a flag retirement ceremony with your troop on a camping trip, or with a local VFW hall.

How to perform a flag retirement ceremony

1. Prepare a large open fire space to sufficiently burn the flag completely.
2. Cut the bottom stripe off, and recite the corresponding original colony while placing the stripe in to the fire.
3. Continue this process with the rest of the stripes and colonies until there is only the field of stars left.
4. Place the field of stars in the fire, and while it burns, individuals at the ceremony should salute or recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Finally, end the ceremony with a moment of silence and bury the ashes once the flag is completely consumed.

Flag retirement ceremony script

GIRL SCOUT IN CHARGE: *“Color guard, advance.”* (Flag may be carried in open, or on a pole.)
 “Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.”

At this point an appropriate reading, poem, or song may be performed.

“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 the Girl Scout in Charge finishes the above statement, the cutter starts cutting the first stripe, the top one on the flag. When it is entirely cut, she lays it over the arm of another color guard member to carefully 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 into the Union.

“Delaware”
“Pennsylvania”
“New Jersey”
“Georgia”
“Connecticut”
“Massachusetts”
“Maryland”
“South Carolina”
“New Hampshire”
“Virginia”
“New York”
“North Carolina”
“Rhode Island”

The field of blue, which symbolizes all 50 states, is burned last. It should be laid on the fire with 2 girls holding the corners. A closing song, such as God Bless America should be sung, then the girls are dismissed in silence as “Taps” is either hummed by the group or played by an instrument.

*Requirement #4

Pledge of Allegiance

Say the Pledge of Allegiance, and learn what each line means.

I pledge allegiance... you promise to be loyal

to the Flag... to the symbol of your country

of the United States of America... a nation of 50 states and several territories, each with certain rights of its own

and to the Republic... a country where the people elect representatives from among themselves to make laws for everyone

for which it stands... the flag represents the values of our form of government, in which everyone is equal under the law

one Nation under God... a country formed under God whose people are free to believe as they wish

indivisible... the nation cannot be split into parts

with liberty and justice... with freedom and a system of law

for all... for every person in the nation, regardless of their differences

Requirement #5

Historical Sites

Visit an historical site that is important to our Nation's flag.

Some suggestions of local historical places are:

- Fort McHenry (Baltimore, MD)
- The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House (Baltimore, MD)
- The Betsy Ross House (Philadelphia, PA)

Requirement #6

American Flag Etiquette

Learn how to properly carry, hold, and fold the American flag.

Correct Flag Positions for Display and Carrying

- When carrying two flags, the American flag is on the right.
- When carrying three or more flags, the American flag is placed in the center front, or with multiple flags in a straight line, the American flag is on the far right.
- When carrying many flags down a narrow aisle, the American flag is first.
- When standing in a line, the American flag is to the right, and at the same level as other flags. If the Pledge of Allegiance is said, the bearer steps to the center in front of the other flags.
- When posting the flags at the same level, not on a platform, the American flag is to the right of the audience.
- On a platform, the American flag is to the right of the speaker.

- Against a wall, the American flag is to the right of the audience.

Requirement #7

The Women's Role

Who are two women who played important part roles in the freedom and liberty of our country, and what roles did they play?

Requirement #8

A Song About the United States

Learn the "Fifty Nifty United States" Song, or another fun song about the American Flag and the United States.

"Fifty Nifty United States":

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWGc6AZQIAE>

Lyrics:

Fifty nifty United States from thirteen original colonies;
Fifty nifty stars in the flag that billows so beautifully in the breeze.

Each individual state
Contributes a quality that is great.
Each individual state
Deserves a bow, we salute them now.

Fifty nifty United States from thirteen original colonies,
Shout 'em, scout 'em, tell all about 'em,
One by one 'til we've given a day to every state in the U.S.A.

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,

North, south, east, west
In our calm, objective opinion [*name of home state*] is the best of the...

Fifty nifty United States from thirteen original colonies,
Shout 'em, scout 'em, tell all about 'em,
One by one 'til we've given a day to every state in the good old U.S.A.

*Requirement #9

Flag at Half-Staff

What does it mean when a flag is at half-staff? Learn about a time when our flag was flown at half-mast and why.

Requirement #10

Changes in the Flag

How has the American Flag changed throughout its history?

Requirement #11

Patriotic Potluck

Make an American Flag-themed dessert, such as the recipe below, or a dinner item and share it with your troop during a meeting.

American flag fruit cake

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Total Time: 15 minutes

Servings: 12 servings

Ingredients

- 4 cups fresh strawberries
- 1 pkg. (12 oz.) frozen prepared pound cake, thawed, cut into 14 slices (you can make your own cake)
- 1 ⅓ cups blueberries, divided
- 1 tub (12 oz.) COOL WHIP Whipped Topping, thawed
- 13x9-inch dish

Directions

1. Slice 1 cup of strawberries, halve the remaining 3 cups of strawberries
2. Cover bottom of the dish with cake slices, top with sliced strawberries and 1 cup of blueberries. Spread COOL WHIP over berries.
3. Arrange strawberry halves and remaining blueberries on top of the COOL WHIP to resemble a US Flag with the Field of Stars and the Red and White Stripes.
4. Keep refrigerated.

Some more ideas:

<https://www.justataste.com/july-4-dessert-pinwheel-icebox-cookies/>

<http://frostingandasmile.com/archives/2316>

<https://pint-sizedbaker.com/4th-of-july-milkshakes/>

<https://ohsweetbasil.com/patriotic-popcorn-recipe/>

Patches are \$2.00 each, and can be ordered by emailing gstroop1724@gmail.com.

Resources used in the production of this patch program:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/184929128427683495/?lp=true>

<http://www.gscwm.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gscwm/documents/GS%20Guide%20to%20Flag%20Ceremonies.pdf>

<https://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/traditions/ceremonies.html>

<https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/raycharles/fiftyniftyunitedstates.html>

Troop 1724
Oh What a Flag!
Silver Award Project
Nitya - Megan - Izzy