

FLAGS

FLAG CEREMONY

The flag of the United States of America is a living symbol that calls to our spirit, reminding us of the greatness of our country. We cherish and uphold the flag because it is a symbol of the standard of honor which live.

We view the flag with devotion, for it represents our national heritage of noble deeds, splendid accomplishments, and untold sacrifices which combined to establish the moral character of our national foundation. The flag is a symbol that merges the past with the present and makes the present a prophecy for the future while signifying a people dedicated to liberty, justice and freedom for all.

The Flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously. Ordinarily, it should only be displayed between sunrise and sunset and should be illuminated if displayed at night.

The Flag is saluted as it is hoisted and lowered until the flag is unhooked from the halyard or through the last note of music, whichever is longer.

Raising the Flag

1. All cabin groups gather quietly around the flag pole before the ceremony. The cabin performing the ceremony gets the flags from the camp office.
2. As flag bearers approach the ceremony area, all campers are to be silent and respectful with hats removed.
3. As the flag is raised, everyone places their right hand over their heart.
4. After the flags (USA and Conservation) are raised, everyone keeps their hand over their heart to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The hand may be lowered for the Conservation Pledge. The cabin in charge of the ceremony leads the pledges.

Retiring the Flag

1. Everyone gathers quietly around the flagpole at the appropriate time.
2. Flag bearers approach the flag pole and everyone else remains silent and respectful (with hats removed).
3. Everyone places their right hand over their heart as the flag is slowly lowered and keeps their hand in place until the last flag is unclipped. There may be accompanying music.

4. Everyone remains silent until the flags are folded and bearers retreat. The flags must never touch the ground.

Special instructions for flying the flag at half mast

1. The flag is raised to the top of the flagpole and then lowered to half mast.
2. When lowering a flag that has been at half mast, raise the flag first to the top and then slowly lower as usual.

Folding the Flag (requires two persons)

1. Fold the flag first lengthwise in half and then in half again. The blue field of stars (the flag's union) should be showing (facing up) and held securely.
2. The remaining person begins to fold the flag in a triangle, maintaining a tight fold until reaching the end. This completes the folding of the flag.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

The Pledge of Allegiance should be rendered while standing at attention, facing the flag, and saluting (with right hand over heart).

"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 Ecology Flag

The Ecology Flag was patterned after the Flag of the United States and has thirteen stripes alternating green and white. Its canton is green with a yellow Theta because of its historic use as a warning symbol. Theta has since become associated with Earth Day.

The color green symbolizes unspoiled land.

The white symbolizes the need for pure air.

The Greek Theta in the canon signifies death and serves as a warning to remind us of what will happen if we do not protect the earth and its resources.

The Conservation Pledge

"I give my pledge as an American, to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country – its air, soil, and minerals, its forest, waters, and wildlife.