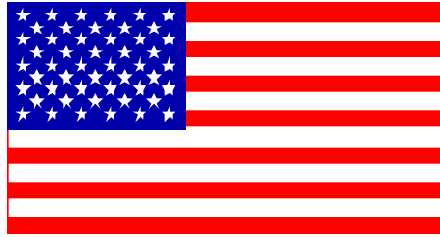


PRAIRIE FLOWER
FLAG ETIQUETTE AT CAMP



1. Everyone who is seated should stand when the flag ceremony is ready to start. All hats should be taken off. No one should have anything in their hands.
2. No one should talk or create any type of diversion while a flag ceremony is being conducted.
3. When it is time to say the Pledge of Allegiance, everyone should face the Flag while giving the pledge.
4. The American Flag should always be placed (or carried) to:
 - the right of all other flags OR
 - higher than all other flags OR
 - in front and at least as high as all other flags.
5. Only the caller speaks during a flag ceremony and then only to give commands. The Color Guard does not talk, sing, or salute the flag during the pledge during a flag ceremony. They only do exactly what the caller tells them to do.
6. There may be as many Color Guards as wanted in a flag ceremony. Sometimes a whole troop may be in the Color Guard. Be sure to stress that being a Guard is as much of an honor as carrying the flag.
7. To be in the Color Guard is a privilege and girls who do not behave properly should not do it. Laughing because you are embarrassed spoils the flag ceremony. Everyone needs to be serious during the flag ceremony.
8. The flag bearer wears the sash just as she would wear her badge sash. The Color Guard wears their sashes around their waists, tied on the same side that their badge sashes tie on.
9. The flag should never touch the ground or floor.
10. When several flags are being used in a ceremony, the American Flag is always the first to be raised and the last to be lowered. All flag ceremonies are directed to the American flag. Any program that happens (songs, the Promise, the Pledge, poems, announcements, etc.) happen when the flags are up.
11. The American Flag is never dipped to another flag.
12. After posting the Flag, the Flag Bearer takes two steps backwards before returning to their places in the Color Guard.
13. When the flag is being retired, everyone should stand when the ceremony begins.
14. One should salute the flag when it is clipped to the rope and continue until it is up to the top of the pole. Again one should salute when the Pledge is being said. In the retiring ceremony, one should salute when the flag starts down the pole until it is unclipped. One salutes both times when the flag is in motion (being carried both in and out).
15. If the flag is being flown at half mast, the flag should go to the top of the pole first and then be lowered down to about the 1/3 mark. In the retiring ceremony, the flag should be raised to the top, and then be lowered.
16. If your troop is late to the flag ceremony, stop wherever you are when you realize the flag ceremony has started. Remain at attention and quiet there just as you would if you were in the circle or horseshoe. When the color guard has left the circle and the ceremony is at an end, then join everyone else in the circle.
17. Flag ceremonies may start with everyone in the circle ready to start or they may start with everyone in a long line. If there is along line, everyone will follow the line into a horseshoe at the beginning of the ceremony. Talking stops when the line begins to move. Usually the line will form the horseshoe around the flag pole with the open end away from the pole to make a path for the flags to come in.