

Flag Retirement Ceremony

Flag presentation

Girl Scouts, Attention

Color Guard advance

Scouts Salute

Color Guard - Post the Colors

Color Guard - Honor your Colors

Pledge

Girl Scout Promise

Girl Scout Law

Prayer

We would like to welcome you here today to honor our flag. We would like to thank all of our military for your service that are in attendance as well as those who have served or are serving our great nation today. Without you, our right to honor our flag would not be possible.

We are honored that you have come to help them with a Flag Retirement Ceremony. We want to tell you some of the things about our United States Flag that you may or may not know. They are going to explain why our flag is folded 13 times into a triangle. They would also like for you to know what each star and stripe mean.

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we 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 seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and

daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust". After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.

Star Spangled Banner

I Am Your Flag

I am your flag. I appear in many places. I have taken many forms and been called many names. I was authorized by Congress in 1818 in the form you see now and have remained unchanged except to add a new star each July 4th after a new state joined the Union, until I reached my present number of 50.

I am more than just red, white, and blue cloth shaped into a design. I am a silent sentinel of freedom. People of every country in the world know me on sight. Many countries love me as you do. Other countries look at me with contempt because they do not allow the freedom of democracy that I represent – but every country looks on me with respect. I am strong and people of America have made me strong. My strength comes from your willingness to give help to those who are in need. You strive for world peace and yet stand ready to fight oppression. You send resources and offer technology to less fortunate countries so they may strive to become self-sufficient. You feed starving children. You offer a home to anyone who will pledge allegiance to me. Your sons and daughters gather beneath me to offer their lives on the battlefields to preserve the liberty I represent. That's why I love the American people. That's why I have flown so proudly.

Girl Scouts are some of my favorite people. I listen to your patriotic songs. I am there at your flag ceremonies and I appreciate the tender care you give me. I feel the love when you say your pledge. I notice that your hand covers your heart when I am on parade and I ripple with pleasure when I see it.

Now I am tired and it is time for me to rest in the sacred flames of your campfire. My colors are faded and my cloth is tattered, but my spirit remains unbroken. To set my spirit loose, first cut the blue field away from my stripes. Tear each of my 13 stripes and lay them on the fire one at a time. As you do this, think about the 13 original colonies and the pioneers who carved a nation out of a wilderness. They risked everything to fight for the independence which we enjoy.

(Cut the field of blue from the stripes)

The Blue field or union is the point of honor, the upper corner of the Flag's own right. The symbolism of the right hand goes far back in antiquity when it was the weapon hand. Raising the right arm free of any weapon meant peace. It became a salute, a way of giving praise and honor. The union is blue, representing the

night sky with stars forming a new and glorious constellation. There is one star for each state in our union.

It is said the point of honor of our flag was made from the blue cloth belonging to a captain in the Continental Army.

(Cut each strip from the flag and lay each piece, one at a time, across the flames.)

First Stripe – “The thirteen stripes stand for the thirteen original colonies: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island.”

Second Stripe – “The white stands for purity.”

Third Stripe – “The red stands for courage.”

Fourth Stripe – “Give me liberty or give me death.”

Fifth Stripe – “One if by land, two if by sea.”

Sixth Stripe – “We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

Seventh Stripe – “We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal. They are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Eighth Stripe – “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

Ninth Stripe – “Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or press.”

Tenth Stripe – “Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”

Eleventh Stripe – “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state because they are female.”

Delaware..... Dec. 7th, 1787
Pennsylvania Dec. 12th, 1787
New Jersey..... Dec. 18th, 1787
Georgia Jan. 2nd, 1788
Connecticut..... Jan. 9th, 1788
Massachusetts..... Feb. 6th, 1788
Maryland April 28th, 1788
S. Carolina May 23rd, 1788
New Hampshire..... June 21st, 1788
Virginia..... June 25th, 1788
New York..... June 25th, 1788
N. Carolina Nov. 21st, 1789
Rhode Island May 29th, 1790
Vermont..... March 4th, 1791
Kentucky June 1st, 1792
Tennessee June 1st, 1796
Ohio March 1st, 1803
Louisiana..... April 30th, 1812
Indiana Dec. 11th, 1816
Mississippi..... Dec. 10th, 1817
Illinois Dec. 3rd, 1818
Alabama..... Dec. 14th, 1819
Maine..... March 15th, 1820
Missouri August 10th, 1821
Arkansas June 15th, 1836

Michigan Jan. 26th, 1837
Florida March 3rd, 1845
Texas Dec. 29th, 1845
Iowa Dec. 28th, 1846
Wisconsin..... May 29th, 1848
California..... Sept. 9th, 1848
Minnesota May 22th, 1858
Oregon Feb. 14th, 1859
Kansas Jan. 29th, 1861
West Virginia June 20th, 1863
Nevada Oct. 31st, 1864
Nebraska March 1st, 1867
Colorado..... Aug. 1st, 1876
N. Dakota Nov. 2nd, 1889
S. Dakota Nov. 2nd, 1889
Montana..... Nov. 8th, 1889
Washington Nov. 11th, 1889
Idaho July 3rd, 1890
Wyoming..... July 10th, 1890
Utah Jan. 4th, 1896
Oklahoma..... Nov. 16th, 1907
New Mexico Jan. 6th, 1912
Arizona Feb. 14th, 1912
Alaska..... Jan. 3rd, 1959
Hawaii Aug. 21st, 1959