

# The Flag

Nations are ordained by God and Christians are to be subject to them. It is important to model true patriotism. The flag of a nation stands for its ideals and is a symbol of the country it represents. Pathfinders learn appreciation, respect, and loyalty towards their country's flag.

## Courtesies

Here are a few customary forms to be observed in showing respect to the flag of the United States of America.

1. The flag should be displayed only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open, except for special occasions. It should not be displayed on days when the weather is bad.
2. Hoist the flag quickly; lower it slowly and ceremoniously.
3. The flag should be displayed on national and state holidays and other days as proclaimed by the President of the United States. On Memorial Day, the flag should be at half-mast until noon.
4. The blue field should always be at the top, and it should be fastened to the hoisting rope securely and in such a way that the flag will not be torn or soiled.
5. Never use the flag as a decoration; use bunting instead. The blue color in the bunting should always be at the top. If the blue in the bunting contains stars, it would surely indicate that the stars be on top, because if placed below, it would be the same as placing the flag upside down.
6. When flown at half-mast, the flag should be hoisted to the peak, then lowered to the half-mast position. Before lowering the flag for the day it should again be raised to the peak.
7. The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags, and organization or institutional flags are dipped as a mark of honor.
8. The flag should never touch anything beneath it—ground, floor, water, or merchandise.
9. The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used or stored in such a manner as will permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
10. The flag should never have placed upon any part of it, nor attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.

11. The flag should never be used for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
12. When a flag is no longer fit for display, it should be destroyed privately, preferably by burning.
13. Note AY Classes Instructor's Manual for US, Canadian and Bermuda flag courtesy.

## **Positions**

When the national flag is displayed at a camporee or camp out it should be placed at the right of those who are camping and not at the right of those entering the camp.

If the National flag is displayed on a cross-type pole with AY and Pathfinder flags, the national flag should be in the middle and a bit higher than the others.

The flag, when carried in a procession with other flags, should be either on the marching right (the flag's own right) or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line. Never display the flag from a float except from a staff, or so suspended that its folds fall free as though staffed.

When other flags are flown from the same mast, the national flag should always be at the peak.

When other flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the national flag should be hoisted first and lowered last. No flag may fly above or to the right of the national flag (except flags of other nations; see below).

The national flag, when displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

The national flag should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

When the national flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.

When suspended from a rope extending from the building to a pole, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

When the national flag is displayed other than from a staff, it should be displayed flat, or so suspended that its folds fall free. When displayed over a street, place the union so it faces north or east, depending upon the direction of the street.

The national flag should form a distinctive feature at the ceremony of unveiling a statue or monument but should never be used as the covering for the statue or monument.

In the chancel of a church or on a speaker's platform the national flag is placed to the speaker's right—other flags to the speaker's left. When displayed elsewhere it should be placed at the right of the audience as they face the platform—other flags to the left of the audience.

If displayed flat against the wall on a speaker's platform, the national flag should be placed above and behind the speaker with the union of the flag in the upper left-hand corner as the audience faces the flag.

## **Saluting the Flag**

Saluting the national flag, by individuals and organized civic and government bodies, is an almost universal custom in every country. During the ceremony of raising or lowering the national flag, or when the flag is passing in a parade or review, all persons present should stand at attention. When the flag is passing in a parade, a man should remove his hat with his right hand and hold it over the heart. A non-uniformed woman or man should place the right hand over the heart.

At a flag raising, Pathfinders in uniform execute the formal salute, placing the right hand against the brow of the right eye (fingers and thumb straight, forefinger against brow). The upper arm should be in a horizontal position from the shoulder.

## **Pledge of Allegiance (USA)**

"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."

## **How to Fold the Flag**

To fold the flag two persons work together. One person holds each end of the flag. They fold as follows:

1. Fold in the middle lengthwise twice, leaving the blue field outside.

2. Begin at the opposite end of the flag from the blue field and fold one corner in a triangle upon the upper edge of the long fold. Now fold this triangle forward along its side on to the main body of the flag, thus making another triangle fold. Continue this process until the flag is completely covered with the blue field and stars.

## **Pathfinder Club Flag**

The Pathfinder flag is the official emblem to be displayed by each Pathfinder club. It is 3 by 5 feet with four equal quadrants of blue and white, the upper quadrant next to the pole and the lower quadrant away from the pole being blue. The Pathfinder club triangle is placed in the center. The name of the Pathfinder club appears in the lower blue quadrant in white block letters.

At regular meetings or special meetings the Pathfinder flag is displayed in a conspicuous place in the club room, preferably in the front of the room near or on the platform. If both the United States flag and the Pathfinder flag are displayed on the platform, the United States flag is displayed to the speaker's right and the Pathfinder flag to the speaker's left. If both are displayed on the same level as the audience, the United States flag is displayed to the group's right and the Pathfinder flag to the group's left.

At Pathfinder camporees, when the national flag and the Pathfinder flag are displayed together in front of a tent, the national flag is placed on the left as one faces the tent, and the Pathfinder flag is placed on the right as one faces the tent.

It is proper to display the Pathfinder flag at such occasions as Pathfinder fairs, Pathfinder camporees, Pathfinder Day in the church, civic parades, and county or state fairs where the Pathfinder club has an exhibit.