

# Showing Proper Respect to the U.S. flag

The hand salute is presented at several important times in conjunction with our Flag:

- **When the Flag is being raised or lowered from the flag pole.**

All people present shall stand at attention prior to the flag being raised. All people in uniform perform a hand salute as instructed by the leader of the ceremony. If no leader is present, begin saluting when the flag begins to be raised and continue holding salute until the flag reaches the top of the pole and has been secured and the color guard cuts their salute. *(NOTE – if the National Anthem is played/sung and/or the Pledge of Allegiance is recited, continue saluting until after the Anthem/Pledge has been finished and/or the leader of the ceremony call “Ready, Two”.*

- **During a Flag Ceremony**

**Posting the Flag at the beginning of the Ceremony** - The person in charge of the Ceremony will call the attendees to attention and instruct all of those in uniform to render a hand salute *(either by stating “Hand Salute” or “Present Arms”)*. Persons not in uniform should be instructed to place their right hand over their heart. The salute/hand over heart should continue throughout the posting of the flag and should continue through the Pledge of Allegiance and/or the National Anthem if they are being used as part of the Ceremony. Following the posting of the Flag and the Pledge/Anthem, the leader of the Ceremony should call out *“Ready, Two”* to announce to the group to cut their salute or remove their right hand from covering their heart.

**At the end of the Ceremony** – The person in charge of the Ceremony shall call the group to attention and instruct those in uniform to render a hand salute and for person’s not in uniform to place their right hand over their heart. Once this has been done, the Color Detail will be instructed to march forward to retrieve the flags. The hand salute shall be continued until the Color Detail has retrieved the flags and has marched out of the Ceremony area *(usually to the rear of the auditorium)*

- **When the Flag is passing by, as in a parade.**

Stand at attention and begin saluting as the Flag nears where you are standing. Continue salute until the Flag and the entire Flag Detail have walked clear of the immediate area.

- **When reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

Stand at attention and render a hand salute before beginning the Pledge and continue with salute until after the Pledge has completed. Usually, one person leads the Pledge and should call the group to attention and order the salute *(done by stating either “Hand Salute” or “Present Arms”)* At the conclusion of the Pledge, the leader will call out *“Ready, Two”* to announce to the group to cut their salute or remove their right hand from covering their heart.

- **At the Playing of our National Anthem.**

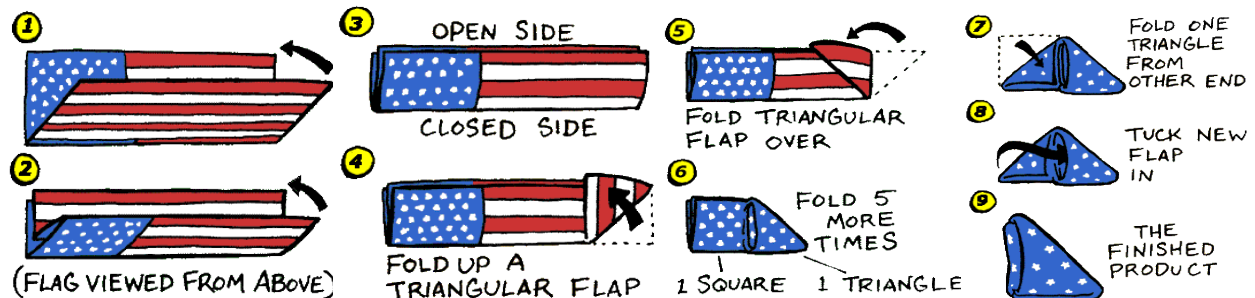
The hand salute should begin at the first note of the National Anthem and should not be cut until after the last note has concluded. In instances where it is part of a ceremony or other group event, the leader of the event should call the group to attention prior to the National Anthem beginning and instruct all those in uniform to render a hand salute. All people not in uniform should be instructed to place their right hand over their heart. The hand salute should continue until after the last note has concluded, at which time the leader should call out “Ready, Two” to announce to the group to cut their salute or remove their right hand from covering their heart.

## How to Fold the U.S. Flag

Properly folding the flag is one of the basic requirements of the early ranks of Scouting. It is easy, but takes practice to do it perfectly. Every flag is cut to a proportional size to allow this to work. This includes the largest flags at stadiums and Perkins Restaurants or the flags at your Troops and Packs.

Fold the flag in half width-wise twice. Fold up a triangle, starting at the striped end ... and repeat ... until only the end of the union is exposed. Then fold down the square into a triangle and tuck inside the folds.

Picture courtesy of [ushistory.org](http://ushistory.org)



## Displaying our Flag Properly



When not displaying the flag, the flag must be properly folded as described below or rolled on to its mast if it is the style to be carried by hand or used in a stand. Store in an upright position and place a cover over the entire length of the mast. The flag must never be allowed to touch the ground. The same rules that apply to the care and display of the Flag of the United States apply to Troop and Pack flags. Never store a flag until it is DRY.



The flag, when flown at half-mast, should be first hoisted to the peak for a moment and then lowered to the half-mast position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. "Half-Mast" is lowering the flag to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the flag pole.



When displaying the flag of the United States of America with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, the US flag should be on the viewer's left and its staff should be on top of the staff of the other flag. Both flags should be at equal height. *(An easy way to remember which side the flag should go on is to use the flag on your Cub Scout uniform as a reference. If you are facing the same way as the flag, the flag should be on the same side as the flag on your uniform shirt)*

When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the star field to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.



When flags of States, cities, or organizations are flown on the same stand or halyard with the flag of the United States, the flag of the United States must always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent masts, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the right of the flag of the United States. *(the "right of the flag" means the flag's right side, not the right side as you are looking at the flag)*

When the flag of the United States is displayed from a mast projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the star field of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-mast. If it cannot be moved to half mast, the flag may be flown at the top of the mast but should be horizontal. In normal times, the flag should be angled towards the sky.



When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk or alleyway from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk or alleyway, the flag should be hoisted out, star field leading, from the building. This is used in a celebration or display of patriotism, but not as a decoration.

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



The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of a group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of organizations are grouped and displayed on masts. The flag of the United States is always the highest when placed in this type of arrangement.

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag, or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line. When crossing paths with other flags, such as the Scout flag, the flag of the United States always passes in front in the direction of travel. *(Again, an easy way to remember which side the flag should go on is to use the flag on your Cub Scout uniform as a reference. If you are facing the same way as the flag, the flag should be on the same side as the flag on your uniform shirt)*



When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the star field is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag must not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground. It is customarily folded in a ceremony and presented to the next of kin as an honor.

When displayed from a mast or staff in a church, auditorium or other meeting place, the flag of the United States should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the speaker's right - as (s)he faces the audience. *(Again, an easy way to remember which side the flag should go on is to use the flag on your Cub Scout uniform as a reference. If you are facing the same way as the flag, the flag should be on the same side as the flag on your uniform shirt)* Any other flag displayed should be placed on the left of the speaker or to the right of the audience.



When the flag is displayed in a manner other than by being flown from a mast, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the star field should be uppermost and to the observer's left. When displayed in a window it should be displayed in the same way, with the star field to the left of the observer in the street. Never use the flag as a bunting or drape. Flag decals and stickers may be properly displayed on the *inside* of motor vehicle side windows.

When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate masts 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. Never fly flags of different countries on the same mast.

