

U.S. Flag Etiquette



Displaying the Flag

- No flag may be flown higher than the U.S. flag, or to the right of it at the same height
 - When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the blue field should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (to the left as you look at it)
 - At equal heights, the U.S. flag is either in front of or farthest to the right of the other flags
 - In an auditorium, the flag is placed on the stage to the speaker's right
- The flag is never flown upside down, except as a distress signal to call for help

Carrying the Flag

- The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always flown aloft and free
- With other flags, the U.S. flag should be in front or to the right if the flags are in a line

Indoor Procession

- The flag should be in front of, and to the right of the procession
- If there are three or more flags, the flag should be placed in the center and forward of the other flags
- As the flag enters, individuals in uniform and veterans will render the appropriate salute to the flag
- Any individual not in uniform should hold their right hand over their heart
- To post the flag, it should be posted first and to the right of the speaker's platform
- If there is a procession at the end of the assembly, individuals render the appropriate salute or sign of respect, the flag should be removed first and remain at the right (or center) of the procession



Raising and Lowering the Flag on a Flagpole

- The U.S. flag is always raised first, and lowered last
 - The flag should be raised briskly, and lowered slowly
 - If the flag is being hoisted on an outdoor staff, it should be folded properly as it is walked to the flagstaff
 - Individuals in attendance will render the appropriate salute as the flag is hoisted
 - If there are two flags, it should be flown from the flagstaff to the flag's right and higher than the other flag
 - If there are three or more flags, it should be flown from the center flagstaff and higher than the other flags
- At the end of the assembly, individuals should render the appropriate salute as the flag is lowered
 - After the flag is lowered, it should be properly folded and removed from the area

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Half Staff

- If the flag is to be flown at half-staff, it should be hoisted to the full height of the flagstaff and then lowered to half-staff
- To lower a flag flown at half-staff, it should be raised to the full height of the flagstaff, and then lowered properly.

In a Parade

- During a parade, the flag should be at the front and to the right of the procession
- If there are three or more flags, the flag should be in the center and forward of the other flags
- As the flag passes, individuals should stand at attention and render the appropriate salute or sign of respect

Saluting

- The Scout Salute should only be given when in the Scout uniform.
- When you are not wearing the Scout uniform, place your hand over your heart

Care of the Flag

- Never let the U.S. flag touch the ground, floor or water.
- Place nothing on it.
- Never use it for drapery or decoration.
- If it becomes soiled, clean it (a gentle washing is acceptable)
- Mend it if it is torn.
- When the flag is worn beyond repair, destroy it in a dignified way, preferably by burning.



No-Nos

- The flag should never touch the ground or floor beneath it. If it does, this situation should be corrected as soon as possible.
- The flag should never be used as wearing apparel
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform
- The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature
- The flag should never be dipped for any person or thing.