

State or Pack and Troop flag commands if not being posted. Alternate command **Color Guard Post the Colors!** For all flags at once.)

- 4. Color Guard, Honor your Colors!** (Flag bearers salute the US flag) **Please( recite the Pledge of Allegiance:**  
**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 TWO!** (Everyone drops salute)
- 5. Please repeat the Scout oath! TWO!** (Everyone drops Cub Scout sign)  
(>>wait for flag bearers return to formation<<)  
**Color Guard, About Face!** (Color guard turns around to head back)
- 6. Color Guard, Forward March!** (>>wait until color guard reaches back of room<<) **Color Guard, Halt! Color Guard, At Ease! (Or Color Guard Dismissed) Audience, Please be seated.**

#### Formal Flag Ceremony -- Closing Colors

- 1. Color Guard, Attention!**  
**Audience, Please Rise!**  
**Color Guard, Forward March!**  
(>>wait for color guard to reach the front<<)  
**Color Guard, Halt!**  
**Scout Salute!**  
**Color Guard, Retrieve the Colors!**  
(>>wait for flag bearers to pick up their flags<<)
- 2. Color Guard, Return to Ranks!**  
(>>wait for flag bearers to return to formation<<)  
**Color Guard, About Face!**  
**Color Guard, Forward March!**  
(>>wait until color guard reaches back of room<<)  
**Color Guard, Halt!**  
**TWO!**  
**Audience, Thank you for joining us. Color Guard, Dismissed!**

Modified From [http://www.scoutorama.com/ceremony/ceremony\\_display.cfm?cer\\_id=11](http://www.scoutorama.com/ceremony/ceremony_display.cfm?cer_id=11)



Other Helpful web links

<http://www.fortunecity.com/millennium/puppet/989/cere/ceflag.html>

<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flageti.html>

[http://www.geocities.com/yosemite/trails/9556/red\\_skelton.html](http://www.geocities.com/yosemite/trails/9556/red_skelton.html)

<http://www.geocities.com/yosemite/trails/9556/johnwayne.html>

**This pamphlet is an attempt to give a good reference for presenting a flag ceremony. By no means is it the authority on flag ceremonies but by it's creation we hope to help answering most questions any Scout organization may have in putting on a good flag ceremony. All Internet references are noted at the bottom of the paragraph they were copied from. We allow this document to be freely copied and distributed as reference in the spirit it was given to us. All of the members of the Antelope Patrol; Jim Cristallo, Doug Ellanson, Tom Erinis, Jim Giljohann, and Steve Skeels.**



## Flag Reverence



Wood badge Course C-07-09

### Flag Etiquette

**When to Fly the Flag** - Fly the flag every day, when weather permits, in any weather if flag is made of weather-resistant material. Fly the flag especially on all national and state holidays. It is customary to fly the flag from sunrise to sunset, unless properly illuminated.

**Raising and Lowering the Flag on a Flag Pole** - Raise the flag briskly, lower it slowly. When flying the flag at half mast, raise it to the top of the pole, and then lower it to half mast. When taking the flag down from half mast, first raise it back to the top of the pole, and then lower it slowly. On Memorial Day, fly the flag at half-mast until noon then raise it to full staff for the rest of the day.

**Greeting the Flag** - (You stand when you salute) salute the flag when: you see it being raised or lowered on a staff, you pass it, when it passes you, and when giving the pledge of allegiance, during the national anthem.

**Carrying the Flag** - Always carry the flag aloft and flying free. When the flag is carried alone, there should be an honor guard to the left of it, or one on each side of it. When carried with other flags, the U.S. Flag should be in front of the others or the right if the flags are in a line. Never dip the flag of the United States for any person or thing. When displaying the flag, flags are displayed at different heights, and the U.S. flag lies higher than the others. It is raised first, and lowered last. When flags are displayed at equal heights, the U.S. flag is either in front of or farthest to the right of the other flags. When the flag is displayed flat against a wall, horizontally or vertically, the blue field is at the top, at the flag's own right (to the left as you look at it). In an auditorium, the flag is placed to the speaker's right when on the stage, or to the audiences' right if on the floor. **THE FLAG IS NEVER FLOWN UPSIDE DOWN, EXCEPT AS A DISTRESS SIGNAL TO CALL FOR HELP.** Care of the Flag - Never let the U.S. Flag touch the ground, the floor or water. Place nothing on it. Never use it for drapery or decoration. If it becomes soiled, clean it. Mend it if it is torn. When the flag is worn beyond repair, destroy it in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

<http://www.geocities.com/yosemite/trails/9556/flag.html>

## Outdoor Flag Ceremonies

### The Color Guard of Honor

The purpose of the Color Guard of Honor is to protect the flag. The Color Guard may consist of any number. Ideally there should be at least two Color Guards for each flag and one caller. The minimum is one Color (Flag) Bearer and one Color Guard. For one pole Three color guard, for two poles five color guard, and three poles seven color guard.

**Color (or Flag) Bearer** - Is responsible for putting flag in, or taking flag from, stand, or raising/lowering flag from flagpole.

**Color Guards** - Stand on each side of the Color Bearer. Watch to see that the flag does not touch the ground. One or more members may assist flag bearer in posting/retrieving the flag from the stand/pole.  
<http://www.fortunecity.com/millennium/puppet/989/cele/cereflag.html>

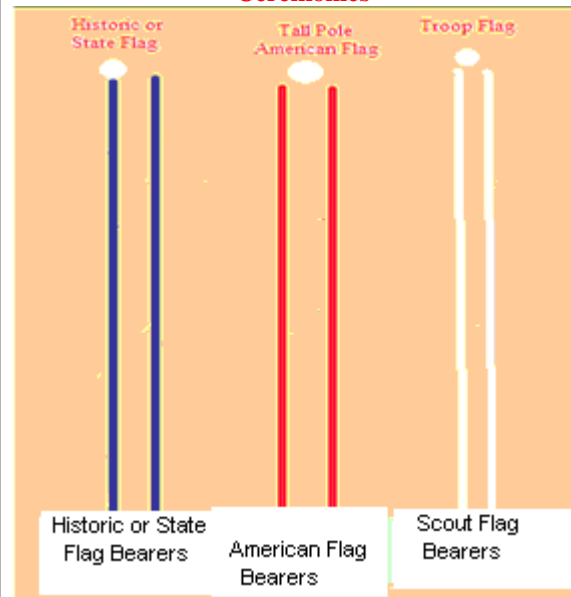
1. Outdoor Ceremonies begin with the color guard in a line shoulder to shoulder facing the flag. Caller starts, “**Color Guard Attention!**” “**Please remove all unofficial headgear.**” “**Color Guard Advance!**” All start on left foot makes for crisp look. Be sure to keep line straight when advancing the line.
2. When the line gets to the poles the caller announces, “**Color Guard Halt!**” “**Color Guard Post The Colors! Scout Salute!**” At this point all flag bearers attach flags to poles. When all flags are attached the American flag is raised unfurled as quickly as possible. Once the flag has reached the top of the pole the other flags follow. If the flags are to be flown at half staff lowers all slowly at the same time. Note that the American flag should always be flown higher than the others.
3. “**Color Guard honors the colors**” At this point the color guard steps back and salutes the American Flag. “**Please join in The Pledge of Allegiance**” After the pledge caller, “**TWO!**”
4. The color guards all face the flags shoulder to shoulder. “**Color Guard about face**” The color guard places their right toe behind the left foot and pivot on the ball of the left foot until facing the opposite direction. At this point a historic flag presentation or scout oath may be said.
5. Then, “**Color Guard Advance!**” Starting on left foot and keeping line straight. When approaching

beginning, “**Color Guard Halt! Color Guard about face!**” Repeat foot pivot so color guard is again facing flags. “**Color Guard at ease!**”

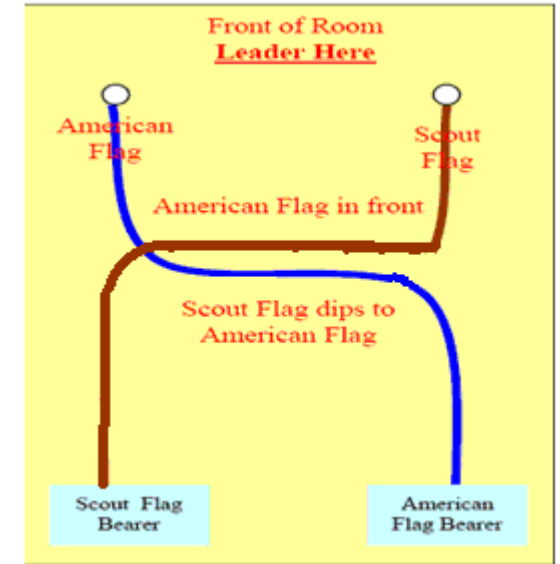
### **Closing Outdoor Flag**

1. Color guard lineup as before color guard shoulder to shoulder facing the flag. Caller starts, “**Color Guard Attention!**” “**Color Guard Advance!**” All start on left foot makes for crisp look. Keep line straight when advancing the line. When the line gets to the poles the caller announces, “**Color Guard Halt! Color Guard Retire the colors! Scout Salute!**”
2. The color guard then lowers the flags slowly, with respect and fold each flag properly (the American in Triangle and the others in squares). The color guard all face the poles shoulder to shoulder. “**Color Guard about face**” The color guard places their right toe behind the left foot and pivot on the ball of the left foot until facing the opposite direction.
3. Then, “**Color Guard Advance!**” Starting on left foot and keeping line straight. When approaching beginning, “**Color Guard Halt! Color Guard about face!**” Repeat foot pivot so color guard is again facing flags.” **Color Guard at dismissed.**

### **Outdoor Ceremonies**



## Indoor Ceremonies



[http://www.troop104tx.com/pdfs/Boy\\_Scout\\_Flag\\_Ceremony.pdf](http://www.troop104tx.com/pdfs/Boy_Scout_Flag_Ceremony.pdf)

### **Formal Flag Indoor Ceremonies (Opening/Closing) Script**

Formal Flag Ceremony -- Opening Colors

1. **Color Guard, Attention!** (When commanding the color guard, say the word “attention” in an authoritative way... like, “**Aaa-tennnn-TION!!!!**” – this will also help the audience realize that the flag ceremony is starting) **Audience, Please Rise! Color Guard, Forward March! Scout Salute! Those not in uniform, please place your right hand over your heart, and please remove all unofficial headgear.** (Say this right away, as the audience will salute the flag as it’s being marched forward) (>>wait for color guard to reach the front<<)
2. **Color Guard, Halt! Color Guard, Cross the Colors!** (>>wait for flag bearers to move to the flag pole stands<<)
3. **Color Guard, Post the Flag of the United States of America! Color Guard, Post the Flag of the Great State of [your state name]! Color Guard, Proudly Post the Flag of [your town name]’s Pack or Troop ###!** (You may omit