

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.

**Information on the Flag
for use of
Citizenship Chairman**

California Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.
Suite 100 - 930 Georgia Street - Los Angeles 15, Calif.

CALIFORNIA CONGRESS PARENTS AND TEACHERS, INC.

HOW TO DISPLAY THE FLAG

Respect your flag and render it the courtesies to which it is entitled by observing the following rules, which are in accordance with the practices approved by leading flag authorities:

THE FLAG SPEAKS

"I am not the flag; not at all. I am whatever you make me, nothing more. I am your belief in yourself, your dream of what a people may become. . . . I am the day's work of the weakest man, and the largest dream of the most daring. . . . I am not more than you believe me to be and I am all that you believe I can be. I am whatever you make me, nothing more."

—Franklin Lane.

Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America:

"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 blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

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"The main business of every citizen is to improve the community by improving himself."

—Anonymous.

While you are pledging allegiance to the flag your hands should be free of any material. If you are wearing gloves, please remove your right glove.

DO'S

When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff on the speaker's platform, the flag should occupy the position of honor at the speaker's right; but on the floor of the auditorium it should be placed in the position of honor at the right of the audience as they face the platform.

The flag should be raised and lowered by hand. It should be displayed only from sunrise to sunset. (The only place in the United States which has official permission, by Presidential proclamation, to fly the American flag 24 hours a day is Ft. McHenry.) The flag may be displayed at night upon special occasions when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect.

Always hoist the flag briskly. Lower it ceremoniously.

Display the flag on all days that weather permits, but especially on national and state holidays and other days that may be proclaimed by the President of the United States. On Memorial Day the flag should be half-staffed until noon.

The flag should be displayed on or near the main building of every public institution, during school days in or near every schoolhouse, and in or near every polling place on election days.

DON'TS

Never in any way should disrespect be shown the flag of the United States of America.

The flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags, organizational or institutional flags are dipped as a mark of honor.

The flag should never be displayed with the union down except as a signal of dire distress.

The flag should never touch anything beneath it—ground, floor, water or merchandise.

The flag should never be carried horizontally, but always aloft and free. Never use the flag as drapery, festooned, drawn back, nor up in folds. For draping platforms and decoration in general, use blue, white and red bunting. Always arrange it with blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below.

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.

Never use a flag as a covering or drape for a ceiling.

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 used for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.

It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard; or used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.

The flag when in such condition as to no longer be a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning, privately.

"THE AMERICAN'S CREED—*I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."*

WILLIAM TYLER PAGE.

FLAG HOLIDAYS

New Year's Day
January 1
Inauguration Day
January 20
Lincoln's Birthday
February 12
Washington's Birthday
February 22
Army Day
April 6
Easter Sunday
(Variable)
Mother's Day
Second Sunday in May
Armed Forces Day
Third Saturday in May
Memorial Day
May 30 (half staff until noon)
Flag Day
June 14
Independence Day
July 4
Labor Day
First Monday in September
Admission Day
September 9 (In California)
Citizenship Day
September 17
Columbus Day
October 12
Navy Day
October 27
Veterans' Day
November 11
Thanksgiving Day
Fourth Thursday in November
Christmas Day
December 25
Other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States
State Holidays

THE FLAG

A Symbol of our History

Old Glory, with its thirteen stripes representing the original colonies and a star for every state, has a history that is truly symbolic of our people and our birthright. From a humble beginning, with a history confused—even obscured—by the first struggle to survive, the Stars and Stripes we salute today emerged as the proud emblem of our United States, the greatest nation on earth.

1775-1776

A variety of flags marked the early union of the colonies and flew above the Continental armies. The states-to-be had individual flags, and there were such others as The Pine Tree Flag, The Snake Flag, The Hanover, The Bedford, The Grand Union and The Guilford Court House Flags. It might be said that the motto, "E Pluribus Unum"—one out of many—also symbolizes our flag.

June 14, 1777

On this date, now celebrated as Flag Day, the Continental Congress resolved "That the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

1777-1795

Confusion still existed as to the new banner. The words "new constellation" led to a multitude of star arrangements: circular, scattered and crescent shaped, as well as in rows. There were blue and red striped flags. Even our own representatives in Europe advised foreign governments that the flag had 13 stripes alternately red, white and blue.

May 1, 1795

By act of Congress, 2 stars and 2 stripes were added to the original 13, recognizing the admission of the states, Vermont and Kentucky.

Sept. 13, 1814

Thus, at Ft. McHenry, a Star Spangled Banner of 15 stars and stripes seen through the dawn's early light inspired Francis Scott Key to write our National Anthem.

April 4, 1818

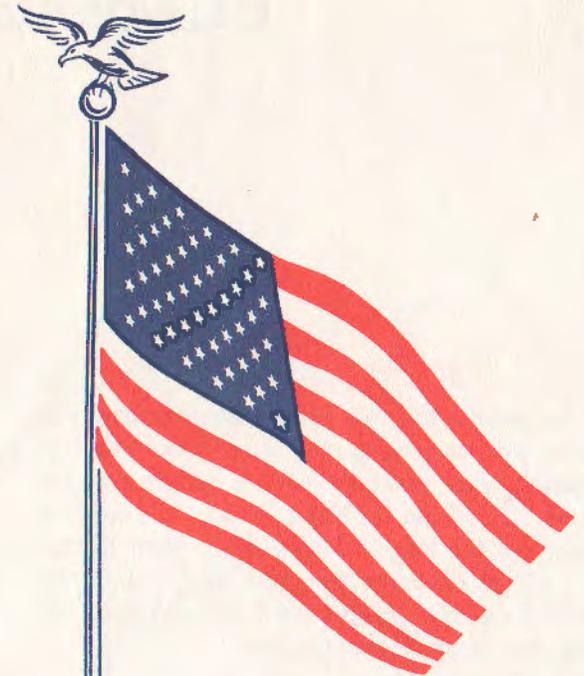
Congress re-established that "from and after the fourth day of July next, the flag of the United States be 13 horizontal stripes, alternate red and white." At the same time, the number of stars was established at 20; however, it was provided that each new state be recognized on the 4th of July following admission by adding a star.

1818-1912

The admission of 27 new states, during these years, required constant revisions in the constellation of white stars on the blue union. In 1912, Arizona, as the 48th state, permitted the regular star pattern of six (6) horizontal and eight (8) vertical rows.

1959-

After 47 years, the stars of two new states, Alaska's 49th and Hawaii's 50th, have joined the Flag's constellation. A 50-star "Old Glory" waves "O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."



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