

HOW TO HONOR AND DISPLAY THE AMERICAN FLAG



When displaying the flag, it is important to remember certain guidelines of proper flag etiquette:

- When displayed or carried in a procession with other flags, the flag should be positioned to its own right.
- On a stage, the American flag should be placed to the speaker's right and all other flags placed to the left.
- When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally from a window sill, balcony, or building, the stars of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.
- The flag should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states, localities, or societies are grouped for display.

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DISPLAYING THE FLAG



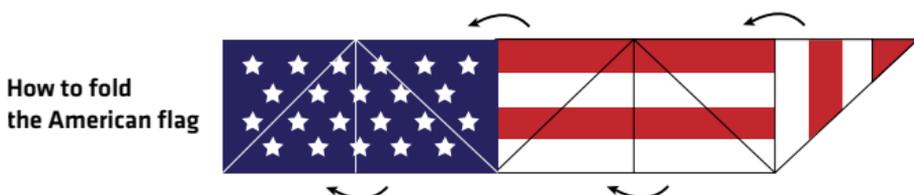
- When the flag is displayed vertically or horizontally against a wall, the stars should be placed at the top of the flag's right and the observer's left.
- When the flag is unfurled for display across a street, it should be hung vertically, with the stars to the north or east.
- When the flag is flown with the flags of other nations, they are to be displayed from separate staffs of the same height and each should be of equal size. International law forbids the display of the flag of one nation to be flown above that of another nation during times of peace.
- During a time of national mourning, the flag can be flown at half-staff by order or proclamation of the President of the United States. When flown at half-staff, the flag should be hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be raised to the peak before it is lowered at the end of the day. On Memorial Day, the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon, then raised to the top of the staff and flown until sunset. Local customs regarding the lowering of company, city, or other flags to half-staff are directed by the executive officers of those service areas.
- When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be placed with the stars at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or be allowed to touch the ground.

RESPECTING THE FLAG

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America. According to the U.S. code, the flag should not be used in any of the following ways:

- The flag should not be dipped to any person or thing, and can be flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- The flag should never be used as apparel, bedding, or drapery. However, bunting of blue, white, and red can be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of a platform, or for decoration in general.
- The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a way that would allow it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged.
- The flag should never have any mark, insignia, letter, work, or other designs of any kind placed upon it.
- The flag should never be used for advertising purposes. It should not be embroidered, printed, or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, paper napkins, boxes, or anything that is designed for temporary use. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a flag's staff or halyard.
- No part of the flag should be used as an element of a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be worn on the uniform of military personnel, firemen, and members of patriotic or other national organizations such as the uniforms of veterans service organizations or Scout uniforms.

When lowering the flag, make certain that no part of it touches the ground. It should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag, ceremoniously fold it length-wise in half, then repeat with the blue field on the outside. Finally, while one person holds it by the blue field, another then makes a triangular fold at the opposite end, continuing to fold it in triangles until only the blue field shows.



When a flag is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning.

FLYING OUR FLAG

**“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.”**

It is proper to display the flag from sunrise to sunset on all days the weather permits. The flag may also be displayed at night if illuminated by a light. But it is even more important to display the flag on national holidays and days of importance, including:

New Year's Day
Inauguration Day
Martin Luther King,
Jr.'s Birthday
Lincoln's Birthday
Washington's Birthday
Easter Sunday
Mother's Day
Armed Forces Day
Memorial Day
(half-staff until noon)
Flag Day
Father's Day

Independence Day
National Korean War
Veterans Armistice Day
Labor Day
Constitution Day
Columbus Day
Veterans Day
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day
Election Day
State Holidays
State Birthdays
Local Holidays

The information contained in this brochure is adapted from the United States Code (4 USC Chapter 1). For more details, visit uscode.house.gov/download/pls/04C1.txt.

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