



Texas 4-H Club Tool Box

FLAG CEREMONY

Month: November



HELLO! REMEMBER ME?

Some call me Old Glory, others call me the Stars and Stripes. I have also been referred to as the Star Spangled Banner. But, whatever they call me, I am your flag—the flag of the United States of America. There has been something that has been bothering my, so I thought that I might talk it over with you today.

I remember some time ago, (I think it was Memorial Day or was it Veterans Day?) that people were lined up on both sides of the street for the parade. A High School band was behind me—naturally, I was leading the parade. Folks used to be so attentive when I passed by and saluted just like a soldier! That made me very proud to see that kind of patriotic display as I went by.

But what has happened? Have some people forgotten what I stand for? I'm still the same old flag. But now, I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down your street some people just stand there with their hand in their pocket and give me a small glance and then look away. I see children running around and shouting. They don't seem to know who I am.

Have they forgotten all the battle fields where men have fought and died to keep this nation free? When you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

Well, it won't be long until another one like me will be coming down your street again. So, when you see it, stand straight, place your hand over your heart and you'll see it waving back—that's my salute to you. And then I'll know that you remember who I am.

YOUTH: What state was the forty-eighth star?

FLAG: That was Arizona in 1912.

YOUTH: Tell me more.

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FLAG: What do you want me to tell you?

YOUTH: Tell me about your history.

FLAG: Okay. When the colonists came I was the Queen Ann Flag...all red with a Union Jack. Then I changed to the Grand Union Flag and my red changed to seven red stripes and six white stripes, making thirteen stripes; but I still had the Union Jack. I was first raised over General George Washington's headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in January, 1776, as the standard of the Continental Army.

After our country became a new nation, I changed to Old Glory and still Had the thirteen stripes but added a circle of thirteen stars on a field of blue in place of the Union Jack.

From 1794 to 1818 I had fifteen stars and fifteen stripes and was called the Star Spangled Banner, when Francis Scott Key wrote our National Anthem. Then years rolled along and in 1818 the stripes were reduced to the thirteen and from then on a star was added for each new state that joined the Union, until there are fifty stars today.

YOUTH: What a wonderful story!
Please rise while we say the Pledge fo Allegiance to the Flag of our country.