



# ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

## FLAG CEREMONY

### The Flag And 4-H

The flag of the United States is a symbol of our country and all it represents. One of the many great things our flag represents is 4-H. Let's look at the flag from our 4-H viewpoint. The white stripes are all 4-H members with their clean, fresh desire to learn, be with the best of others, and still stand out in their own individuality.

The red stripes can represent the parents, who have given their children the blood of inheritance, the closeness of constant support, the brilliance of visible good example and distinction of encouraging self-reliance.

The blue field represents the 4-H organization with its broad principles and high ideals bound together with sound practices serving a teaching and supporting background.

The white stars are leaders - County Agents, Club Managers, Project Leaders, and Officers. All those who assume the responsibility and interest of the 4-H program and its members, guide them in self-leadership, brighten the way of their growth, and illuminate the goals to constructive adulthood, that basic ingredient that supports our country and earns our Flag its most distinctive honor - RESPECT.

*Adapted from the US Scouts website.*



# ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

## FLAG CEREMONY

### It's Just A Piece Of Cloth

It's just a piece of cloth, that's all it is  
Just a piece of cloth.  
But when a little breeze comes along, it stirs and comes to life  
And flutters and snaps in the wind, all red and white and blue....  
Then you realize that no other piece of cloth could be like it.  
It has your whole life wrapped up in it...  
The meals you eat, the time you spend with your family,  
The kind of things boys and girls learn at school,  
The strange and wonderful thoughts you get in church.  
Those stars on it...  
They make you feel just as free as the stars  
in the wide, wide, deep night.  
And the stripes....  
they are the bars of blood  
To any dictator who would try to change this way of life.  
Just a piece of cloth, that's all it is  
Until you put your soul into it and give it meaning;  
Then it is the symbol of liberty and decency  
and fair dealing for everyone.  
It is just a piece of cloth  
Until we breathe life into it,  
Until we make it stand for everything we believe in  
And refuse to live without it.



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## FLAG CEREMONY

### Stars And Stripes - Our American Heritage

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**Supplies needed:**

- 3 bandanas
- 1 flashlight

**Opening:**

Member stands blindfolded, gagged, and bound before the audience.

**The Reader says:**

“This is an American boy/girl. The American Revolution won him/her freedom.  
(helper unbinds him/her)

The Constitution guarantees him/her free speech.  
(remove the gag)

A free education gives him/her the ability to see and to understand.  
(remove the blindfold)

Let us help 4-H to teach him/her to preserve and enjoy his/her glorious heritage and to become a good citizen.

Turn off lights, spotlight American Flag, and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.



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## FLAG CEREMONY

### ‘Twas The Night Before Christmas For A Soldier

- 'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
- In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.
- I had come down the chimney with presents to give
- And to see just who in this home did live.
- I looked all about a strange sight I did see,
- No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
- No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand,
- On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.
- With medals and badges, awards all of kind
- A sober thought came through my mind.
- For this house was different, so dark and dreary,
- I knew I had found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.
- I heard stories about them, I had to see more
- So I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.
- And there he lay sleeping silent alone,
- Curled up on the floor in him one bedroom home.
- His face so gentle, his room in such disorder,
- Not how I pictured a United States soldier.
- Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
- Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?
- His head was clean shaven, his weathered face tan,
- I soon understood this was more than a man.
- For I realized the families that I saw that night
- Owed their lives to these men who were willing to fight.
- Soon 'round the world, the children would play,
- And grownups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.
- They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
- Because of soldiers like this one lying here.
- I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone
- On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
- Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye,
- I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
- The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
- "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;
- I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
- my life is my God, my country, my Corps."
- With that he rolled over and drifted off into sleep,
- I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
- I watched him for hours, so silent and still,
- I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.
- So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,
- And I covered this Soldier from his toes to his head.
- And I put on his T-shirt of gray and black,
- With an eagle and an Army patch embroidered on back.
- And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride,
- And for a shining moment, I was United States Army deep inside.
- I didn't want to leave him on that cold dark night,
- This guardian of honor so willing to fight.
- Then the soldier rolled over, whispered with a voice so clean and pure,
- "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure."
- One look at my watch, and I knew he was right,
- Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night!

- Major Bruce W. Lovely



# ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

## FLAG CEREMONY

### Face The Flag

- Face the flag of stars and bars
  - Of red and white and blue.
  - A flag that guarantees the rights
  - For a people like me and you.
- 
- Face the flag friends, read what's written there;
  - The history, the progress, the heritage we share.
  - Our flag reflects the past, but stands for so much more,
  - And in this age of Aquarius, it still flies in the fore.
- 
- It leads the forward movement, shared by all mankind;
  - To learn, to love, to live with peace of mind,
  - To learn the mysteries of space as well as those of Earth,
  - To love each person for what they are regardless of birth,
- 
- To live without the fear of reprisal for belief,
  - To ease the tensions of a world that cries out for relief.
  - Face the flag of stars and bars
  - Of red and white and blue.
- 
- A flag that guarantees the rights
  - For a people like me and you.
  - Face the flag friends, take a good long look,
  - What you see now can't be found in a history book.
- 
- It's the present, the future friends, its being written now,
  - And you're the ones to write it, and the flag can show you how.
  - Do you know what it stands for? What its makers meant?
  - To think, to speak, the privilege of dissent.
- 
- To think our leaders might be wrong, to stand and tell them so,
  - These are the things that people under other flags will never know.
  - But, responsibility, that's the cross that freemen must bear.
  - If you don't accept that, then freedom isn't there.
- 
- Face the flag of stars and bars
  - Of red and white and blue.
  - A flag that guarantees the rights
  - For a people like me and you.
- 
- Face the flag friends and face reality.
  - Our strength and our freedoms are based in unity.
  - The flag is but a symbol friends, of the world's greatest nation.
- 
- So do what "you got to do", but always keep in mind
  - A lot of people believe in peace, but there are the other kind.
  - If we want to keep the freedoms we may have to fight again,
  - God forbid. But, if we do, let's always fight to win.
- 
- The fate of a loser is futile, it's bare;
  - No love, no peace, just misery, despair.
  - Face the flag friends and thank God it's still there.

*Modification of John Wayne's "Face the Flag My Son"*



# ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

## FLAG CEREMONY

### Toast To The Flag

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Here's to the RED of it,  
There's many a thread of it  
In all the spread of it  
From foot to head.  
Our heroes bled for it,  
Faced steel and lead for it,  
Slept with the dead of it,  
The courage of red.

Here's to the WHITE of it,  
Foes know the might of it,  
We thrill to the sight of it  
Through day and night.  
Citizens keep sight of it  
People will fight for it,  
We cling so tight to it,  
The purity of white.

Here's to the BLUE of it,  
We lost more than a few for it,  
Our nation grew with it  
Courage got us through.  
How we love the view of it,  
We feel so very true to it,  
We'll not forget the hue of it,  
The justice of blue.

*~Carol Lee Spages*



# ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

## FLAG CEREMONY

### Flashlight Flag Ceremony

**Equipment/People Needed:**

- Narrator (one, or more if your club is large)
- Four Flashlight Bearers (candles may be substituted)
- Flag Bearer and Color Guard(s)

Color Guard advances with Flag and posts Colors. Lights are turned out so that the room is in total darkness. Flashlight bearers turn on flashlights (or light candles) and direct light toward flag.

**Narrator:**

What you see here tonight represents the past, present, and future. The stripes of Old Glory stand for the original thirteen colonies. The stars represent the present 50 states. The light and warmth of the four lights you see shining remind us of the four great freedoms - Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Assembly, Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion. Eliminate any one of these freedoms and our world would become darker and colder.

(Narrator calls out the four freedoms slowly. As each is called a flashlight is turned off until the room is again in total darkness.)

- Freedom of the Press
- Freedom of Assembly
- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of Religion

**Narrator:**

In this world of potential cold and darkness, of rule by a few, stands the United States of America. Here the Four Freedoms do exist and are an example of warmth and light for all. Will you please join us in the salute to our flag? (Turn flashlights back on and direct light toward flag)



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## FLAG CEREMONY

### Your Flag And My Flag

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Your flag and my flag,  
And how it flies today  
In your land and my land  
And half a world away!  
Rose-red and blood-red  
The stripes forever gleam;  
Snow-white and soul-white -  
The good forefathers' dream;  
Sky-blue and true-blue, with stars to gleam aright -  
The gloried guidon of the day, a shelter through the night.

*~Wilbur D. Nesbit*





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### Explanation Of The Pledge

We often recite the Pledge of Allegiance without really listening to or understanding the meaning of the words we are saying. Lets take a moment to really think about the words and what they mean:

**I** - Me, an individual, a committee of one

**Pledge** - Dedicate all of my worldly possessions to give without self pity

**Allegiance** - My love and devotion

**To the Flag** - Our standard - Old Glory - a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves there is respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts "Freedom is everybody's job!"

**Of the United** - United - that means we have all come together

**States Of America** - States - individual communities that have united into fifty great states - fifty individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united in a common purpose - love for country.

**And to the Republic** - Republic, a state in which power is given to representatives chosen by the people to govern; and the government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

**For Which it Stands** - This is what our Flag stands for - Our United States

**One Nation Under God** - meaning so blessed by God

**Indivisible** - Incapable of being divided

**With Liberty** - Which is freedom - the right to live one's own life without threats or fear of retaliation.

**And Justice** - The principle or qualities of dealing fairly with others.

**For All** - For all - which means, boys and girls, ladies and gentlemen, it's as much your country as it is mine.

*- Adapted from a recording by Red Skelton*