



# ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

## FLAG CEREMONY

### Defining The Pledge Of Allegiance

Note: Use two readers; one to do the pledge as separated below, and the other to read the meaning of the word or phrase of the pledge.

Red Skelton, a famous comedian, recalled as a schoolboy his teacher reciting the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance. He never forgot that and later wrote down and eventually recorded his recollection of this lecture.

Let's look at his message.

READER 1	READER 2
I	Me; an individual; a committee of one
Pledge	I dedicate all of my worldly goods to vie without self-pity
Allegiance	My love and my devotion
To The Flag	Our standard; Old Glory; a symbol of Freedom; wherever she waves there is respect, because your loyalty has given her dignity that shouts Freedom is everybody's job
Of The United States	That means that we have all come together Individual Communities that have united into 50 great states. Fifty individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose. All divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose and that is love for country
And To The Republic	Republic – a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people
For Which It Stands, One Nation Under God	One nation, meaning so blessed by God Indivisible Incapable of being divided
With Liberty	Which is Freedom; the right of power to live one's own life, without threats, fear or some sort of retaliation
And Justice	The principle or qualities of dealing fairly with others
For All	It's as much your country as it is mine

Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the 4-H Motto and Pledge.



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### Stretch Your Food Dollar

What makes America so great? There are a few simple words with boundless influences. The first is Freedom. It is the cornerstone of American values. The concept of an individual's having control over his/her own destiny influenced the type of government that was established here. Individual rights are guaranteed in the United States Constitution and amendments including the freedoms of speech, religion, the right to assemble, to keep and bear arms, and the right to a speedy trial.

Next would be Democracy, one of the most fundamental of American values. It was the reason for revolution, and comprises the heart of our political culture, where the common people are considered as the primary source of political power.

Then comes Equality. We believe in the ideal, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal." Another would be Diversity. America's population reflects remarkable ethnic diversity. As such, America has been enriched by the values and beliefs of people and cultures from virtually every part of the world. But we are all Americans.

Opportunity. Early successes by pioneers gave an optimism about the future, a belief that problems could be solved. This positive spirit enables us to take risks in areas where others might only dream, and has resulted in tremendous advances in technology, health and science.

Unity. Although we are all very different, we are together as one; a nation of people, tolerant and accepting of our individual differences, joining together to become one nation, under God.



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### Freedom Flag

**Staging of Ceremony:**

The staging area is dark. The narrator is off stage or holds a light to read by and be seen by the audience. Post the flat in the center of the stage.

**Supplies:**

Four flashlights

**NARRATOR:**

From the Four Corners of the earth, they came. They carried a torch in Freedom's name. (Four 4-H'ers with flashlights enter from the four corners of the stage or room – these 4-H'ers are the four "Freedom" parts below.)

**NARRATOR:** Freedom of Speech

**1st Freedom:** and speak we must (shine flashlight on flag)

**NARRATOR:** Freedom of Worship

**2nd Freedom:** in God we trust (shine flashlight on flag)

**NARRATOR:** Freedom from Want

**3rd Freedom:** from weakness, from greed (shine flashlight on flag)

**NARRATOR:** Freedom from Fear

**4th Freedom:** is freedom indeed! (shine flashlight on flag)

**NARRATOR:** Let these freedoms be the beacons that call the home of the brave and the land of the free. To honor the flag is to honor the freedom for which it stands. Join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.



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### Making The Flag

**Supplies:**

- Large Pot
- Red, White and Blue Construction Paper, cut into squares
- Sheet of star stickers
- Large Wooden Spoon
- American Flag, folded

Note: Before the ceremony place the folded flag in the pot.

Today we want to look at the ingredients that make up our flag.

First is the ingredient of Valor. Red is for Valor. For the courage of all women who with a dream in their hearts crossed the oceans to begin life in a free land. For the bravery of women who with hope and faith crossed the prairie and mountains of our vast land. For the steadfastness of those women who through all adversities shouldered the Country's burdens to emerge as strong individuals. (Put red paper squares in the pot) Our next ingredient is Purity. White is for Purity. For the integrity of all people whose fortitude wove the strands of diverse cultures into an integral national heritage. For the piety of all people whose faith formed the foundation upon which our Country was built and continues to grow. (Put white paper squares in the pot)

Our next ingredient is Justice. Blue is for Justice. For the foresight of all those women who created an atmosphere in which each of their children could develop to their fullest potential. For the perseverance of all those women who contributed their talents to further the development of our Country. (Put blue paper squares in the pot)

Our last ingredient is Dreams. Stars represent Dreams. For the dreams of the future that the generations of tomorrow may fulfill the promise of the past 200 years, so that the visions of our Forefathers will be revitalized and the future will hold hope and promise for all generations to come. (Put sheet of stars in the pot)

(Stir the pot) Stirring are the stories of my Stars and Stripes. I symbolize the soul of America, typifying her ideals and aspirations, her institutions and traditions. (Remove the flag from the pot) This flag, which we honor and under which we serve is the emblem of our unity, our power, and thought and purpose as a Nation.

Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H Motto and Pledge.



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## FLAG CEREMONY

### Banner

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Wave on high grand old flag  
For the sake of all who care;  
You're the symbol of our freedom,  
The answer to our prayer.

You give us strength to hold our ground  
Against the brazen few  
Who would test our mettle,  
Our fortitude, dedicated to you.

Your colors stand for more  
Than what we learned in school;  
They blend together,  
Form a wrapper, for the golden rule.

You guide the way we carry on  
When faced with a mighty test;  
Each minute and hour of every day  
We resolve to do our best

To stand as one before the terror  
That violates nature's laws,  
To protect the rights of all  
Who pledge allegiance to your cause.

Wave on high, grand old flag,  
It's you we loudly cheer;  
You radiate a wondrous spirit,  
That helps us conquer fear.

When hope, care and promise  
Are the world's greatest need,  
You shine bright from way on high --  
A banner to take the lead.

By C. K. Roshong



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## FLAG CEREMONY

### Your Flag And My Flag

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*Written by: Wilbur D. Nesbit*

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.



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### The Flag Goes By

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Hats off! Along the street there comes  
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,  
A flash of color beneath the sky:  
Hats off! The flag is passing by!

Blue and crimson and white it shines,  
Over the steel-tipped, ordered lines.  
Hats off! The colors before us fly;  
But more than the flag is passing by.

Sea-fights and land-fights, grim and great,  
Fought to make and to save the State;  
Weary marches and sinking ships;  
Cheers of victory on dying lips;

Days of plenty and years of peace,  
March of a strong land's swift increase:  
Equal justice, right and law,  
Stately honor and reverent awe;

Sign of a nation, great and strong,  
To ward her people from foreign wrong;  
Pride and glory and honor, all  
Live in the colors to stand or fall.

Hats off! Along the street there comes  
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,  
And loyal hearts are beating high:  
Hats off! The flag is passing by!



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### Cowboy Up America!

*Excerpts from poem written by Jeff Hildebrandt*

When a Cowboy's in a pinch  
he just tightens up the cinch,  
spurs his horse and rides right through it  
cause that's the way the Duke'd do it.  
He'd Cowboy Up.

And with our country now in danger  
a cowboy's like the old Lone Ranger.  
Ridin' hard and shootin' straight  
fightin' those who spread the hate.  
He'd Cowboy'd Up.

A Cowboy's ready and he's willin'  
to face the foe, like Marshal Dillon.  
And when the gunsmoke clears away  
Cowboy Spirit wins the day.

So, Cowboy Up. Pull your hat down tight  
and don't back down from what is right.  
We'll bring back "Happy Trails" for you  
like Hoppy, Gene and Roy would do.

Think back about Flight 93  
and how those heroes came to be.  
They knew that thousands more could die  
if they just let that airplane fly.  
They Cowboy'd Up.

One widow had this tale to share.  
A husband's love and one last prayer.  
And when their sacrifice was done  
terror lost and Freedom won  
"Let's Roll", he said and Cowboy'd up.





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### The History Of Taps

Of all the military bugle calls, none is so easily recognized or more apt to render emotion than the call Taps. The melody is both eloquent and haunting and the history of its origin is interesting and somewhat clouded in controversy. In the British Army, a similar type call known as Last Post has been sounded over soldiers' graves since 1885, but the use of Taps is unique to the United States military, since the call is sounded at funerals, wreath-laying and memorial services.

Taps began as a revision to the signal for Extinguish Lights (Lights Out) at the end of the day. Up until the Civil War, the infantry call for Extinguish Lights was the one set down in Silas Casey's (1801-1882) Tactics, which had been borrowed from the French. The music for Taps was adapted by Union General Daniel Butterfield for his brigade (Third Brigade, First Division, Fifth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac) in July, 1862. Many people do not know the words to Taps. As we honor our military who have bravely served and given their lives during this month when we celebrate Memorial Day, let us reflect on these words.

Day is done, gone the sun,  
From the lake, from the hills,  
From the sky.  
All is well, safely rest,  
God is nigh.

Fades the light; And afar  
Goeth day, And the stars  
Shineth bright,  
Fare thee well; Day has gone,  
Night is on.

Thanks and praise, For our days,  
'Neath the sun, Neath the stars,  
'Neath the sky,  
As we go, This we know,  
God is nigh.