

# Short & Snappy Session - Flag Ceremonies



## What is a Short & Snappy?

- Short training segment provided at a Service Unit Meeting
- Any interested volunteer may lead a Short & Snappy
- Trainings are 10-30 minutes in length

## Things to Remember

- Have participants sign the attendance sheet and keep for Service Unit records
- Stay within the allotted time
- If you don't know the answer, seek the correct answer from the appropriate support person

## Supplies Needed

- Short & Snappy Outline
- Flags and posts
- White Gloves
- Red Sash

## What is a flag ceremony?

A flag ceremony is a time to honor the American flag and participate in a longstanding Girl Scout tradition. Girl Scouts have flag ceremonies at the beginning and end of their meeting, event, or even camp. Girl Scouts may be asked to perform flag ceremonies for public events as well, which is a great way to show the community all that Girl Scouts can do!

## Who participates in a flag ceremony?

A flag ceremony may vary some from group to group, but the general makeup for a flag ceremony contains the following:

Flag bearers - One person per flag that will carry the flag in the ceremony. These Girl Scouts will be responsible for holding up and off of the ground.

Color Guard - A team that guards the flags. Any number of girls will work, but 2-6 girls is the average. They will stand behind the flag bearers.

Caller - This Girl Scout is the one who will give the commands for the team to follow.

## What should Girl Scouts wear for a flag ceremony?

A Girl Scout should wear their official uniform during a ceremony, including vest or sash, a white shirt, and khaki pants. The flag bearers and color guard may wear white gloves and a red sash as well.

## Other Important Information

The American flag should be held higher than the other flags. It should also go first in the lineup, followed by the state flag and Girl Scout flag.



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## **Commands for a Flag Ceremony at the beginning of an event**

“Girl Scouts attention” - Used to announce the beginning of the ceremony

“Audience attention” (if at a public event)

“Color guard, advance” - The color guard will begin walking with the flags

“Color guard, post the colors” - This informs the color guard to place the flag in the flag stands or to unfold the flag and attach the grommets to a flag pole. The American Flag should be posted last because it should always remain the highest.

“Color guard, honor the flag” - The color guard will salute the flag by putting their hand over their heart and step back, then they stand back in place with hands at their sides.

“Please join us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance” - This can be followed by a song, Girl Scout Promise and Law, etc. The color guard will not participate in this, they must remain at attention at all times.

“Color guard, dismissed.”

“Girl Scouts (Audience), dismissed”

## **Commands for a Flag Ceremony at the end of an event**

“Girl Scouts attention” - Used to announce the beginning of the ceremony. Girl Scouts stand up

“Audience attention” (if at a public event)

“Color guard, advance” - The color guard will begin walking to retrieve the flags.

“Color guard, honor your flag” - The color guard will put their hand over their heart and step back.

“Color guard, retire the colors” - This informs the color guard to remove the flag from the posts or lower the flag, detach it from the rope, and fold it.

“Color guard, dismissed.”

“Girl Scouts (Audience), dismissed” - Girl Scouts may leave or sit down.



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## How to Fold the American Flag

It is very important that the American Flag never touches the ground. Special care should be taken in order to ensure the flag is handled properly, and if girls are young, an adult should be at their side to help.



1. Begin by holding the flag taut with at least one other person with the stars facing up.



2. Fold the lower half of the stripe section over the field of stars, holding the flag tightly.



3. Fold the flag again lengthwise with the blue stars on the outside.



4. Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the top edge of the flag.



5. Turn the outer point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle. Keep the flag tight as you fold.



6. Keep folding until the entire flag is folded in this manner. tuck the remaining piece into the fold.



7. When the flag is completely folded, only the blue stars should be showing. The Flag Bearer should carry it with the point forward away from their body.