

REQUIREMENT 1 | Explain the history of the United States flag. Show how to properly display the flag in public, and help lead a flag ceremony.

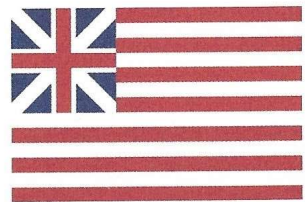
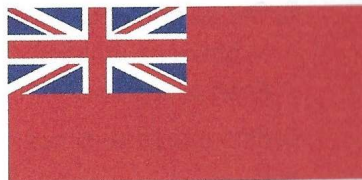
The Flag of the United States of America

The United States flag is very familiar. We see it at Cub Scout meetings, in school, in front of government buildings, and at sporting events. You could probably draw it from memory without much trouble.

But the flag hasn't always looked like it does today. If a person from history such as George Washington saw today's flag, he would probably say there was something wrong with it!

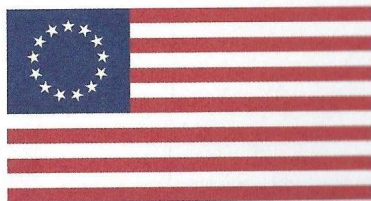
Here are some of the flags that have flown over our country.

British Red Ensign. This ensign (another word for flag) flew over the American colonies before the American Revolution. It shows Great Britain's Union Flag of 1606, which combines the crosses of St. George (for England) and St. Andrew (for Scotland).

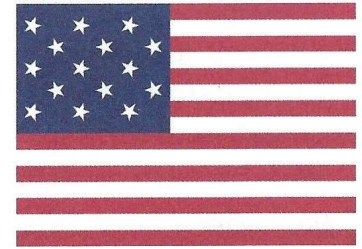


Grand Union Flag. George Washington flew this flag over his army headquarters near Boston, Massachusetts, in 1776, a year after the American Revolution began. This flag included 13 stripes representing the Thirteen Colonies.

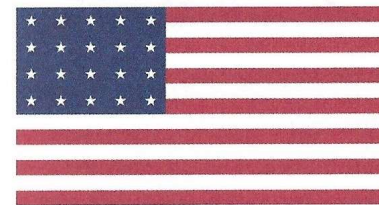
Old Glory. This is the first official flag of the United States. On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress decided that the flag should have 13 stripes like the Grand Union Flag, along with a union of "thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." We celebrate June 14 as Flag Day each year.



Star-Spangled Banner. This flag includes 15 stripes and 15 stars because Vermont and Kentucky had joined the Union in the 1790s. It flew over Fort McHenry near Baltimore, Maryland, during the War of 1812 against Great Britain. Francis Scott Key watched it waving as the British bombarded the fort.



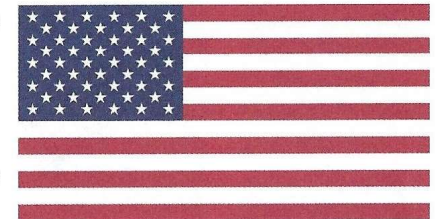
Then he wrote our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner."



Flag of 1818. This flag has 20 stars but only 13 stripes. As more states joined the Union, people realized that the stripes were going to get too narrow. (Can you imagine 50 stripes on a flag?) Since 1818, all flags have

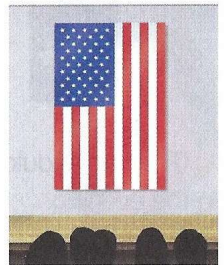
included 13 stripes representing the Thirteen Colonies and one star for each state.

Today's Flag. Here's the flag we use today. The most recent stars were added in 1959 (for Alaska) and 1960 (for Hawaii). This version of the flag has been in use longer than any other version in our history.



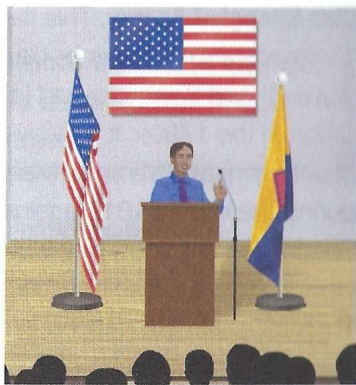
Displaying the Flag

When the flag is displayed flat on a wall, the stars should always be up and to the left (the flag's right).



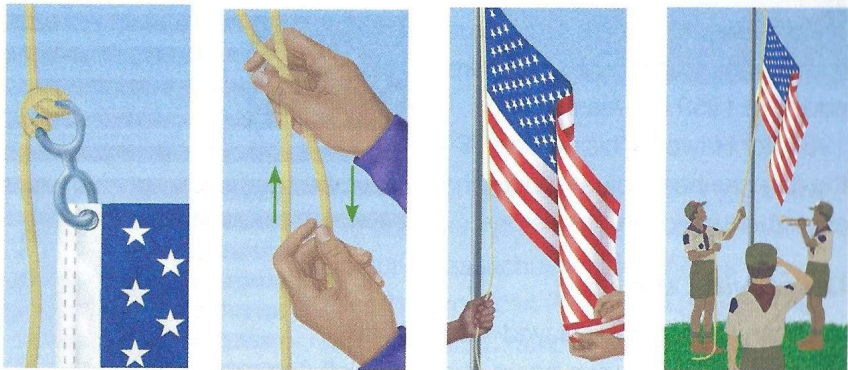
When the flag is on a stage, it should be on the speaker's right. When it is in the audience, it should be on the audience's right.

When the flag is displayed with other flags like state flags, it should be higher than them. When it is flown with flags of other nations, all the flags should be at the same height, but the United States flag should be on its own right.



Raising and Lowering the United States Flag

It takes two people to raise and lower the flag correctly. The first person holds the flag. The second person attaches it to the halyard (rope) and raises it, keeping it close to the pole by holding the halyard tight. He then fastens the halyard to the cleat on the pole. (Make sure it's snug so the flag stays at the top.)



The flag should be raised quickly in the morning and lowered slowly in the evening.

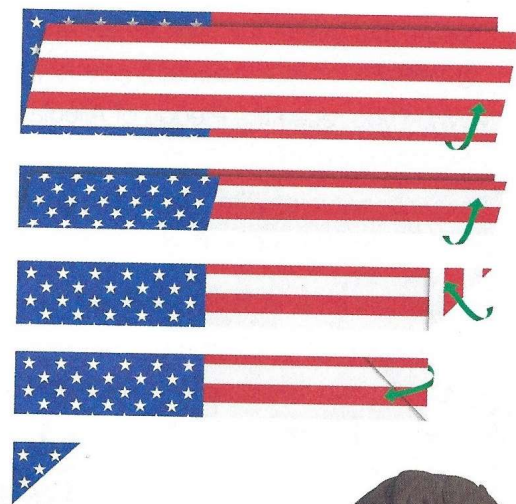
The guidelines for displaying the United States flag are part of something called the United States Code. You can learn more about it at your library or, with permission, online at www.usflag.org.

The president, a governor, or the mayor of the District of Columbia can order the flag to be flown at half-staff on certain occasions, such as when a national leader dies. In the morning, the flag should be raised to full-staff and then lowered to half-staff. In the evening, it should be raised to full-staff before it is lowered.

Despite what you may have heard, you don't have to retire a United States flag if it accidentally touches the ground. In fact, it's OK to clean or repair a flag that becomes dirty or torn.

Folding the United States Flag

The United States flag is folded in a special way until only the blue field shows. First, fold the flag lengthwise in half, then lengthwise again with the blue field on the outside. (It can help to have a third person support the middle of the flag.) Next, make tight triangular folds, starting from the striped end, until only the blue field is showing. Tuck in the loose end.



Have you ever made a paper football? The flag is folded the same way. Just don't play football with it!



Showing Respect to the United States Flag

There are many rules about the flag, but the most important one is simple: Show respect. The flag represents our country and all the men and women who worked to make it great, so don't treat it like an ordinary piece of cloth.

Two ways you can show respect to the flag are by saluting it and flying it.

Saluting the United States Flag

If you are in uniform, give the Cub Scout salute at these times:

- ◆ When the flag is being raised or lowered.
- ◆ When the flag passes by or when you pass the flag. In a parade, salute just before the flag passes and hold your salute until it has gone by.
- ◆ When you recite the Pledge of Allegiance or sing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

If you are not in uniform, greet the flag by taking off your hat and placing your right hand over your heart.

Flying the United States Flag

The flag is flown on public buildings every day when weather permits. You can fly it at your home every day, too.



A Scout is loyal. Showing respect for the flag is a way to show loyalty to your country.

Some special days to fly the flag are:

- ◆ New Year's Day, January 1
- ◆ Inauguration Day, January 20 in the year after a presidential election
- ◆ Martin Luther King Jr. Day, third Monday in January
- ◆ Lincoln's Birthday, February 12
- ◆ Washington's Birthday or Presidents Day, third Monday in February
- ◆ Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May
- ◆ Memorial Day, last Monday in May (half-staff until noon, full-staff until sunset)
- ◆ Flag Day, June 14
- ◆ Independence Day, July 4
- ◆ Labor Day, first Monday in September
- ◆ Patriot Day, September 11
- ◆ Constitution Day, September 17
- ◆ Veterans Day, November 11



It is also flown on other days proclaimed by the president of the United States, on the birthdays of the states, and on state holidays.

Retiring the Flag

When a United States flag becomes worn beyond repair, it should be retired by burning it completely to ash. This should be done in a simple manner with dignity and respect. Your den or pack may do this as part of a ceremony, but your family could do this as well.

Be very careful when retiring a flag so you don't injure yourself, especially if the flag is made of synthetic material. Melting nylon can cause serious burns if you let it touch your skin.

REQUIREMENT 2 | Learn about and describe your rights and duties as a citizen, and explain what it means to be loyal to your country.

As a Webelos Scout, you are not old enough to vote or serve in the military or run for political office, but you still have duties as a citizen of the United States.

In the Scout Oath, you promise to do your duty to your country. One way to do that is by obeying the law.

Some people are citizens of other countries but live in our country. You may know somebody like that. People who are not American citizens have some of the same duties and basic rights as citizens. However, there are things they can't do, like vote and run for president.

Here are some things you and your family should do:

- ◆ Obey laws
- ◆ Respect the rights and property of others
- ◆ Help the police
- ◆ Take care of the environment by recycling and conserving natural resources
- ◆ Keep informed about what is going on around you
- ◆ Help change things that are not good

When you are an adult, you should also:

- ◆ Vote
- ◆ Pay taxes
- ◆ Serve on a jury when asked to do so

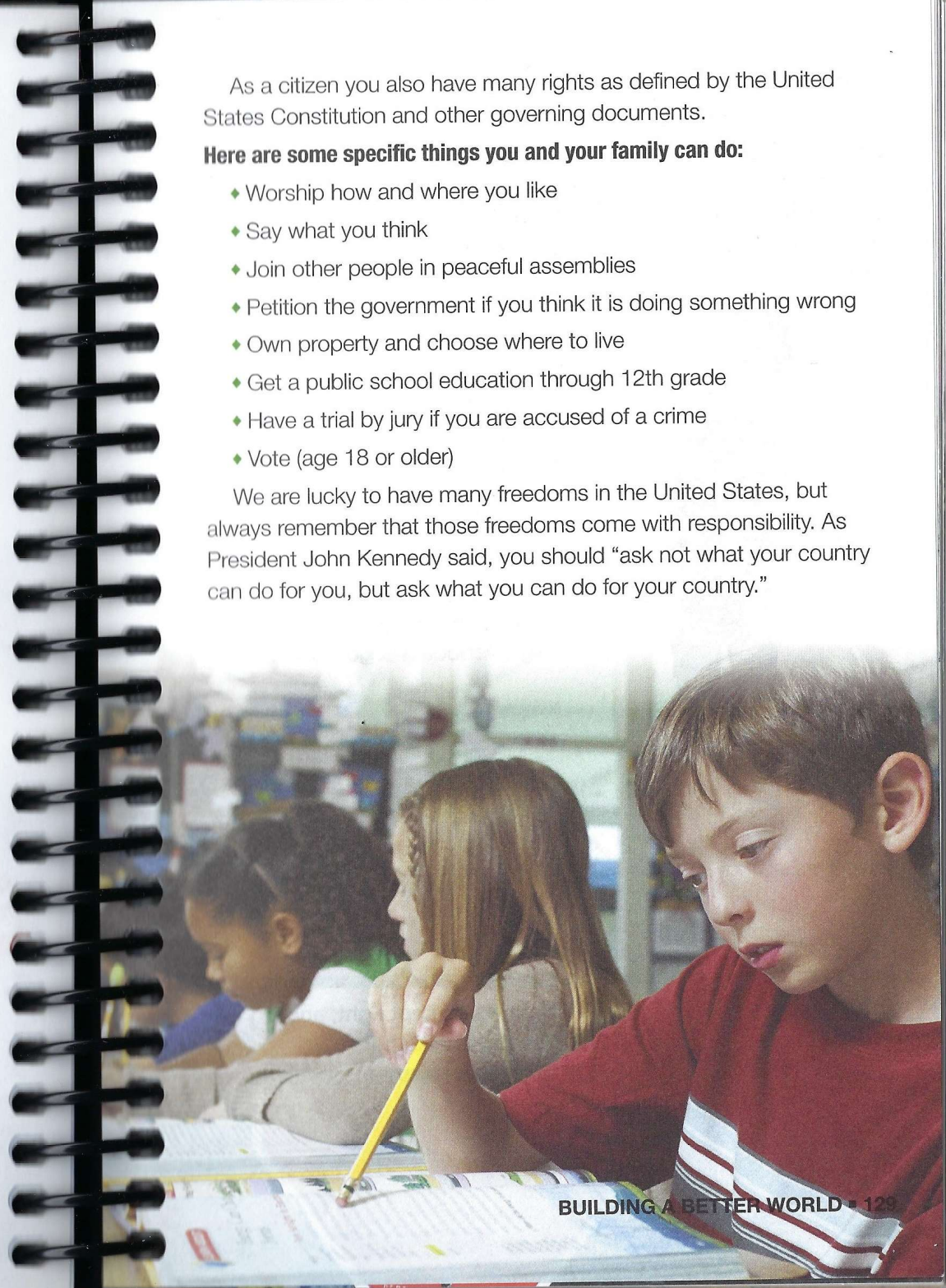


As a citizen you also have many rights as defined by the United States Constitution and other governing documents.

Here are some specific things you and your family can do:

- ◆ Worship how and where you like
- ◆ Say what you think
- ◆ Join other people in peaceful assemblies
- ◆ Petition the government if you think it is doing something wrong
- ◆ Own property and choose where to live
- ◆ Get a public school education through 12th grade
- ◆ Have a trial by jury if you are accused of a crime
- ◆ Vote (age 18 or older)

We are lucky to have many freedoms in the United States, but always remember that those freedoms come with responsibility. As President John Kennedy said, you should "ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country."



Being Loyal

All Scouts promise to be loyal—that's the second point of the Scout Law. You are loyal when you obey the laws of our country, your state, and your community. You are loyal when you try to make your community a better place to live. You are loyal when you stay informed about how government works. You are loyal when you support those who work to keep our country safe.



My Scoutmaster says Martin Luther King Jr. is a good example of somebody who was loyal to his country by pointing out what it was doing wrong. He used some of his rights, including freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, to fight against laws that were unfair to African Americans.

You are also loyal when you try to get things fixed that are wrong. If you think a law is unfair, you should obey it, but you should also work to get it changed.

"My country, right or wrong; if right, to be kept right; and if wrong, to be set right." —U.S. Senator Carl Schurz

REQUIREMENT 3 | Discuss in your Webelos den the term "rule of law," and talk about how it applies to you in your everyday life.

Have you ever watched a TV show or movie where a king made up laws on the spot or threw people in jail just because he felt like it? A few countries still operate like that, but most operate under what is called the "rule of law."

The rule of law means that:

- ◆ Laws apply to everyone, both government officials and private citizens.
- ◆ Laws are clear and fair and are evenly applied.
- ◆ Laws respect basic rights like people's security.
- ◆ The way laws are created is open and fair.

Talk with your den about how that idea affects you. How does following the Scout Oath and Scout Law serve as a "rule of law" to help us work together in Scouting?

