

SEPTEMBER FLAG CLUB

- Review your team set up daily/weekly schedule for teams to raise and lower the flag.
- Review the Training video and information on at www.theflagprogram.org under the resources tab as well as the flag folding pages found at the January Flag Club meeting.
- Choose your Patriotic Community Service Project for the year.

TEACHING OBJECTIVE: Help students understand the history and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.

TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

1. What state was the Pledge of Allegiance first recited?
2. What year was the Pledge of Allegiance first recited?
3. Who wrote the Pledge of Allegiance?
4. How many times has the Pledge of Allegiance been changed?
5. What years did the changes to the Pledge of Allegiance take place?
6. What president was responsible for the last change to the Pledge of Allegiance?
7. What was the change?
8. Who wrote the Star-Spangled Banner?
9. What date was the Star-Spangled Banner written?
10. What is the name of the American fort the British were bombarding when the Star-Spangled banner was written?
11. What were the dimensions of the American flag was flown during this bombardment and how many stars did it have?
12. What was the original name of the Star-Spangled Banner?

Special Days in August and September to discuss:

August 28th – The day Martin Luther King gave his famous “I Have A Dream” Speech.

September 11th – Patriot’s Day to mark the anniversary of terrorist attacks in the USA in 2001.

Last Sunday of September each year - Gold Star Mother's Day is observed in the United States on the last Sunday of September each year. It is a day for people to recognize and honor those who have lost a son or daughter while serving the United States Armed Forces.

TALKING POINTS:

The Pledge of Allegiance talking points and discussion questions:

- Why do you think it is important to have a Pledge of Allegiance?
- What does the Pledge mean to you?

- How important do you think it is for people to be respectful when the Pledge is being said?
- Discuss the history of the Pledge, including changes through the years in its wording and in the manner of salute.
- What is the significance of the timing of the Pledge's birth, just 27 years after the end of the Civil War?
- Discuss sponsoring a school-wide Essay Contest on the topic, "What the Pledge of Allegiance Means to Me."

History of the Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was written in August 1892 by the Francis Bellamy (1855-1931).

In its original form it read: "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

In 1923, the words, "the Flag of the United States of America" were added. In 1954, President Eisenhower encouraged Congress to add the words "under God," creating the 31-word pledge we say today.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

The National Anthem talking points and discussion questions:

- Discuss the circumstances under which Francis Scott Key wrote the words to the poem that later became "The Star-Spangled Banner."
- What emotions do you think Key would have been experiencing as he watched the British artillery bombarding Fort McHenry? What about the next morning when he looked and saw the American flag still flying?
- With so much deep emotion tied to the words of the Star-Spangled Banner, and with it representing such an important and pivotal moment in the history of our nation, why is it so easy for us to become complacent when singing it or hearing it sung or played?
- Rewrite the Star-Spangled Banner in the language of 21st century casual conversation, rather than early 19th century poetry.
- Go to <https://theflagprogram.org/resources/the-star-spangled-banner/> for more information on the Star-Spangled Banner.

Practice raising and lowering the US and State Flags