

# JANUARY FLAG CLUB

- **Coordinate with your school** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance during announcements with a short statement of what being an American means to you.
- **Community Service Project** – Continue working on your community service project.
- Practice raising and Lowering the flag.

## **Flag Trivia** –

13. What year did Congress redesign the flag with 13 stripes and the number of stars to represent the states?
14. How many red stripes are there on the American flag?
15. How many white stripes are there on the American flag?
16. What is the technical term for the blue part of the American flag?

## **Special Days in January to discuss:**

January 1, 1863 - Abraham Lincoln issued an Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all slaves in the rebellious states “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.” While the Emancipation Proclamation did not free a single slave, it was an important turning point in the Civil War, transforming the fight to preserve the nation into a battle for human freedom.

January 20, 1961 - John Fitzgerald Kennedy is inaugurated as the 35th president of the United States. During his famous inauguration address, Kennedy, declared that “the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans” and appealed to Americans to “ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

## **Teaching Objective: Flag Etiquette and Flag Code:**

The United States “Flag Code” is found in Title 4, Chapter 1 of the United States Code, and includes instructions and rules on such topics as the Pledge of Allegiance, display and use of the flag by civilians, time and occasions for display, position and manner of display, and how to show respect for the flag. In this Campus Leader Handbook, references to the Flag Code are formatted like this: [4 U.S.C. § 7(a)] where “4 U.S.C.” refers to Title 4 of the United States Code, and everything following the § symbol (which stands for “Section”) refers to the appropriate Section and Subsection(s) of the Flag Code.

## **Flag Etiquette**

The Flag Code formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag. It also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used.

### **They are:**

- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. [4 U.S.C. § 8] • The flag is flown upside down only as a distress signal. [4 U.S.C. § 8(a)]
- The flag should not be used as a drapery or for covering a speaker's desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white, and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top. [4 U.S.C. § 8(d)]
- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. 20 Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard. [4 U.S.C. § 8(i)]
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations. [4 U.S.C. § 8(j)]
- The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind. [4 U.S.C. § 8(g)]
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything. [4 U.S.C. § 8(h)]
- When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object [4 U.S.C. § 8(b)]; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag, it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

### **Raising and Lowering the Flag**

- The flag should be displayed during school days in or near every schoolhouse. [4 U.S.C. § 6(g)]
- The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously. [4 U.S.C. § 6(b)]
- The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. [4 U.S.C. § 7(m)] 2 22

**How to Fold the Flag** (<http://www.usflag.org/foldflag.html>) As the flag is lowered daily at the last note of retreat. Special care should be taken that no part of the flag touches the ground. The Flag is then carefully folded into the shape of a tri-cornered hat, emblematic of the hats worn by colonial soldiers during the war for Independence. In the folding, the red and white stripes are finally wrapped into the blue, as the light of day vanishes into the darkness of night.

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## How to fold the Flag

### Step 1

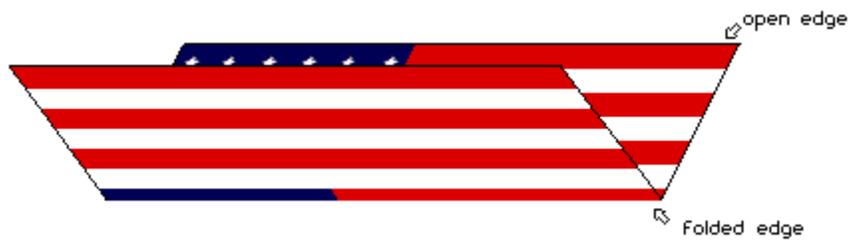


To properly fold the Flag, begin by holding it waist-high with another person so that its surface is parallel to the ground.

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### Step 2



Fold the lower half of the stripe section lengthwise **over** the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely.

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### Step 3



Fold the flag **again** lengthwise with the blue field on the **outside**.

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### Step 4



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



### Step 5



Turn the outer (end) point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle.



### Step 6



The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.



### Step 7



When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible.

### Flag Retirement

The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. [4 U.S.C. § 8(k)]

If your school has flags that needs to be retired contact your F.L.A.G. Program Administrator who can provide information on local organizations that accept flags that are worn out and ready for retirement.

## Flag Code

OBJECTIVE: Help students understand portions of the United States Flag Code not covered in previous meetings.

Talking points and discussion questions:

- In previous meetings, we have discussed the U.S. Flag Code as it pertains to: The Pledge of Allegiance, Respect for the flag, specifically the various ways in which the flag is not permitted to be used or displayed and Flying the flag at half-staff.
- You will want to spend at least a couple of meetings focusing on other specific instructions set forth in the Flag Code. Print and distribute copies of “The United States Flag: Federal Law Relating to Display and Associated Questions” to students for reference during this discussion (available on web page listed above.)
- § 5. Display and Use of Flag by Civilians; Codification of Rules and Customs; Definition. The Flag Code’s purpose is to set forth guidelines for civilians and civilian groups. Military service branches and personnel have their own rules.
- § 6. Time and Occasions for Display. Discuss each subsection briefly. Be sure to mention subsection (g): “The flag should be displayed during school days in or near every schoolhouse.” By participating in the F.L.A.G. Program, you are helping your school obey the law!
- § 7. Position and Manner of Display. Discuss the various flag display scenarios mentioned in each subsection, using the pictures and illustrations on the following pages to help students visualize the Flag Code’s instructions. The common principles throughout all these scenarios are that the United States flag is always to be treated with great respect, is to occupy a place of prominence when displayed, and the union is to occupy the place of prominence in relation to the rest of the flag. 34
- § 9. Conduct During Hoisting, Lowering or Passing of Flag. Stress the importance of the hand being placed over the heart, even when a cap or hat is being held (place the hand, not the hat, over the heart). NOTE: The flag display pictures on the following pages are also available for viewing on The F.L.A.G. Program’s Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/flagprogram/> in the album titled, “Position and Manner of Display.”