

Flag retirement ceremony

Adult Leader:

We have come together to dispose of a flag, which is no longer serviceable. Flag retirement is a solemn ceremony.

The U.S. flag is more than just some brightly colored cloth. It is a symbol of our nation. This flag has served as a reminder of our nations and those who have defended our freedom. It has served us well.

The United States Flag Code states:

"The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

Color guard, advance.

The Color Guard marches forward with the "Old Flag" folded in a triangle and carried like a football, flag bearer in the center with one guard in front, and one guard in back. They are to come up the aisle(s), from the rear of the area.

The color guard come to a stop at the front center and faces the audience. They then unfold the flag until it is just folded in half lengthwise. The blue field should be to the audience's left.

Color guard, present the colors

Scout #1: Seven red stripes and six white strips; together they represent the original 13 colonies that gained us liberty.

Scout #2: The red stripes remind us of the lifeblood of brave men and women who were ready to die for this, their country.

Scout #3: The white stripes remind us of purity and cleanliness of purpose, thought, word and deed.

Scout #4: The blue is for truth and justice, like the eternal blue of the star-filled heavens.

Scout #5: The stars represent the fifty sovereign states of our union.

Adult Leader: The U.S. flag should be treated with respect when it's flying, and it should be treated with respect when it's being retired.

Scout #6: The American Creed states, "it is my duty to my country to love it, to respect its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

Scout #7: Therefore, we retire flags with dignity and respect when they become worn, torn, faded, or badly soiled.

"Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance."

Leader faces flag presented by scouts.

"Those in uniform salute, all others place your hand across your heart, facing the flag."

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.

"Two. Please be seated."

Wait for audience to settle. Signal for quiet if necessary.

Adult Leader: This flag is ready to be retired.

We ask that everyone maintain a respectful silence as this flag is retired. You may leave quietly or stay in silence until the flag is completely consumed by the fire.

Adult Leader: Color Guard, Retire Colors

Flags should be laid onto the center of the fire and the four corners folded back into the flames.

The audience leaves or waits in silence until the flag is completely consumed by the fire.

Fire Marshall ensures fire is completely off and cooled with water.