

Flag Ceremonies

There are several variations of Flag opening and closing ceremonies found in the Cub Scout Program guide and Staging Den & Pack Ceremonies guide. The Flag opening & closing are designed to build respect for our Country. A flag ceremony should be performed beginning each Den meeting and Pack Meeting While the Den flag opening is usually not quite the ceremonial style as the Pack meetings, the Den meeting is the best place to practice for an upcoming Pack Meeting. The following is a list of things to remember and flag etiquette.

1. Keep the flag ceremony simple.
2. Always handle the Flag with dignity and respect.
3. The flag of the U.S. is carried at the marching right (the flag own right) or if there are several flags, it may be carried in front of the center of that line.
4. Color Guard and Bearer participants should never join in the singing, speaking or saluting during the Flag Ceremony.
5. There is absolute silence from the time the procession starts from a given point.
6. The Salute:
 - A. Always stand (unless physically challenged) and salute the flag as it passes by you.
 - B. The salute begins again as the flag is either clipped to the flag pole, posted, or when the Pledge of Allegiance starts.
 - C. The salute ends after the flag has passed you and/or as soon as the Pledge is completed (Two).

If at all possible, never let any nation's flag touch the ground. During the flag ceremony, no other flag is to be held higher or be larger in size than the U.S. flag. Finally, whether it's sports, Karate, or a school play, we all have certain times to act serious and unserious. Most of cub scouting is having fun while learning. The opening and closing Flag ceremony should always show respect to America. It's one of those serious times.

The Basic Pack Flag Opening Ceremony

(please print and distribute)

1. Make sure flag stands are in place prior to the ceremony (see picture 3 above)
2. Positions: A Caller, Flag Bearers, Guards -
The Caller may be a boy or parent. The Caller stands at the front of the Pack Meeting, facing the audience (near a microphone is available), awaiting a signal from the Pack leader to begin the ceremony. The other boys, flag bearers and guard, should be prepared to begin a march from the rear of the room (or side) toward the Caller. Up to three flags can be used, a triangle formation is appropriate with three flags with the U.S. flag at the front point. If two flags are used, the U.S. flag must be on the Marching right.
3. **Caller:** When given a signal from an adult, speak loudly the following:
 - A. ALL PLEASE RISE (wait a few seconds for everyone to rise)
 - B. COLOR GUARD ADVANCE (say it loud enough so the flag bearers and guards can hear you) when the boys have stopped in front of the Caller,
 - C. say, ABOUT FACE (the guard spin (turn) to the audience)
 - D. say, HAND SALUTE (Caller and audience salute the flag; bearers and guards do not salute but stay at attention)
 - E. say, JOIN ME IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 - F. After the Pledge is finished, say TO (this word signals the scouts in uniform to end salute and everyone else to be at ease)
 - G. say, COLOR GUARD, POST THE COLORS - U.S. flag bearer takes flag to the right flag stand (criss-cross). After the U.S. flag is posted, the other flags are posted to the left stage facing audience.
 - H. One of the guard could lead the Pack in the Scout Oath, Scout Law or a Song.
 - I. COLOR GUARD DISMISSED

There are variations to the flag ceremonies. This format is easy and can be added upon by dens wishing to do something special.

The Basic Pack Flag Closing Ceremony

- A. ALL PLEASE RISE
- B. COLOR GUARD ADVANCE (as soon as the boys stop at the front, they salute the flag and say)
- C. HAND SALUTE (Caller says this as the flag bearers arrive up front)
- D. COLOR GUARD, RETRIEVE THE COLORS (The U.S. flag first, then the State flag, then Pack flag. Each boy returns to his place up front as they get the flags, U.S. flag on the right. Once all flags are retrieved, the caller says,
- E. COLOR GUARD, DISMISSED
- G. TO (End salute; Signals everyone to stop saluting)
- F. Everyone goes home