

## SHORT AND SNAPPY

# Flag Etiquette

Flag etiquette is one of the many important skills Girl Scouts learn and as a result, troops are asked to perform flag ceremonies in the community during special ceremonies, luncheons, and parades.

## How to Facilitate this Short and Snappy

- Ask and acknowledge questions. Your audience will know you are listening and involved.
- Share your experiences. Leaders, new and old, want to connect with you and this is one way they can do so.
- Use a variety of techniques and strategies such as handing out candy when people participate or encourage attendees to write their ideas on the newsprint.
- **If the service unit or troop does not have flags for a ceremony, they can be borrowed from the regional Girl Scout Center.**
- **Have fun with the trivia game and hand out a treat to anyone who gets the most answers correct.**

## What is a Short and Snappy?

- It's a short interactive group discussion provided at a service unit or circle meeting.
- Any service unit team member, interested volunteer or learning facilitator may guide a short and snappy.
- It's 15-25 minutes long.

## Objectives:

- Volunteers will know how to teach flag protocol to the girls in their troop
- Volunteers will know how to implement a respectful flag ceremony.

## What You Will Need For This Short and Snappy

- Flag Ceremony Outline—go to the Forms and Documents section of our website and search Flag Ceremony.

**Facilitator:** *“The correct use of the American Flag may seem confusing because varying groups have authorized various procedures. That is why Girl Scouts of Western Ohio has created a resource for you to use to help understand how to display and handle the American Flag and how to implement a respectful flag ceremony with your troop.”*

(See page 1 of the Flag Ceremony Outline for discussion on the following questions)

- Ask: What are some reasons a Flag Ceremony may be used for?
- Ask Where can a Flag Ceremony take place?
- **Ask** When planning a Flag Ceremony with girls what are some things to take into consideration?

**Facilitator:** *“The key thing to remember with Flag Ceremonies is to keep it simple for the girls and age appropriate. Emphasis needs to be on respect for the flag rather than on the commands or techniques.”*

**Flag Trivia:** (ask everyone to take out a piece of paper and write down the answers to the following trivia questions or treat it like a jeopardy game):

1. How many stripes are on the American flag? (answer: 13)
2. When grouped with other flags, where should the American Flag be placed? (answer: at the center and at the highest point of the group)
3. When the American Flag is posted in a stand it is always posted before other flags? True or False (Answer: False. it is posted last and is taken out first during the closing ceremony to make sure it is always at the highest point)
4. When the American Flag is displayed in a public auditorium what side of the speaker is it placed on? (answer: to the speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag should be placed on the left of the speaker)
5. The flag should be lowered and brought in at dusk if not illuminated. True or False? (Answer: True)
6. At what pace should the flag be raised? (Answer: briskly/quickly and lowered slowly)
7. When a flag is old and tattered and needing replacement, what should be done with it? (Answer, the flag should be retired in a dignified manner, burned)

Bonus Question: How many American Flags have been placed on the moon? (Answer: 6)

**Review key terms used in a Flag Ceremony:** (See page 2 of the Flag Ceremony Outline)

- Color Bearer
- Color Guard
- Girl Scout in charge (or caller)

**Demonstrate to the group an official flag ceremony. Explain how each role can be filled with girls from various levels who should be in their Girl Scout uniform.**