

Flag Facts

- The flag in its current format (blue with white stars and thirteen red and white stripes) originated on June 14, 1777 in Philadelphia with the First Flag Act. June 14 is known as Flag Day.
- The flag has thirteen stripes alternating red and white, which represent the original 13 states of the union.
- The first flag had thirteen white stars; today it has fifty stars; one for each of the fifty states.
- The red stripes represent fearless courage and self-sacrifice of American men and women who fought for our freedom.
- The white stripes stand for liberty and equality for all.
- The blue is the blue of heaven, loyalty, and faith.
- The flag is a symbol of the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights. As Abraham Lincoln stated, “A government of the people, by the people, for the people.”
- Public Law 829, “The Flag Code” defines the flag’s use and how the flag should be displayed in all occasions and situations.
- The flag is also known as “Old Glory” or “the Stars and Stripes”.
- The flag, when flown at half-staff (half-mast), 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. On Memorial Day, the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, and then raised to the top of the staff. The President of the United States determines when and for how long the American flag is flown at half-staff.
- During a ceremony or when the flag is passing in a parade, all persons present (except those in uniform) should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. People should remove their hats or other headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. When the flag is in a parade, the salute starts approximately 12 paces (steps) before it is in front of person and ends approximately 12 paces (steps) after it passes.
- History of when each state’s star was added to the flag can be found on the Smithsonian’s website: <https://www.si.edu/spotlight/flag-day/flag-facts>. Utah’s star was added in 1896. Most stars were officially added to the flag on July 4.

The Pledge of Allegiance

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.



"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."

Star Spangled Banner

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen thro' the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream:
'T is the star-spangled banner: O, long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

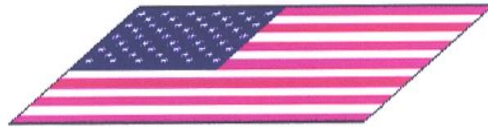
And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand,
Between their lov'd homes and the war's desolation;
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserv'd us as a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause. it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Lyrics written by Francis Scott Keys

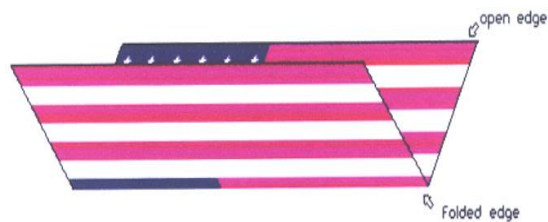
Flag Folding Ceremony

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.

Step 2



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

Step 3



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

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.