

## One Nation Under God

### I. The Pledge of Allegiance

#### A. Proper Punctuation & Delivery

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.

#### B. Manner of Delivery

1. Stand at attention, facing the flag with the right hand over the heart.
2. Persons in uniform remain silent, face the flag and render the military salute.
3. Persons not in uniform face the flag, put their right hand over their heart and say the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. According to the Flag Code, When not in uniform, men should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Nowadays, when women seldom wear hats that are a part of their matching outfit, women should follow the same rules as men.

#### C. Meaning

PHRASE	MEANING
I pledge allegiance	I promise to be true
to the flag	to the symbol of our country
of the United States of America	each state that has joined to make our country
and to the Republic	a republic is a country where the people choose others to make laws for them - the government is for the people
for which it stands	the flag means the country
one Nation under God	a single country where the people believe in a supreme being
indivisible	the country cannot be split into parts

with liberty and justice for all.	with freedom and fairness for each person in the country.
<i>The pledge says you are promising to be true to the United States of America!</i>	

#### D. History

1. The original Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy. It was first given wide publicity through the official program of the National Public Schools Celebration of Columbus Day, which was printed in *The Youth's Companion* of September 8, 1892. It was also sent out in leaflet form to schools throughout the country at the same time. School children first recited the Pledge of Allegiance this way:

I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

2. The flag of the United States replaced the words my Flag in 1923 because some foreign-born people might have in mind the flag of the country of their birth instead of the United States flag. A year later, of America was added after United States.
3. No form of the Pledge received official recognition by Congress until June 22, 1942, when the Pledge was formally included in the U.S. Flag Code. The official name of The Pledge of Allegiance was adopted in 1945.
4. The last change in language came on Flag Day 1954 (June 14), when Congress passed a law, which added the words *under God* after one nation.
5. In 1942, Congress established the current practice of rendering the pledge with the right hand over the heart. (Originally, the pledge was said with the right hand in the so-called Bellamy Salute, with the right hand resting fist outward from the chest, with the arm extending out from the body. Once Hitler came to power in Europe, some Americans were concerned that this position of the arm and hand resembled the Nazi or Fascist salute.)

## II. The Flag of the United States of America

- A. The flag of the United States shall be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; and the union of the flag shall be forty-eight stars, white in a blue field. On the admission of a new State into the Union, one star shall be added to the union of the flag; and such addition shall take effect on the next Fourth of July. (U.S. Flag Code)
- B. The 13 stripes represent the original 13 colonies. There are seven red and six white stripes. (If there were 7 white and 6 red stripes, the outermost stripes would be white, and at a distance would not be visible.)
- C. The 50 stars equal the number of states officially admitted to the union, combined into a new constellation on the blue union of the flag.
- D. Red is for courage, hardiness, valor, zeal and fervency.

- E. White is for hope, purity and cleanliness of heart.
- F. Blue represents the color of the sky and symbolizes loyalty, sincerity, justice, truth and vigilance.

### III. U. S. Flag Etiquette

#### A. Flag Code

1. The National Flag Code was adopted by the National Flag Conference on Flag Day, June 14, 1923. Prior to this time, there were no federal or state regulations governing display of the United States Flag.
2. Congress adopted the Flag Code in 1942 as Public Law 829. It includes exact rules for use and display of the flag, as well as associated sections for conduct during playing of the National Anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and Manner of Delivery.
3. The Flag Code does not impose penalties for misuse of the United States Flag. That is left to the states. Each state has its own flag law.

#### B. Ohio's Flag Law

1. No person, without privilege to do so, shall purposefully deface, damage, pollute, or otherwise physically mistreat the flag of the United States or of this state...
2. One who violates the Flag Law is guilty of desecration. Desecration is a fifth degree felony that is punishable by a fine of up to \$2,500.00, in addition to other penalties specified for a fifth degree penalty.

#### C. Displaying the Flag

1. Flags are usually displayed outdoors from sunrise to sunset. However, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day, if properly illuminated at night.
2. The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously. The Flag of the United States is saluted as it is hoisted and lowered. When raising the flag, the salute begins when the flag is snapped on the halyard and continues until the Pledge of Allegiance is completed. When lowering the flag, the salute is held until the flag is unsnapped from the halyard or through the last note of the national anthem; whichever is the longest.
3. The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all weather flag is displayed.
4. When carried in a procession with other flags, the Flag of the United States should be either to the far right, or in front of the center of a line of flags.
5. The Flag of the United States should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags are grouped and displayed from staffs. The Flag of the United States should always be hoisted first and lowered last. No flag or pennant may be placed above the Flag of the United States or to the United States flag's direct right.

6. When other flags are flown on the same flag pole as the Flag of the United States, the U.S. flag should always be the uppermost flag.
7. When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.
8. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall or in a window, the union (blue field with stars) should be uppermost and to the flags own right (to the observers left).
9. When the flag is displayed over the middle of a street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.
10. When used on a speakers platform, the flag should be above and behind the speaker, if displayed flat. If hanging, it should hold a position of prominence to the speakers right.
11. When the flag is suspended across a corridor or lobby, it should be suspended vertically with the union of the flag to the observer=s left upon entering.
12. When flown at half-staff, that flag should first be hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should again be raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day.
13. On Memorial Day (the last Monday in May), the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff.
14. The flag should be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15, Patriot Day on September 11, and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on December 7.
15. Only the President of the United States or the Governor of the State may order the flag to be flown at half-staff. (There are specific rules for how long a flag is flown at half-staff in honor of the death of a present or former government official. For example, the flag shall be flown at half-staff for 30 days from the death of the President or a former President.) The honor and reverence accorded this solemn act is quickly becoming eroded by those individuals and agencies that display the flag at half-staff on inappropriate occasions without proper authority to do so.

#### **D. Respect for the Flag**

1. No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.@ (U.S. Flag Code)
2. The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.

3. The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water or merchandise.
4. The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
5. The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery. It should never be festooned, displayed in folds, or drawn back or up. It should always be allowed to fall free. (It is permissible to use red, white and blue bunting for decorative purposes. The bunting should always be hung with the blue on top, white in the middle and red on the bottom.)
6. The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
7. The flag should never have any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature placed upon it or attached to it in any way.
8. The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.
9. The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs. Nor should it be printed or pictured on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff from which a flag is flown.
10. No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations.
11. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, a lapel flag pin, being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
12. During a ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag, or when the flag is passing in a parade or review, all persons present (except those in uniform) should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Those present in uniform should render the military salute.

#### **E. Proper Disposal of a Flag**

1. 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.® (U.S. Flag Code)
2. Damaged flags may be repaired and utilized as long as the overall dimensions are not noticeably altered.
3. For individual citizens, destroying a flag should be done discreetly so the act of destruction is not perceived as a protest or desecration.
4. Many American Legion Posts conduct Disposal of Unserviceable Flag
  - i. Ceremonies on June 14, Flag Day. This ceremony creates a particularly dignified and solemn occasion for the retirement of unserviceable flags.

5. The Flag Code states that the flag should not touch anything beneath it. This is stated to indicate that care should be exercised in the handling of the flag, to protect it from becoming soiled or damaged. You ARE NOT required to destroy the flag when this happens. As long as the flag remains suitable for display, even if washing or dry-cleaning (which is an acceptable practice) is required, you may continue to display the flag as a symbol of our country.

#### **F. Folding the Flag**

1. The Flag Code does not require any specific method for folding the flag. However, there is a tradition of folding the flag to produce a triangular shaped form like that of a three corner hat, with only the blue union showing.
2. To fold the flag, hold the flag lengthwise and fold it in half. Next, continue to hold the flag lengthwise and fold it once more so that it is one-fourth of the original width. (A large flag may have to be folded lengthwise a third time.)

Starting at the end with the stripes, fold the flag over into a small triangle by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge. Continue to fold the flag over into triangles. Complete the folding with part of the blue union and stars on top. An honor guard will make sure they fold the flag 13 times.

3. The significance of the folds:
  - a. The 1<sup>st</sup> fold of our flag is a symbol of life.
  - b. The 2<sup>nd</sup> fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.
  - c. The 3<sup>rd</sup> fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing or ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.
  - d. The 4<sup>th</sup> fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, in times of peace as well as in a time of war, for divine guidance.
  - e. The 5<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.
  - f. The 6<sup>th</sup> fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our hearts that, We 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.
  - g. The 7<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they are found within or without the boundaries of our republic.
  - h. The 8<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death (the soldier), that we might see the light of day.
  - i. The 9<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to womanhood and mothers. It is through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.
  - j. The 10<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to fathers, for they too have given their sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.
  - k. The 11<sup>th</sup> fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews= eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

- l. The 12<sup>th</sup> fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.
- m. The 13<sup>th</sup> fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation=s motto, Aln God We Trust.

4. After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat. This reminds us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones. They are followed today by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States in preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

**G. Sizes of Flags**

1. The size of the flag is determined by the exposed height of the flagpole from which it is flying. The only consideration is for the flag to be in proper proportion to its pole. Most flags, used in homes and offices, are 3' x 5' or 4' x 6'. Color guards usually carry flags measuring 4' x 6'.

2. The recommended size of flags, based on flagpole height:

Flagpole Height	Flag Size		Flagpole Height	Flag Size
20 feet	4' x 6'		25 feet	5' x 8'
40 feet	6' x 10'		50 feet	8' x 12'
60 feet	10' x 15'		70 feet	12' x 18'
90 feet	15' x 25'		125 feet	20' x 30'
200 feet	30' x 40'		250 feet	40' x 50'

**H. For more information:**

- 1. American Legion - [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)
- 2. The Flag Research Center - Winchester, Massachusetts 01890
- 3. Providence Forum - [www.providenceforum.org](http://www.providenceforum.org)
- 4. National Flag Foundation - [www.americanflags.org](http://www.americanflags.org)
- 5. The Flag of the United States - [www.usflag.org](http://www.usflag.org)
- 6. Federal Citizen Information Center - [www.pueblo.gsa.gov](http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov)  
(Under books, click on And more...Go down to Our Flag, click on the Want to Read It? column.)

## IV. The 4-H Pledge

### A. Proper Punctuation and Delivery

I Pledge,  
My **head** to clearer thinking, My **heart** to  
greater loyalty, My **hands** to larger service  
and My **health** to better living, for my Club,  
my Community, my Country and my World.

### B. Manner of Delivery

1. Members stand straight and tall with arms at sides.
2. They raise their right hand to their forehead when they say, I pledge my head to clearer thinking.
3. They lower their right hand to their heart when saying, My heart to greater loyalty.
4. Their arms should be slightly bent with palms up when saying, My hands to larger service.
5. They should stand with their arms at their sides for the conclusion of the pledge, and My health to better living, for my Club, my Community, my Country and my World.

### C. Meaning

PHRASE	MEANING
I pledge my head to clearer thinking	learning to think critically, solve problems and make decisions, understanding the why, gaining new and valuable knowledge.
my heart to greater loyalty	being concerned with the welfare of others, accepting responsibilities of citizenship, determining values and attitudes by which to live, learning how to work with others and respecting self, others and the environment.
my hands to larger service	learning new skills, improving current skills, developing pride in the ability to work, respecting work, service to others and workforce preparedness.
and my health to better living	choosing healthy lifestyles, practicing healthful living, protecting your own well being and that of others, making constructive use of leisure time and learning to manage change and challenges.
for my Club, my Community, my Country and my World.	understanding that we are not isolated, recognizing that we have responsibilities and impact beyond the local level.

### D. History

1. The pledge tells what 4-H is all about. 4-H has as its goal the four-fold development of youth: Head, Heart, Hands and Health.
2. Otis Hall, State 4-H Leader of Kansas, was responsible for the original wording of the 4-H pledge.

3. The pledge was adopted by the delegates to the 1927 National 4-H Club Camp in Washington, D.C.
4. State 4-H Leaders voted for and adopted the pledge for universal use in 1927.
5. The phrase *and my world* was added in 1973.

## V. The 4-H Flag

- A. The 4-H flag consists of the 4-H emblem on a field of white.
- B. The official 4-H emblem is a green (PMS 347 green), four-leaf clover with a white "H" on each clover leaf. The four H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. The clover's stem must point to the right as you look at the image.
- C. The 4-H Name and Emblem is in a category similar to the Presidential Seal and the Olympic Emblem. This federal protection makes it a mark into and of itself with protection that supercedes the limited authorities of both a trademark and a copyright. The *18 USC 707* is the statement in the United States Code that outlines the protection of the 4-H Name and Emblem. This statement should appear on every new 4-H emblem. (Emblems already in existence may continue to be used.) The statement must appear either directly under the lower right leaf of the clover or parallel to the bottom of the lower right leaf.
- D. The white in the 4-H flag symbolizes purity.
- E. The green, nature's most common color, is emblematic of life, springtime and youth.

## VI. Folding the 4-H Flag

- A. To fold the 4-H flag, hold the flag lengthwise and fold in half, with the stem of the clover on top.
- B. Next, continue to hold the flag lengthwise and fold it once more so that it is one-fourth of the original width. The stem of the clover should still be on top.
- C. Fold the flag to the center from each end, covering the clover.
- D. Complete folding the flag by bringing the ends together. This leaves a leaf of the clover on each side.

## Frequently Asked Questions About the Flag of the United States

**Q:** Can a flag that has been used to cover a casket be displayed after its original use?

**A:** There are no provisions in the Flag Code to suggest otherwise. It would be a fitting tribute to the memory of the deceased veteran and their service to a grateful nation if their casket flag were displayed.

**Q:** When the flag is not flown from a staff, how should it be displayed?

**A:** It should be displayed vertically, whether indoors or out, and suspended so that its folds fall free as though the flag were staffed. The stripes may be displayed either horizontally or vertically

against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right; that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window of a home or a place of business, the flag should be displayed in the same way; that is, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

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**Q:** Can the flag be washed or dry-cleaned?

**A:** Yes. There are no provisions of the Flag Code which prohibit such care. The decision to wash or dry-clean would be dependent on the material.

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**Q:** May a person, other than a veteran, have their casket draped with the flag of the United States?

**A:** Yes, although this honor is usually reserved for veterans or highly regarded state and national figures, the Flag Code does not prohibit this use.

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**Q:** What is the significance of the gold fringe which we see on some American flags?

**A:** Records indicate that fringe was first used on the flag as early as 1835. It was not until 1895 it was officially added to the National flag for all regiments of the Army. For civilian use, fringe is not required as an integral part of the flag, nor can its use be said to constitute an unauthorized addition to the design prescribed by statute. It is considered that fringe is used as an honorable enrichment only.

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**Q:** What is meant by the flag's own right?

**A:** The "right" as the position of honor developed from the time when the "right hand" was the "weapon hand" or "point of danger." The right hand, raised without a weapon, was a sign of peace. The right hand, to any observer, is the observer's left. Therefore, as used in the Flag Code, the flag and/or blue field is displayed to the left of the observer, which is the flag's "own right."

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**Q:** Is it proper to fly the flag of the United States at night?

**A:** The Flag Code states it is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The American Legion interprets "proper illumination" as a light specifically placed to illuminate the flag (preferred) or having a light source sufficient to illuminate the flag so it is recognizable as such by the casual observer.

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**Q:** What are the penalties for the physical desecration of the flag?

**A:** There are currently no penalties for the physical desecration of the flag. The American Legion and other members of the [Citizens Flag Alliance](#) continue working towards securing a Constitutional amendment to protect the flag from physical desecration.

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