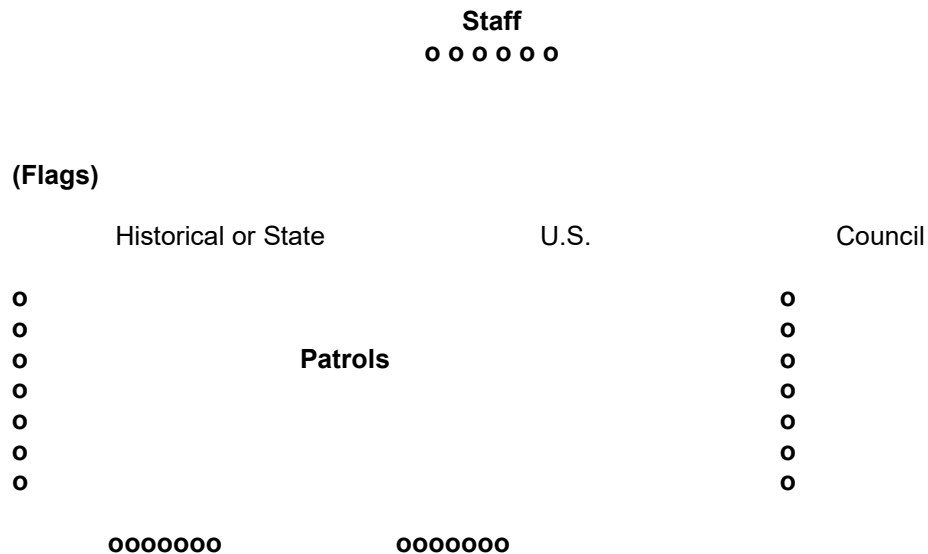


Conference Flag Ceremonies and Songs



Flag-Raising Ceremony

After the senior patrol leader sees the troop formed and receives the patrol reports of those present, he then reports to the Scoutmaster, "The troop is formed, sir." The Scoutmaster replies, "Proceed with the flag ceremony."

The senior patrol leader directs, "Program patrol, raise the colors. Troop at ease."

With the troop at ease, the patrol leader of the program patrol takes charge. He moves his color guard into position by the most direct route, assigning two members per flag. When the color guard has the flags attached and ready for raising, he commands, "Troop, attention. Scout salute!" Then, "Raise the colors."

The U.S. ensign is raised first, briskly followed by the historic American flag and the council flag. As soon as all three flags are at the peak of the flagpoles, he commands, "Two." Then, he or a member of his patrol reads the story of the historic flag and then leads in the singing of an appropriate song.

The patrol leader then moves his color guard back to the position they came from and salutes the senior patrol leader. The senior patrol leader returns the salute and resumes control of the troop.

State Flag Ceremony -- Day 1

At the opening ceremonies on Day One, a staff member may call attention to the fact that your state flag is being flown. Give a brief history of the flag or its symbolism.

Queen Anne Flag Ceremony -- Day 2

Many flags have waved over what is now the United States. Early explorers raised their own nations' flags: the Raven banner of the Norsemen; the flags of Spain, France, Holland, Sweden, and England. From 1707 to the Revolution, the familiar flag was the Queen Anne Flag -- red with a union combining the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew.

Grand Union Flag Ceremony -- Day 3

When the Revolutionary War broke out, the colonists felt the need for a new flag. And so, on the first day of January 1776, the Grand Union Flag was raised over George Washington's headquarters in Massachusetts. The union was the same as that of the Queen Anne Flag, but six white stripes broke the red field into seven red stripes.

Betsy Ross Flag Ceremony -- Day 4

When the Declaration of Independence, the new nation required a flag of its own. On June 14, 1777, the U.S. Congress, at Philadelphia, passed this resolution: "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." June 14 is the birthday of our flag. We celebrate the date annually as Flag Day.

Star-Spangled Banner Flag Ceremony -- Day 5

When two more states joined the original 13, stars and stripes in the flag were increased from 13 to 15 on May 1, 1795. It was this flag of 15 stripes that flew over Fort McHenry the memorable night of its bombardment in 1814 and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the verses of our national anthem.

Flag of the U.S.A. Ceremony -- Day 7

When still more state joined the United States, it was found that the flag would get to be an awkward shape if more and more stripes were added. Therefore, on April 4, 1818, Congress passed a law that restored the design of the flag to the original 13 stripes and provided that a star should be added to the union for each new state.

Today the fifty-star flag stands for the past, the present, and the future of our country. It stands for the men and women who have built America, for their toil, sweat, and blood. Its stripes tell of the 250 million free people of 50 states working and fighting to keep that liberty for themselves and for generations to come.

A question has been raised as to the size of the flag. There is no standard size U.S. flag. The main criterion is that the flag's width be two-thirds of its length.

A flag is a symbol, of course, and as such it should represent the quantities and the qualities for which it stands. Consequently, it can be large or small. It should be large enough to command

respect and allegiance. But it should not be so big that it can serve as a ready shield for scoundrels, the intemperate, or the ignoble.

It must not be so small that it is easily forgotten in times or places where liberty is a dim and distant thing. It must be large enough to win a place dear to the hearts of its sons and daughters. But it should not be so big that its sight strikes terror and fear where it is shown.

It should be large enough to cover all its people, not just a few. It should not be so small that it is easily waved in moments of wild, careless enthusiasm for causes that in a more sober, reflective moment would be rejected as unworthy.

It matters little if a flag's history is long or short, its colors bright or pale, its design simple or complex. What matters is that where the banner waves, those who live it dwell in peace, in liberty, and in justice.

Songs for Flag Ceremonies

Queen Anne Flag

America

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From ev'ry mountainside
Let freedom ring.
Our fathers' God, to thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bring
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our Kind.

Grand Union Flag

Yankee Doodle - Part 1

Father and I went down to camp
Along with Captain Good'in,
And there we saw the men and boys
As thick as hasty puddin'.

Yankee Doodle keep it up
Yankee Doodle dandy,
Mind the music and the step,
With the girls be handy.

Betsy Ross Flag

Yankee Doodle - Part 2

And there was a Captain Washington
Upon a slapping stallion,
A-giving orders to his men;
I guess there were a million.

Yankee Doodle keep it up,
Yankee Doodle dandy,
Mind the music and the step,
And with the girls be handy.

Star-Spangled Banner (15 Stars and 15 Stripes)

The Star-Spangled Banner

(The National Anthem)

O 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 watched, were so
gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting
in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was
there!
O say, does the star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the
brave?

Flag of 1818

Columbia, The Gem of the Ocean

O Columbia, the gem of the ocean,
The home of the brave and the free,
The shrine of each patriot's devotion,
A world offers homage to thee.
Thy mandates make heroes assemble
When liberty's form stand in view;
Thy banners make tyranny tremble,
When borne by the red, white and blue!
When borne by the red, white and blue!
When borne by the red, white and blue!
Thy banners make tyranny tremble,
When borne by the red, white and blue!

United States Flag

God Bless America

God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the lights from above.
From the mountains to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America, my home sweet home.
God bless America, my home sweet home.