

RULES FOR RESPECT

BECAUSE of our flag's significance, laws have been enacted to govern its use and ensure its proper respect. Custom has also decreed certain observances. Respect your flag by observing the following rules:

1. The national flag should be raised and lowered by hand. Do not raise the flag while it is furled. Unfurl, then hoist it quickly to the top of the staff or flagpole. The flag is lowered slowly and with dignity.

2. A distinctively American custom is that of folding the national flag into a triangular shape, stars showing, after it has been taken off the staff. The shape is supposed to represent the cocked hat of the American Revolution.

3. When displayed in a chancel or on a platform, the flag should be placed at the speaker's right. When placed on the same level as the audience, it should be on the audience's right.

4. If the flag is to be flown at half-staff, it should be hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. Before lowering the flag, it should be again raised to the peak. Half-staff means hauling down the flag to one half the distance between the top and the bottom of the staff. On Memorial Day, display the flag at half-staff until noon, then hoist it to the top of the staff.

5. When the flag is to be used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the deceased's head and over the left shoulder.

6. When carried in a procession with another flag or flags, the Stars and Stripes should be either on the marching right, or when there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

7. When the flags of two or more nations are displayed, they should be flown from separate staffs at the same height. The flags should be of approximate equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

8. The flag should be dipped to no person or thing, with one exception—on naval vessels. Upon receiving a salute of this type from a vessel registered by a nation formally recognized by the United States, we must return the compliment.

9. When carried, the flag should always be aloft and full, never flat or horizontal. No flag may be flown above the Stars and

Stripes except the United Nations flag at U.N. headquarters and the church pennant (a dark blue cross on a white background) during church services conducted by a naval chaplain at sea.

10. During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in a review, those present in uniform should render the right-hand salute. A man in street clothes should remove his hat with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. A woman should place her right hand over her heart.

11. The flag should be displayed only from sunrise to sunset, or between such hours as may be designated by proper authority.

The above rules were adapted from the script prepared and used by the Explorers of Post 235. For the flag history portion of that presentation, see "Old Glory—Past and Present" on this month's inside front cover.

**Here's a
community service
—and heritage—
project that won this post
an award from
Freedom's Foundation
at Valley Forge.**

Introducing

Explorer Bill Taylor shows Boy Scout brother Jimmy and Cub Scout brother Joey the proper way to salute the flag.



**For every star in its field of blue,
For every stripe of stainless hue,
Ten thousand of the tried and true
Have laid them down and died.**

**From "Flags of America"
By W. H. Waldron**

"... REMIND OUR YOUTH that our American flag stands for freedom, justice, equality; that it represents men like Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt; that it recalls places like Lexington and Concord, Fort McHenry, Gettysburg, Chateau Thierry, and Iwo Jima..."

These were some of the thoughts that raced through the minds of our Explorers when they unanimously voted Know Your Flag as their community service project.

The boys went right to work, selecting a committee and an adult consultant to help them outline the project. They contacted nearby Fort Sam Houston for advice, and that army installation responded by sending literature and military police to the next post meeting to help set up flag-demonstration teams.

Two months later the boys of Post 235 were ready to educate the youth of San Antonio on the development and history of Old Glory and the proper methods of handling and displaying it.

Behind them were weeks of preparation. First there was research to learn about all our flags from pre Betsy Ross banners to the present 50-starred version. Since many old flags were not available, the boys painted large pictures of them on white poster board, then photographed them on 35 mm. color film.

To illustrate good and bad examples of flag display, other Explorers traveled about town taking 35 mm. shots

of flags in various states of display. Then two sets of 20 color slides were assembled, and two projectors were borrowed. Large flags were obtained for use in the live flag-folding demonstrations.

Six teams of four boys each were organized with an Explorer captain in charge of each team. A script was written so each team would be able to make a unified, orderly presentation. Forms were printed upon which to record complete information about requests for each demonstration team. A last-minute check was made of Explorer uniforms—and our teams were ready to go!

Now it was time for newspaper articles telling the public that Post 235 was available to give flag demonstrations. Pamphlets describing the program and listing who should be contacted for arrangements were distributed to civic organizations. Demonstrations were given at Scouters' roundtables as additional promotion.

The response was terrific and the post responded accordingly. Requests for our program came from packs, troops, and other posts; from Girl Scout groups, PTA's, and service clubs. To date the boys have presented more than 50 programs before more than 3,000 people. They also gave one TV performance.

Each team presents the same program—a combination of color slides, narration, and live demonstrations. The slide presentation traces the flag's history and development plus the rules that ensure the proper respect due our Stars and Stripes. The program ends with the boys showing how to fold the flag.

Our Explorers have had a thrilling experience—watching the youth of San Antonio respond enthusiastically to the history of our nation's flag. It's been a truly worthwhile project, one that can easily be duplicated in any community. And what a natural to use during Scouting's special program to Strengthen America's Heritage.

By ELMER R. COLLIER
Advisor, Post 235
San Antonio, Tex.

Old Glory

Al Blankinship snaps publicity shot of Billy Smith. Such promotion helped spread the word the post had a program available to the public.



Post 235 Explorers rehearse slide-presentation portion of their team's flag program.

