

FLAG BURNING CEREMONY

SETTING: SMALL FIRE (OR BAR-B-QUE), SEMI-PRIVATE AREA, DUSK.

CAST: (4) SCOUTS (EAGLE SCOUTS IF POSSIBLE) (SAME HEIGHT)

(1) GUEST PRESENTER (OPTIONAL)

(1) NARRATOR

DRESS: FULL SCOUT UNIFORM-- WHITE COTTON GLOVES FOR THE FOUR SCOUTS. NARRATOR AND GUEST PRESENTER SHOULD BE IN SCOUT UNIFORMS.

SCENE: NARRATOR OFF TO ONE SIDE, OUT OF SIGHT OF AUDIENCE, AND WILL READ THE SCRIPT SLOWLY WITH DIGNITY AND MEANING. SMALL LOG FIRE OR GRILL ALREADY LIGHTED. SIZE OF FIRE IS DETERMINED BY SIZE OF FLAG TO BE BURNED. LARGE BLAZING FIRE IS NOT APPROPRIATE. (SEE ATTACHED CHART FOR ARRANGEMENT OF FIRE AND POSITION OF AUDIENCE).

ON COMMAND OF THE NARRATOR, THE FOUR SCOUTS WILL ENTER HOLDING THE AMERICAN FLAG THAT IS TO BE BURNED BY THE TWO TOP CORNERS (TWO SCOUTS ACT AS ESCORTS) AND SLOWLY WALK TO THE FIRE. THE FLAG IS CARRIED UPRIGHT AS IF IT WERE HANGING ON A WALL. THEY WILL STATION THEMSELVES BEHIND THE FIRE. THE FLAG SHOULD BE SEEN BY THE AUDIENCE WITH THE BLUE STAR FIELD ON THE UPPER LEFT HAND CORNER AS SEEN BY THE AUDIENCE. NOTE: THE TWO SCOUTS WILL HOLD THE FLAG BY THE TOP RIGHT AND LEFT HAND CORNERS AND THE OTHER TWO SCOUTS WILL STAND IN LINE, ONE NEXT TO EACH OF THE FLAG HOLDERS.

UPON COMPLETION OF READING THE SCRIPT, THE FOUR SCOUTS WILL TAKE THE FLAG BY THE CORNERS, HOLDING THE AMERICAN FLAG FLAT, AND WALK ALONG THE SIDE OF THE FIRE (TWO SCOUTS ON EACH SIDE WITH THE FLAG HELD FLAT OVER THE GLOWING EMBERS). ON COMMAND FROM THE NARRATOR, SLOWLY LAY THE FLAG ON THE BURNING EMBERS (THE CENTER OF THE FLAG TOUCHING THE EMBERS FIRST). WHEN THE CENTER OF THE FLAG IS CONSUMED AND BURNING (IT WILL TAKE A MINUTE TO FLAME), SLOWLY LAY EACH CORNER OF THE FLAG IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIRE. ONCE THE FLAG IS READILY BURNING, THE SCOUTS, THEN AS ONE, REMOVE THE LEFT HAND GLOVE AND PLACE THEM ON THE FIRE. THEN AS ONE, REMOVE THE RIGHT HAND GLOVE AND PLACE THEM ON THE FIRE. THEY CONTINUE TO STAND QUIETLY FOR A COUPLE OF MINUTES AS THE FLAG AND GLOVES CONTINUE TO BURN.

TIME: 10 - 12 MINUTES

PRESENTING THE NEW FLAG (OPTIONAL)

THE PRESENTER SLOWLY APPROACHES THE COLOR GUARD AND PRESENTS THE FOLDED FLAG. THE PRESENTER THEN RETURNS SLOWLY TO HIS/HER ORIGINAL POSITION.

THE COLOR GUARD, UPON ORDERS TO RETIRE THE COLORS, UNFOLDS THE NEW FLAG AND DEPARTS (HOLDING THE FLAG EXACTLY AS THE ORIGINAL ENTRANCE).

**WHEN THE COLOR GUARD IS OUT OF THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE CEREMONY,
THE NARRATOR DISMISSES THE AUDIENCE.**

FLAG BURNING CEREMONY SCRIPT

WE AS AMERICANS WISH TO SEE THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY.....

COLOR GUARDS, PRESENT THE COLORS FOR INSPECTION.

WITH FOLDS OF WHITE AND SCARLET, A FIELD OF ROYAL BLUE STANDS: ALL SANCTIFIED AND STARLIT, GUARDING OUR GREAT LANDS. WE LOVE THEE -- WE ADORE THEE, THE SYMBOL OF OUR GREAT NATION: LAND WHERE LIBERTY WAS BORN, COMMANDS RESPECT OF ALL CREATION, MAY YOUR VIRTUES LIVE FOREVER, AND OUR HOPES OF PEACE ABIDE, MAY JUSTICE AND RIGHT PREVAIL, AS WE GAZE ON THEE WITH PRIDE.

AS WE LOOK BEFORE US, WE SEE A CANVAS. A CANVAS BEGUN LONG AGO, BUT STILL NOT FINISHED. IT IS A PICTURE OF OUR PAST, AND THERE IS SOMETHING OF JOHN PAUL JONES, DAVY CROCKETT, WASHINGTON, AND JEFFERSON IN IT. LEE AND GRANT ARE THERE ALONG WITH ABE LINCOLN. THERE ARE THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES AT GETTYSBURG, FLANDERS, SALERNO, PEARL HARBOR, IWO JIMA, KOREA, VIETNAM, LEBANON, AND GRANADA. AND WHEN WE LOOK AT THE PICTURE, WE WILL SEE THEM AS CLEARLY AS IF THEY WERE IN FRONT OF US NOW.

IT IS A PICTURE OF OUR LAND. WE SEE THE RICH BLESSINGS OF OIL AND WHEAT, TIMBER AND GRANITE. IT IS A PICTURE OF OUR WORKS, AND WE SEE GREAT CITIES AND THROBBING INDUSTRIES, BUSY SEAPORTS, AND MILLIONS OF FARMS.

IT IS A PICTURE OF OUR PEOPLE---250 MILLION OF THEM. THEY ARE PART OF THE PICTURE THAT WE ARE HELPING TO PAINT. TO THIS PICTURE WE WOULD ADD THE PORTRAITS OF YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS, NOW BECOMING MEN AND WOMEN, WHO WILL ADD LIVES OF SUBSTANCE AND WHO WILL ADD TO THAT HISTORY OF NOBLE ACTIONS, THAT WHICH IS OUR HERITAGE.

FELLOW SCOUTS AND GUESTS--THE PICTURE OF OUR COUNTRY IS THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY. PLEASE JOIN US AS WE PLEDGE OUR ALLEGIANCE TO OUR HERITAGE.

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION, UNDER GOD, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

PLEASE BE SEATED (OPTIONAL)

WE SOMETIMES SAY "OLD GLORY", OR "SHE'S A GRAND OLD RAG", SHE'S JUST A PIECE OF CLOTH, BUT SHE'S OUR COUNTRY'S FLAG. SHE HAS FLOWN FROM THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN, AND FROM THE CAPITOL DOME, FROM ATOP A POLE IN A SCHOOL YARD, OR THE WINDOW OF A HOME. AS SHE MARCHES DOWN THE STREET, YOU THRILL WITHIN YOUR BREAST, OR SHE MAY COVER THE CASKET OF A SOLDIER LAID TO REST.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS BANNER OF PEACE AND FREEDOM BEFORE YOU IS TORN, TATTERED, AND SOILED FROM USE. HER LOVE IS NO LONGER AFIRE, BUT IS NOW FADED. THE WHITE FROM THE PUREST SNOW IS NOW TINGED FROM AGE. THE BLUE FROM CRYSTAL CLEAR WATERS IS NOW SOILED FROM THE ELEMENTS. SHE HAS FLOWN PROUDLY TO STAND AND REPRESENT US THROUGH TIMES BOTH GOOD AND BAD.

IT IS PRESCRIBED THAT A FLAG, TO BE RETIRED FROM SERVICE, BE BURNED BY FIRE, TO RETURN TO ASHES, TO BE RETURNED TO THE DUST FROM WHICH SHE WAS MADE, AND THAT A NEW FLAG FLY, TO ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATE THE STRENGTH OF OUR GREAT NATION. THIS IS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED IN A SIMPLE, DIGNIFIED MANNER, IN A PRIVATE GROUP RATHER THAN A PUBLIC DISPLAY.

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE.....FREEDOM ISN'T FREE.....YOU'VE GOT TO PAY THE PRICE FOR YOUR LIBERTY. FREEDOM IS A WORD OFTEN HEARD TODAY, BUT IF YOU WANT TO KEEP IT, THERE IS A PRICE TO PAY. EACH GENERATION'S GOT TO WIN IT ANEW, 'CUZ, IT'S NOT SOMETHING HANDED DOWN TO YOU.

COLOR GUARD -- RAISE THE FLAG OVER THE FIRE (PAUSE)

WHENEVER SHE FLOATS ON HIGH, A SYMBOL OF THE BRAVE, RECALL, SHE STANDS FOR FREEDOM.....LONG MAY SHE WAVE!!!

MAY WE HAVE COMPLETE SILENCE.....

COLOR GUARD, LOWER THE FLAG ON THE FIRE, AND BURN IT COMPLETELY. (guard burns flag and gloves according to instructions)

COLOR GUARD, POST IN FORMATION IN FRONT OF THE FIRE.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE CLEARLY STATES,....."WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS, THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS....."

COLOR GUARD.....RETIRE!! (if no new flag is to be presented)

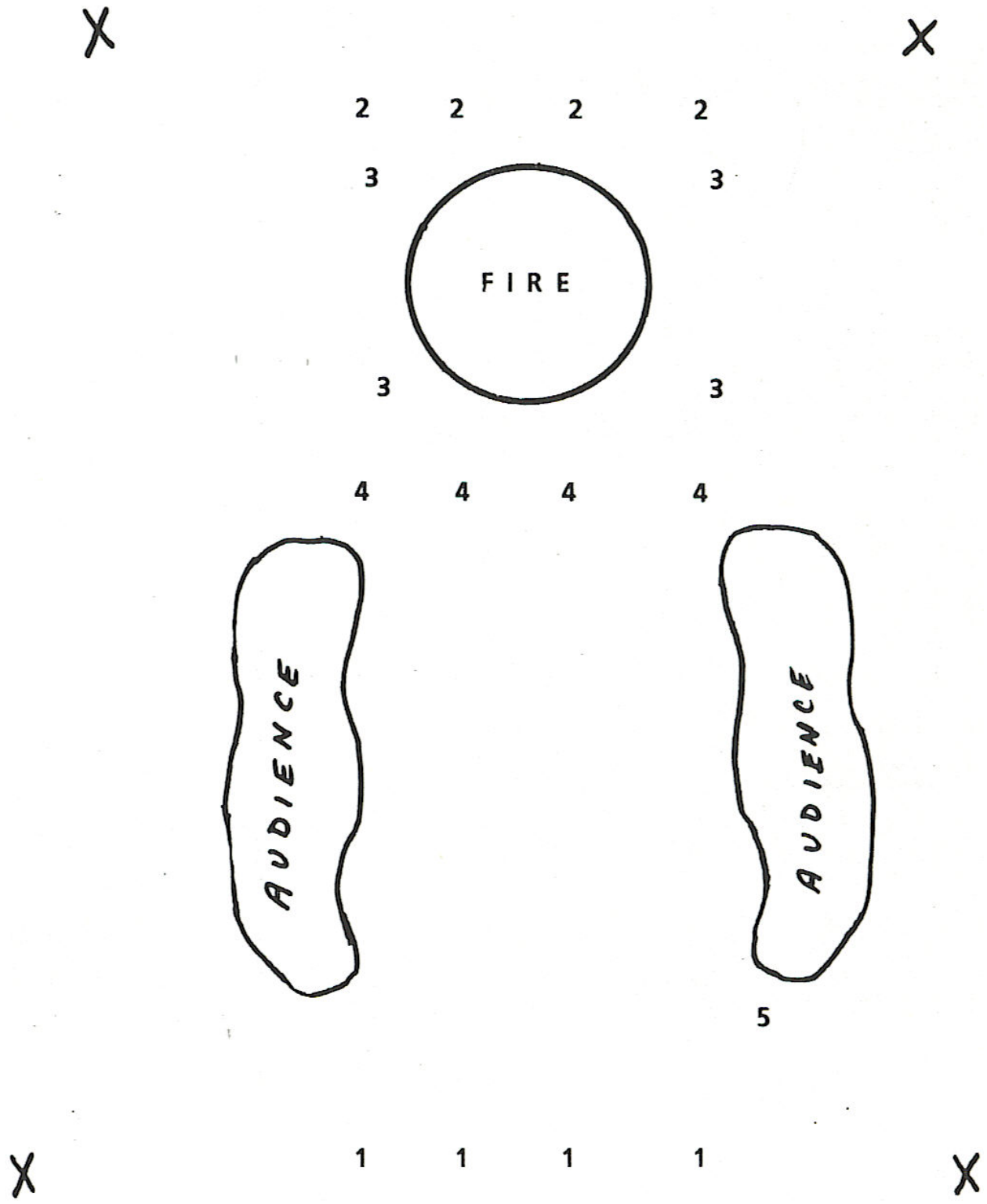
(OPTIONAL -- IF NEW FLAG IS TO BE PRESENTED)

WE PROUDLY PRESENT A NEW FLAG TO ONCE AGAIN SIGNIFY OUR COUNTRY AND THOSE FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS THAT IT STOOD FOR 200 YEARS AGO. MAY SHE ALWAYS WAVE FOR PEACE TO ALL WHO COME UNTO HER.

**_____ WILL PRESENT THE NEW FLAG TO
THE COLOR GUARD.**

COLOR GUARD, RETIRE THE COLORS.....(PAUSE)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE LEAVE IN SILENCE.



- 1 - Color guard begins. Moves to position 2 (four abreast, displaying flag).
- 2 - Color guard in position facing audience, displaying flag.
- 3 - Color guard burns flag & gloves.
- 4 - Color guard receives new colors or retires to position 1 or retires new colors to position 1.
- 5 - Presenter for new flag--moves to position 4 and returns to position 5.
- X - Various positions for narrator. (your option).