

Roundtable Hot Topic

Flag Etiquette



The United States flag was adopted on June 14, 1777. Inspired by decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day was officially established by a Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson. On August 3rd, 1949, President Harry Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 of each year as National Flag Day.

In 1958, a 17 year old Boy Scout named Bob Heft designed the current U.S. flag as part of a school project. Heft received a B- from his teacher, but President Eisenhower liked the design so much he chose it as the official flag two years later.

Here are some tips on flag care and use. If units have questions about the flag or flag ceremonies, they can visit the American Flag page at <https://www.usa.gov/flag>, or contact their local vexillology association at <https://fiav.org/> or <https://nava.org/>

- 1. Flag ceremonies should be respectful and tailored to the Scouts participating.**
- 2. Don't ever let the flag touch anything beneath it.**
- 3. Never add anything to an American flag.**
- 4. The flag isn't to be worn as a costume.**
- 5. The flag occupies a position of honor.**
- 6. When it's time to retire a flag, do so in a dignified way. Do not cut the flag apart.**
- 7. When carrying or presenting the US Flag in a parade or flag ceremony... DO NOT DIP the US flag. It is to remain perpendicular to the ground.**
- 8. The flag should be lowered daily.**
- 9. Fold the American flag properly.**
- 10. A folded flag is carried against the chest.**

To view different versions of the U.S. flag throughout history and learn more about the American flag click here: <https://www.chamberofcommerce.org/usflag/history/historicflags.html>

To view the article about flag etiquette on Aaron on Scouting click here: <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/09/24/10-things-know-flag-etiquette/>