



# FLAGS FOR FIRST GRADERS PROGRAM (Flag Folding)



## INTRODUCTION

*“The Forty & Eight’s Flags for First Graders program is found to be popular among Voyageurs who conduct flag education programs in elementary schools. The program is responsible for educating thousands of American youth in the flag history, respect and protocol”.* Nationale Website

Thanks to several Voyageurs willingness to share their programs, the internet and trial and error this script was developed. It can be modified to fit your needs and style. Take on the challenge, you and your Voyageurs and Cabane members won't be disappointed.

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

This script is best conducted with 3-5 people, preferably Voyageurs and Cabane members. Materials consist of small flags (4"x6") mounted on a stick to give to each child, and a large flag (5'x8') "casket size" used for the folding portion of the script. **(See Attachment 1)** Use the schools mounted stage flag to point out the details of the flag. Optional is the letter to the parents provided as an attachment. **(See Attachment 2)**

Contact the schools in your area and set up a date. Discuss the program with them so that they know what to expect.

To make the program a success you need to assign positions/parts and practice with everyone. Be on time the school administration has time restraints and they are making concessions for this program. The entire presentation should take no more than 20 minutes from start to finish. If you allow the students to participate they will get more out of the program and you and your team will enjoy this experience much more.

Remember! After you complete you program make sure you send Grand the Flags for First Graders Annual Reports.

Merci,  
Thomas R. Smith, Nationale Directeur Americanism

**Revised January 7, 2014**

## **FLAGS FOR FIRST GRADERS**

GOOD MORNING OR AFTERNOON BOYS AND GIRLS. WE WANT TO THANK YOUR TEACHERS AND PRINCIPLE, FOR ALLOWING US TO BE HERE TODAY TO SPEAK WITH YOU ABOUT THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WE WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES, TELL YOU ABOUT VETERANS AND ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION.

A VETERAN IS SOMEONE WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE 40 & 8, THE ORGANIZATION WHICH SPONSORS THE FLAGS FOR FIRST GRADERS PROGRAM. WE ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF VARIOUS VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS.

I AM \_\_\_\_\_, A VETERAN AND I HAVE SERVED IN THE *(STATE YOUR MILITARY BRANCH OF SERVICE)* MY FRIENDS WILL NOW INTRODUCE THEMSEVES.

I WOULD LIKE SOME OF YOU TO PARTICIPATE, SO NOW AND THEN I WILL ASK A QUESTION AND PICK SOMEONE TO PROVIDE THE ANSWER.

WE WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES. Have one or two team members hold out the flag. *(Use the Flag that is mounted and belongs to the School)*

OUR FLAG HAS A FEW NAMES. WHO CAN TELL ME SOME OF THESE NAMES?

ANSWER: "The Stars and Stripes" "Old Glory" "The Star Spangled Banner"

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE OFFICAL SONG THAT WE SING TO OUR FLAG?

ANSWER: "The Star Spangled Banner"

THIS IS ALSO KNOWN AS?

ANSWER: “The National Anthem”

WHO WROTE THE WORDS?

ANSWER: “Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812”

WHEN WE SING THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

ANSWER: “First of all, we should stand up. People in uniform salute the flag and those not in uniforms should remove their hats and place their right hand over their heart like this. We should do the very same thing at a parade when the flag passes before us.”

**NOW TAKE A LOOK AT OUR FLAG!** (*Open the 5’x8’ flag*) **“The Flag of the United States of America”**

TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT OUR FLAG. HOW MANY STARS ARE THERE?

ANSWER: “50”

WHAT DO THEY STAND FOR?

ANSWER: “One for each state that makes up our nation”

HOW MANY STRIPES ON THE FLAG?

ANSWER: “7 Red” “6 White” “13 in all”

WHAT DOES THE NUMBER 13 STAND FOR?

ANSWER: The 13 original colonies and eventually states

HOW MANY STARS AND STRIPES WERE ON THE FIRST UNITED STATES FLAG?

ANSWER: “13 and 13”

HAVE WE ALWAYS HAD 13 STRIPES ON OUR FLAG?

ANSWER: “In 1795 there were 15 stripes on the flag. The states of Vermont and Kentucky were added to the stripes. In 1818 they changed it back to 13 after 5 more states were added to the Union. They decided to add stars instead of stripes”

HOW OLD IS THE UNITED STATES FLAG?

ANSWER: “The first flag was made in 1776”

HISTORY TELLS US THAT A LADY SEWED THE FIRST AMERICAN FLAG. WHO WAS IT?

ANSWER: “Betsey Ross”

NOW, LET ME TELL YOU SOME THINGS THAT WE SHOULD DO WITH OUR FLAG?

1. NEVER HAVE ANOTHER COUNTRY’S FLAG FLY OVER OUR FLAG WHEN THEY ARE DISPLAYED TOGETHER
2. NEVER FLY THE FLAG UPSIDE DOWN. THIS IS CONSIDERED A DISTRESS SIGNAL, AN “SOS” OR A SIGN OF EXTREME DANGER
3. NEVER ALLOW OUR FLAG TO TOUCH THE GROUND, OR WATER IF IT IS BEING FLOWN ON A BOAT
4. NEVER DISPOSE OF OUR FLAG BY THROWING IT IN THE TRASH. THE PROPER WAY TO RETIRE A FLAG IS TO SOLEMNLY BURN IT. NOW YOU SHOULD NEVER DO THIS, REMEMBER NEVER PLAY WITH FIRE. THE WORN OUT FLAGS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO A VETERANS POST AND WE WILL DISPOSE OF THEM PROPERLY
5. ALWAYS SHOW OUR FLAG PROPER RESPECT WHEN FLYING IT, STORING IT OR WHEN THE TIME COMES PROPERLY DISPOSING OF IT

WE HAVE SMALL FLAGS FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU AND A LETTER FOR YOUR PARENTS. YOUR TEACHERS WILL GIVE THEM TO YOU TODAY BEFORE YOU GO HOME. NOW I WANT YOU ALL TO BE CAREFUL WITH THE STICK THEY ARE MOUNTED ON. DO NOT POKE THE STICK AT ANYONE OR YOURSELF. THEY CAN SEVERELY INJURE YOU.

NOW I WOULD LIKE EVERYONE TO STAND AND JOIN ME IN RECITING THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

BEFORE WE CLOSE WE ARE GOING TO CEREMONIALLY FOLD THIS LARGE (5'x8') FLAG AND I WILL TELL YOU WHAT EACH FOLD MEANS. SO WE HAVE TO BE QUIET NOW SO EVERYONE CAN HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO TELL YOU. (See Attachment #1 for folding instructions)

Read the folding script while the Flag is being folded

Note! Practice the timing

*(Make sure the Triangle fold is complete before the next part is read)*

**THE FIRST FOLD:** THE 13 STRIPES REPRESENT THE ORIGINAL 13 STATES: DELAWARE, PENNSYLVANIA, NEW JERSEY, GEORGIA, CONNECTICUT, MASSACHUSETTS, MARYLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, VIRGINIA, NEW YORK, NORTH CAROLINA AND RHODE ISLAND

**THE SECOND FOLD:** THE 50 STARS REPRESENT OUR 50 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**THE THIRD FOLD:** "I KNOW NOT WHAT COURSE OTHERS MAY TAKE; BUT AS FOR ME, GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH". **PATRICK HENRY**

**THE FOURTH FOLD:** “THESE ARE THE TIMES THAT TRY MEN’S SOULS. THE SUMMER SOLDIER AND THE SUNSHINE PATRIOT WILL, IN THIS CRISIS, SHRINK FROM THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY; BUT HE THAT STANDS IT NOW, DESERVES THE LOVE AND THANKS OF MAN AND WOMAN”. **THOMAS PAINE**

**THE FIFTH FOLD:** WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL. THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS. AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS”. **THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

**THE SIXTH FOLD:** “WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION, ESTABLISH JUSTICE, INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY, PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE, PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE, AND SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY, DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA”. **THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION**

**THE SEVENTH FOLD:** “CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF; OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS, OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES”. **THE FIRST AMENDMENT**

**THE EIGHT FOLD:** “THE BASIS OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM IS THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO MAKE AND TO ALTER THEIR CONSTITUTIONS OF

GOVERNMENT. **“PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON**

**THE NINTH FOLD:** “MY GOD! HOW LITTLE DO MY COUNTRYMEN KNOW WHAT PRECIOUS BLESSINGS THEY ARE IN POSSESSION OF AND WHICH NO OTHER PEOPLE ON EARTH ENJOY!” **PRESIDENT THOMAS JEFFERSON**

**THE TENTH FOLD:** “FOURSCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO OUR FATHERS BROUGHT FORTH ON THIS CONTINENT A NEW NATION, CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY AND DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL”. **PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

**THE ELEVENTH FOLD:** “GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR, YOUR HUDDLED MASSES YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE, THE WRETCHED REFUSE OF YOUR TEEMING SHORE, SEND THESE, THE HOMELESS, TEMPEST-TOSSED TO ME, I LIFT MY LAMP BESIDE THE GOLDEN DOOR”.

**THE INSCRIPTION ON THE STATUE OF LIBERTY**

**THE TWELFTH FOLD:** “ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY”. **PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY**

**THE THIRTEENTH FOLD:** “I HAVE A DREAM THAT MY FOUR LITTLE CHILDREN WILL ONE DAY LIVE IN A NATION WHERE THEY WILL NOT BE JUDGED BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN, BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER”. **DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR**

AFTER THE FLAG IS COMPLETELY FOLDED AND TUCKED IN, IT TAKES ON THE APPEARANCE OF A COCKED HAT EVER REMINDING US OF THE



SOLDIERS WHO SERVED UNDER GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON, AND THE SAILORS AND MARINES WHO SERVED UNDER CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES, AND THEY WERE FOLLOWED BY THEIR COMRADES AND SHIPMATES IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, HAVE PRESERVED FOR US THE FIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND FREEDOMS WHICH WE ARE ENJOYING TODAY.

THIS IS THE END OF OUR PROGRAM.

**OPTIONAL: I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT PARADE WITH THE FLAG YOU ARE RECEIVING TODAY AND WAIVE IT WHEN YOU SEE US THE 40&8 MARCHING BY.**

## Attachment #1

### Flag Folding

As an military custom, the flag is lowered daily at the last note of retreat. Special care should be taken that no part of the flag touches the ground. The Flag is then carefully folded into the shape of a tri-cornered hat, emblematic of the hats worn by colonial soldiers during the war for Independence. In the folding, the red and white stripes are finally wrapped into the blue, as the light of day vanishes into the darkness of night.

This custom of special folding is reserved for the United States Flag alone.

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### How to fold the Flag

#### Step 1

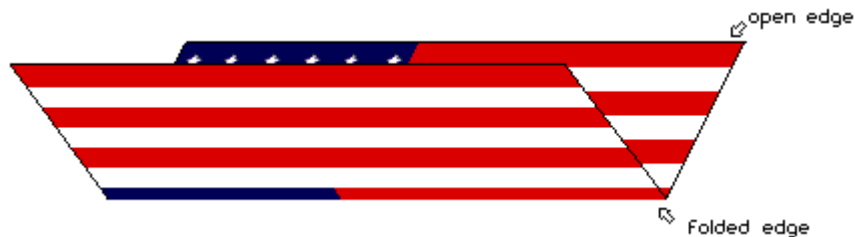


To properly fold the Flag, begin by holding it waist-high with another person so that its surface is parallel to the ground.

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#### Step 2



Fold the lower half of the stripe section lengthwise **over** the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely.

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#### Step 3



Fold the flag **again** lengthwise with the blue field on the **outside**.



**Step 4**



Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open (top) edge of the flag.



**Step 5**



Turn the outer (end) point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle.



**Step 6**



The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.



**Step 7**



When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible.

## Attachment 2

Dear Parent,

The 40 & 8 has presented your child with an American Flag, in keeping with our National Program. The purpose of this program is to ensure that all youth will have their own American Flag. May they learn to love it, honor it, and protect it as so many millions of Americans before them.

**Displaying the Flag:** When the **Flag** of the United States is on display. The **Flag** is accorded the place of Honor, always positioned at its own right. It should be placed to the right of the speaker, singing area or sanctuary. Other flags should be to the left. The **Flag** should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states, localities, or societies are grouped for display.

**When** flown with flags of states, communities, or societies on separate flag poles which are of the same height, and in a straight line, the **Flag** is always placed in the position of honor – to its own right.

**The Flag** is always the first to be raised and the last to be lowered. The **Flag** should be raised briskly and lowered ceremoniously. Ordinarily, it should be displayed only between sunrise and sunset and should be illuminated if displayed at night.

**When** flown with the national banner of other countries, each flag must be displayed from a separate pole of the same height. Each flag should be the same size. They should be raised and lowered simultaneously. The flag of one nation may not be displayed above that of another country.

**When** the National Anthem is played or sung, citizens should stand at attention and salute at the first note and hold the salute through the last note. The salute is directed toward the **Flag**, if displayed, otherwise to the music. Those in uniform should use the hand salute; civilians should place the right hand over their heart.

**To** place the **Flag** at half-staff. Hoist it to the peak for an instant and then lower it to a position halfway between the top and the bottom of the staff. The **Flag** is to be raised again to the peak before it is lowered. On Memorial Day, the **Flag** is displayed at half-staff until noon and to full staff from noon to sunset.

**When** the **Flag** is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the **Flag**, it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously. First, fold it length wise in half, then repeat with the blue field on the outside. Finally, while one person holds the blue field, another makes a triangular fold in the opposite end and continues to fold it in triangles until the **Flag** resembles a cocked hat with only the blue showing.

**When** the **Flag** is no longer fit to serve as the symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner. Specific instructions on how the Flag is not to be displayed is contained in the U.S. Flag Code (Public Law 829-77). **NOTE** They can be dropped off at most Veterans Organizations Posts