

Google: "girl scout flag ceremony guidelines"

<http://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/traditions/ceremonies.html> (excerpt)

## Flag Ceremony

A flag ceremony honors the American flag as the symbol of our country and all the hopes, dreams, and people it represents and demonstrates respect for the flag.

## Flag Ceremony Guidelines

Keep it simple. Emphasis needs to be on respect for the flag rather than on the commands or techniques. Adults can ask girls these questions when planning:

- Who will carry the flag?
- Who will the color guards be?
- Who will give the directions for the ceremony?
- After the Pledge of Allegiance, will the Girl Scout Promise and Law be said?
- What order will the ceremony follow?

## Terms Used in a Flag Ceremony

The **color bearer** (or flag bearer) is the person who carries the flag. There is one color bearer for each flag used in the ceremony.

The **color guard** is a team that guards the flags. Any even number of guards may be used, but usually four or six girls are sufficient.

The **Girl Scout in charge** (or caller) is a designated Girl Scout who announces or calls each part of the ceremony.

## Possible Commands for a Flag Ceremony

**"Girl Scouts, attention."** Used to announce that the flag ceremony is to begin.

**"Color guard, advance."** Signals the color guard to advance with the flags or advance to pick up the flags.

**"Color guard, post the colors."** Directs the color guard to place the flag in flag standards or to attach the grommets to a flag pole rope.

**"Color guard, honor your flag."** Signals the color guard to salute the American flag.

**"Please join us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance."** Followed by an appropriate song, quotation, or poem, if so desired.

**"Color guard, retire the colors."** Prompts the color guard to remove the flag from standards or to lower the flag, detach it from the rope, and fold it prior to being dismissed.

**"Color guard, dismissed."** Prompts the color guard to leave in formation, with or without the flag.

**"Girl Scouts, dismissed."** Indicates girls may leave in formation or be at ease where they have been standing.