



## Flag Ceremony Information

A Girl Scout Silver and Bronze Award Project  
presented by Sam and Jordan Diem of Troop 7192  
(based on information from Girl Scouts USA)



### Flag Ceremony

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

At SCVi, Flag Ceremonies are held for:

- Patriots Day - 9/11 Remembrance
- Veterans Day
- Presidents Day

- Memorial Day
- Other special events

The American flag is carried by a Color Guard for protection during a flag ceremony. All flag ceremonies share one thing—respect for the flag.

The **Color Guard Leader** at your iLEAD campus will be in charge of:

- Putting together the Color Guard
- Training the Color Guard
- Guiding the Color Guard through ceremonies
- Others at school will be planning the National Anthem singer and other presenters

### Terms Used in a Flag Ceremony

The **Flag Bearers** (or color bearers) are the people who carry the flags. At SCVi there are three flags, the American Flag, the California State Flag, and the School Flag. Other campuses may only have an American Flag. There is one Flag Bearer for each flag used in the ceremony.

The **Flag Guards** are the people who guard or protect the flags. At iLEAD Flag Ceremonies, the American Flag will have two or four Flag Guards. Any other flags present will have two Flag Guards each.

The **Caller** is a designated Color Guard Member who announces or calls each part of the ceremony. This may be the Color Guard Leader, or the Color Guard Leader may assign another Color Guard Member to fill this role.

### Commands used in an iLEAD Flag Ceremony

*"Color Guard, attention."* - Used to announce that the Flag Ceremony is to begin.

*"Color Guard, advance."* - Signals the Color Guard to advance with the flag(s).

*"Color Guard, present the colors."* - Directs the Color Guard to open the flag(s) to present to the audience.

*"Color Guard, post the colors."* - Directs the Color Guard to attach the flag grommets to the flag pole ropes.

*"Color Guard, salute the flag."* - Signals the Color Guard to salute the American flag.

*"Color Guard, retire the colors."* - Used if the flag is being taken down.

*"Color Guard, dismissed."* - Prompts the Color Guard to leave in formation.

## **Handling the Flag of the United States of America**

Display of the American flag is governed by law to ensure that it will be treated with the respect due the flag of a great nation. This is known as the "United States Flag Code". Some of the most useful rules for iLEAD Color Guard are:

- The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags are displayed.
- The American flag is always kept higher than other flags.
  - o When the flags are raised on poles the American flag is always raised up a pole first.
  - o When the flags are carried on poles to be posted in stands, the American flag is placed in its stand after the other flags.
  - o When flags are lowered from poles to be retired, the American flag comes down last.
  - o When flags are taken from stands to be retired, the American flag is taken out of its stand first so it remains the highest flag at all times.
- The American flag, when carried in a procession with other flags, should be in front of the marching line. If flags are marched in a row, the American flag is at the marching right or in front of the marching row.
- The American flag is not displayed backwards or upside down. (An upside down hung American flag is a distress signal that indicates an extreme emergency.)
- When displayed after dark, the flag should be illuminated.
- The flag is to be hoisted briskly and lowered slowly, with dignity.
- The flag should never be allowed to touch anything beneath it, nor should it ever be carried flat or horizontally—always aloft and free.
- Never use the American flag as a cover or place anything on top of it.
- No disrespect of any kind should be shown to the flag of the United States. It should be kept clean and free of damage.