

Ceremony for Retiring a Worn Flag

This is a solemn ceremony and should be done with utmost respect for the retiring of the flag of our country.

Items needed: Flag to be retired, sharp scissors, flashlight, fire to burn the flag.

People needed: The Color guard - - four girls, one for each corner of the flag. One or two girls will cut the flag; one or two girls will lay flag pieces on the fire.

GIRL SCOUT IN CHARGE: "Color guard, advance." (may carry flag folded or open on a pole).
"Please stand. Our Pledge of Allegiance."

An appropriate reading or poem.
Song - optional

GIRL SCOUT IN CHARGE: "When the flag of our country has become worn or damaged, the proper way to dispose of it is through burning or burial. We are here tonight to pay our last respects to this particular flag with love and reverence. Each stripe stands for one of the thirteen colonies, and each state is represented by a star on a field of blue."

When reader finishes, the cutter starts cutting the first stripe. When it is entirely cut, she lays it over the arm of another color guard member to lay on the fire.

As each stripe is laid on the fire, the Girl Scout-in-Charge calls out the name of the thirteen original colonies in the order in which the states were admitted to the Union. The first stripe stands for Delaware, then Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island.

The field of blue with white stars, which stands for all the states, is burned last. It should be laid on the fire with two girls holding the corners, not tossed onto the fire.

Closing: A song such as "God Bless America"

The girls are excused in silence while taps is played or hummed by the group.