

In 1942 the Pledge of Allegiance was authorized by Congress codified as follows:

**"I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America
and to the Republic for which it stands,
one Nation indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all."**

In 1943 the Supreme Court ruled that school children could not be forced to recite it.

In 1954 an amendment was adopted to add the words "under God" at the urging of the Knights of Columbus (a Catholic organization) and in response to the "Red Scare" (anti-Communism) spearheaded by Senator Joseph McCarthy. The following year, "In God We Trust" was required on all United States coin and currency.*

The original Pledge of Allegiance was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister, worded as follows: "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands: one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Bellamy died in 1931. His granddaughter said he would have resented the addition of "under God." He had been pressured into leaving his church in 1891 because of his "socialist" sermons. Later he stopped attending church altogether because he disliked the bigotry he found there.

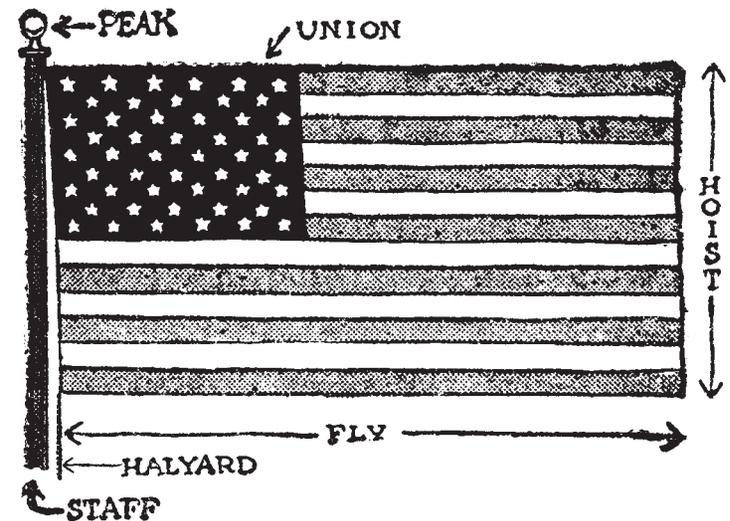
SOURCE: *The Pledge of Allegiance, A Centennial History 1892-1992* by John Baer, 1992

* The motto "IN GOD WE TRUST" was first used on the 1864 two-cent coin. It was not found on U.S. paper currency until 1957 when it was added to new \$1 bills. The \$5, \$10, and \$20 bills were not printed with those words until 1964.



What To Do with Worn-Out Flags

AND OTHER FLAG FACTS



FLAG SPECIFICATIONS:

- Hoist (width) of Flag—1
- Fly (length)—1.9
- Hoist (width) of Union—7/13
- Fly (length) of Union—0.76
- Width of each stripe—1/13 of hoist
- Diameter of Star—.0616

“The Flag of the United States of America” is the official name of The Flag, and it should always be spoken or written of in this way.

The National Flag represents the living country and is itself considered as a living thing. As you look at the “living” Flag its right is your own left. This becomes clear when you remember that The Flag is not mere material, but a living symbol, without front or back, but all Flag through and through—with its own right and left.

It is the universal custom to display The Flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open. However, The Flag may be displayed at night upon special occasions when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect.

When The Flag is passing on parade or review, the spectators, if walking, should halt, or if sitting should rise and stand with their hats placed over the heart until The Flag has passed. Women should salute by placing the right hand over the heart.

When passing The Flag the Scout comes to salute six paces before reaching The Flag and holds it until six paces past. The Scout actually handling The Flag does not salute because his hands are occupied with The Flag.

When The Flag is displayed on a motor car, one Flag only, the staff should be affixed firmly to the chassis, on the right hand side.

The Postal Department does not object to the use of envelopes bearing pictures of The Flag if placed on the back so that cancellation of the stamp will not desecrate The Flag.

Do not permit disrespect to be shown to The Flag of the United States of America.

Do not dip The Flag of the United States of America to any person or any thing.

Do not display The Flag with the union down except as a signal of distress.

Do not fasten The Flag in such manner as will permit it to be easily torn.

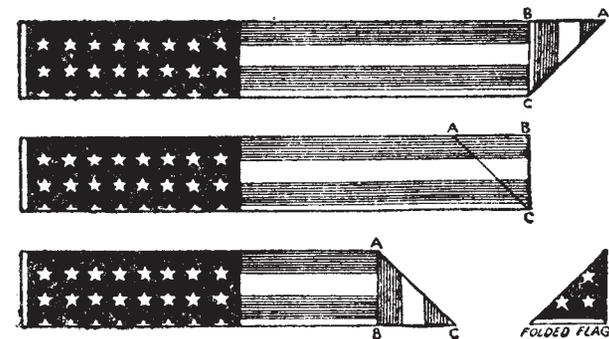
Do not carry The Flag flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

The Flag should always be hoisted briskly, and lowered slowly.

When The Flag is lowered, exercise the greatest care that no part of it shall touch the ground nor anything beneath it. It is carefully folded into the shape of a cocked hat.

Old or worn-out Flags should not be used either for banners or for any secondary purpose. When a Flag is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should not be cast aside nor used in any way that might be viewed as disrespectful to the National Colors, but should be destroyed as a whole, privately, preferably by burning or some other method lacking in any suggestion of irreverence or disrespect due the emblem representing our country.

SOURCE: *Boy Scout Handbook*, 1943



Steps in Folding The Flag