



**Core Value:
Respect**

Stars and Stripes

Pack Committee

Why Stars and Stripes for the Core Value Respect. Respect is showing regard for the worth of something or someone. The flag of our country is more than a something. The flag is a symbol of our living country and itself is considered a living thing. When you show respect for the flag, you are showing respect for all it represents.

BEFORE THE MEETING

Ensure you have the supplies for the meeting, including the flags, flag stands, a small blanket, a separate 3x5 United States flag (not the same as the one on the pole to be carried in during the flag ceremony), awards to be presented, the gathering activity materials and pencils, and prepared index cards for the closing.

Prepare to have a 3x5 flag displayed vertically on the wall. If a wall is not available, utilize a board on an easel with hooks to place the grommets on. The flag will be attached after the audience participation. Try to make it so the flag is displayed as flat as possible. Ensure that the flag is pinned inside a small blanket, and have the Cub Scouts who are assigned to present it during the audience participation practice beforehand, so they can unroll the blanket without letting the flag touch the floor.

Note: Make sure the placement on the wall is high enough or the easel is tall enough that the flag does not touch the floor, ground, or any chairs, tables, etc. The reason this size flag is recommended is so Cub Scouts can handle it easily for the ceremonies without letting it touch the ground.

GATHERING

Distribute copies of “Our Flag” (see the end of this meeting plan) and pens or pencils to each Cub Scout. Instruct each Cub Scout to be sure and turn in his completed activity to his den leader. Here is the key.

Note: This will satisfy requirement No. 4 for the Silver Heritage Award offered by Nations Trails. Although this is not an official Scouting award, it is an excellent resource for learning about our flag, as the requirements are intended for youth ages 6 to 10. The award can be worn on the BSA red patch vest and should not be worn on the Scout uniform, as it is not official BSA insignia. Go to the website at www.nationstrails.com/awards/awards_USHSilver.html.

Please fill in the answers to the questions below. After you have completed the questions, write your name on the back and turn it in to your den leader.

1. What colors does the United States flag have? _____ red, white, and blue _____
2. How many stars are on the blue rectangle (canton)? _____ 50 _____
 What do the stars symbolize? _____ the 50 states _____
3. How many stripes are on the flag? _____ 13 _____
 What colors are the stripes? _____ red and white _____
 What do the stripes symbolize? _____ the 13 original colonies _____
4. How do you show respect for the United States flag? _____
By saluting the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance, during the national anthem, when it is being raised or lowered on a flagpole, or when it passes by in a parade or flag presentation. By not allowing it to touch the ground, floor, or other objects; by not writing on the flag; by not carrying it flat, but by allowing it to flow free when presented; by following the rules in the Flag Code.*



*For question 4, please take into consideration what you have taught the boys and customize your answer key accordingly. Remember the Cub Scout motto is “Do Your Best!”



OPENING

The preassigned den presents the colors. *(After the colors have been posted, the Cub Scouts form a straight line at the front of the room and begin the opening ceremony.)*

Respect for Our Flag Opening Ceremony

CUB SCOUT 1: It is always important to show respect for the United States flag. There are rules that tell us how to show respect for our flag. The United States Flag Code tells us of these rules.

CUB SCOUT 2 *(Gives the Cub Scout salute, then he says)*: “The military salute is given by men, women, and Scouts in uniform.”

CUB SCOUT 3 *(Stands straight and tall, with left arm at his side, and places his right hand over his heart. Then he says)*: “Those not in uniform salute the flag by standing at attention, tall and straight, with the left arm at the side and the right hand over the heart.”

CUB SCOUT 4 *(Removes his hat and places it over his left shoulder. Then he says)*: “Men who are wearing a hat should remove the hat with their right hand and hold it over their left shoulder. The right hand, not the hat, should rest over the heart.”

CUB SCOUT 5: “No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firefighters, police officers, and members of patriotic organizations, like the Boy Scouts of America.” The Cub Scout then should turn to his left so the audience can see the flag on his uniform.

CUB SCOUT 6: “The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, or water—just like the flag displayed in the front of our pack meeting room.”

CUB SCOUT 7: “The flag should be saluted when it is being raised or lowered from the flagpole, when the flag is passing by, as in a parade or flag ceremony, and when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.”

CUB SCOUT 8: “Will all please rise and salute our flag as we say the Pledge of Allegiance.”

(Cub Scouts should face the flag, salute, and say the Pledge of Allegiance in unison. Cub Scout 8 should begin the pledge.)

CUB SCOUT 8: *(After the pledge is complete, say)*, “Two.” *(This command is given at the end of a flag ceremony to tell the audience they can stop saluting.)*

Prayer (Cub Scout or Leader)

“Thank you for our wonderful country, the servicemen and women who have guaranteed our freedom, and the flag, which is a symbol of both our country and our freedom. May we always be respectful of our flag and remember that respecting our flag honors those who have sacrificed so much so that we can enjoy the freedoms of our country.”

Welcome and Introductions

The Cubmaster welcomes any new families to the pack and thanks all who have helped to prepare for the pack meeting this evening.

PROGRAM

Den Demonstrations

The Cubmaster asks each den in turn to talk about their adventures during the last month. Call each den to the front to ask members what they found to be fun at their meetings and what responsibilities they feel they have fulfilled. After each den demonstration, the Cubmaster leads a cheer for that den before calling up the next den.



Audience Participation

Prisoner of War Flag Ceremony

Equipment: American flag mounted to a blanket

Personnel: Two Scouts to hold flag, and a reader

READER: On a summer day in a prison camp during World War II, the prisoners were just completing a talent show when, without any announcement, two soldiers stood up in front of the group holding a rolled-up blanket. They looked quickly but carefully in all directions to make sure no guards were watching. Then, holding the blanket high, they let it unroll. Fastened to the inside of the blanket was the beautiful Stars and Stripes of the flag of the United States. (*Scouts match their actions to the story.*)

At the time of their surrender, one of the soldiers had taken down the flag and somehow managed to wrap it around his body. Covered by his uniform, it had not been discovered during the inspection of his personal belongings. He had been able to keep it hidden until he had arrived at the prison camp.

As the blanket was unrolled, the other prisoners saw the flag. A ripple of wonder and amazement ran through the group, followed by a deep silence that comes only when the heart is too full to permit words to be spoken. With their eyes still gazing upon this beautiful banner, the soldiers rose to their feet and began to sing softly, but with pride. They sang our national anthem. Will the audience please rise, salute our flag, and join in singing our national anthem.

(After the national anthem is sung, the flag should be removed from the blanket and hung vertically on the prepared flag holder either on the wall or on the easel at the front of the room. Adult assistance may be necessary to prevent the flag from touching the floor.)

The United States Flag Code, title 4, chapter 1, section 7i, states:

“When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag’s own right, that is, to the observer’s left. When displayed in a window, the flag should be displayed in the same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.”

RECOGNITION

CUBMASTER: Tonight as we celebrate our respect for our flag, we also want to express our respect for the Cub Scouts who have worked so diligently to achieve these awards. Now if you are wondering why these awards are not displayed on a flag, it is because this is against the Flag Code. The Flag Code tells us that the flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything. So we will show respect for our flag by not using it in any of those manners.

A salute, although used to show respect for our flag, can also be used to show respect for an individual. As I call their names, will the Cub Scouts who are to receive awards and their parents or guardians please come forward. Cub Scouts, you have worked diligently to receive the *name of the award*. You have worked hard and done your best. Let me be the first to salute you and shake your hand (*Cubmaster salutes each Cub Scout and gives each one the Cub Scout handshake prior to handing him his award*).

CUBMASTER: Friends, I ask each of you to stand and salute with me all of our Cub Scouts who received awards this evening.

Cubmaster’s Minute

Gentlemen, the Flag Code tells us in section 8j that “The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing.” It also states that “no disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America.” Scouts, others look to you for leadership, especially regarding how to show respect to the flag. They look to you because you are a Cub Scout. Remember in the opening ceremony why we wear a flag on our uniforms. It is because we are a patriotic organization. This is a special thing. Always remember that you are a Cub Scout; be proud and show our flag the respect it deserves.



CLOSING

Make 13 index cards with the information to be read at each fold of the flag. Assist the two Cub Scouts assigned to fold the flag to remove it from the wall/easel display at the front of the room. Distribute the cards to the rest of the den. (*The Cub Scouts assigned to read lines should be positioned in a straight line at least two large steps behind where the flag is being folded.*) Instruct each boy to step forward and read his line when a fold is made in the flag. Have the flag detail (Cub Scouts assigned to fold the flag) hold the flag by the top corners facing the audience prior to beginning the folding of the flag.

CUBMASTER: The United States flag represents who we are. It stands for the freedom we all share and the pride and patriotism we feel for our country. By displaying the flag and giving it a distinctive fold, we show respect to the flag and express our gratitude to those individuals who fought, and continue to fight, for freedom at home and abroad.

The Cub Scouts reading the cards should wait to begin reading until Cub Scouts folding the flag have folded it into a quarter-fold. The Cub Scouts folding the flag should wait until the Cub Scout reading each card has completed the card before proceeding to the next fold.

CUB SCOUT 1: The first fold of our flag is a symbol of citizenship—contributing service and showing responsibility to local, state, and national communities.

CUB SCOUT 2: The second fold of our flag is a symbol of compassion—having care and concern for the well-being of others.

CUB SCOUT 3: The third fold of our flag is a symbol of cooperation—working together with others toward a common goal.

CUB SCOUT 4: The fourth fold of our flag is a symbol of faith—having inner strength and confidence based on our trust in a higher power.

CUB SCOUT 5: The fifth fold of our flag is a symbol of courage—doing what is right regardless of its difficulty or consequences.

CUB SCOUT 6: The sixth fold of our flag is a symbol of health and fitness—being personally committed to care for our minds and bodies.

CUB SCOUT 7: The seventh fold of the flag is a symbol of resourcefulness—using human and other resources to their fullest.

CUB SCOUT 8: The eighth fold of the flag is a symbol of honesty—telling the truth and being a person worthy of trust.

CUB SCOUT 9: The ninth fold of the flag is a symbol of perseverance—sticking with something and not giving up, even when it is difficult.

CUB SCOUT 10: The 10th fold of the flag is a symbol of positive attitude—setting our minds to look for and find the best in all situations.

CUB SCOUT 11: The 11th fold of the flag is a symbol of responsibility—fulfilling our duty to take care of ourselves and others.

CUB SCOUT 12: The 12th fold of the flag is a symbol of respect—showing regard for the worth of something or someone.

CUB SCOUT 13: The 13th fold of our flag is a symbol of freedom and a tribute to all who have provided us with the rights, privileges, and freedom we enjoy today, a freedom to learn and become honorable men.

December



(After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, the Cub Scouts who folded the flag present it to the Cubmaster. All Cub Scouts who participated in the ceremony then walk, single file, to the back of the room.)

The preassigned den retires the colors. (Remember if the colors are presented, they also should be retired.)

CUBMASTER: Thank you to everyone who attended our pack meeting this evening. We hope you enjoyed your evening with us, and learned something new about showing respect for our flag. Goodnight.

RESOURCE SHEET

Gathering Activity Questions (Be sure to make enough copies so each boy receives one when he enters the pack meeting.)



Our Flag

Please fill in the answers to the questions below. After you have completed the questions, write your name on the back and turn it in to your den leader.

1. What colors does the United States flag have? _____

2. How many stars are on the blue rectangle (canton)? _____

What do the stars symbolize? _____

3. How many stripes are on the flag? _____

What colors are the stripes? _____

What do the stripes symbolize? _____

4. How do you show respect for the United States flag? _____
