Mission Statement:

The F.L.A.G. Program was created to instill pride and respect among students towards the United States Flag and everything it represents.
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The Flag Club
Introduction
The acronym F.L.A.G. stands for “Fly, Lower, And Gather.” Flag Clubs are open to students who are enrolled in the 4th through 12th grades.

The flag of the United States – also known as “Old Glory” – represents everything that is good about this country. It represents Freedom, Courage and Hope. Countless men and women have served under her colors and have died defending her.

- **Red** represents Hardiness and Valor
- **White** represents Purity and Innocence
- **Blue** represents Vigilance, Perseverance, and Justice

The F.L.A.G. Program was created to instill pride and respect among students towards the United State Flag and their respective State Flags. Flag Club Students will learn how to properly Fly, Lower and Gather the United States Flag and will serve as a part of their school’s Flag Crew through the school year; raising the flags each school day morning, and lowering and properly storing the flags each school day afternoon.

Through Flag Club meetings and activities during the school year, students will:

- Learn pertinent information about the United States Flag and its history.
- Learn pertinent information concerning our nation’s Presidents.
- Learn the true meaning of Memorial Day and other patriotic holidays.

Ronald Reagan, who served as the 40th President of the United States from 1981-1989 once said, **“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.”** We must teach each generation of children both the value and the price of freedom. We must instill in them a patriotic Spirit and a proper respect for our country, our flag, and other sacrifices that have been made by the men and women throughout this country’s history to protect our freedom.

That’s why Flag Clubs are important. That is what we hope to accomplish on your school’s campus by supporting efforts as a F.L.A.G. Program Campus Leader or Volunteer Coordinator.

Thank you for volunteering your time to serve in this capacity. You will make a difference in your student’s lives and consequently in the ongoing cause of freedom and patriotism by your service.
Below is an overview of how the Flag Club will work on your campus:

- The Flag Club Campus Leader (a teacher or school faculty member) is responsible for the organization and implementation of the Flag Club on each campus.
- The Flag Club Campus Leader will receive support from a local Flag Club Volunteer Coordinator, as well as from The F.L.A.G. Program (the parent organization for Flag Clubs).
- The Volunteer Coordinator will serve as a liaison between the Campus Leader and The F.L.A.G. Program.

The Volunteer Coordinator will assist the Campus Leader in:

- Providing one or more trainers (e.g., Military Recruiters, Police, Fire Fighters or Ex. Military Patriots) to teach students the proper techniques for raising, lowering, and folding the flag.
- Obtaining necessary handbooks, support materials, and practice flags.
- Working with the Campus Leader to schedule and plan an end of the year Awards Ceremony to recognize the students’ achievements.
- The Campus Leader will recruit students to participate in the Flag Club.
- A Flag Club Trainer will train students in proper flag techniques and flag etiquette.
- Students will be scheduled on a rotation basis to raise and lower the flags each school day.
- Flag Club meetings will be held on a regular basis (ideally once a month).
- An Awards Ceremony will be held at the end of the school year to award students for their Flag Club achievements.
THE F.L.A.G. PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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Getting Started
CAMPUS LEADER STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

We cordially invite you to join our Facebook page to participate/share your schools’ F.L.A.G. Program events and creativity throughout the year. This Step-by-Step Guide and checklist will help you successfully plan and implement the Flag Club on your campus. Please read this guide thoroughly and follow its steps carefully to ensure success.

STEP ONE:

Meet with your Volunteer Coordinator:

If you do not know who your Volunteer Coordinator is and email marlak.bearden@yahoo.com with your contact information and school name and your Volunteer Coordinator will contact you.

Goals for this meeting:

- Make a list of potential Flag Club student members and develop a recruiting strategy. You may want to use the enclosed flyer and application (page 16 & 17) to inform students and parents about the club. The goal is to have 25 students per campus. Your initial recruits can help you recruit other students.
- Discuss whether you want to recruit additional Flag Club Campus Leaders. If so make a list of potential sponsors and develop a recruiting strategy. (Only one Leader is required, but you are welcome and encouraged to recruit one or two other teachers or faculty members on your campus to serve alongside you as Campus Leader).
- Make sure Campus Leaders(s) and Volunteer Coordinator have each other’s contact information and discuss preferred contact methods.
- Discuss potential trainers and make a list and develop a recruiting strategy.
- Develop a preliminary Flag Club schedule for the school year. These dates may be tweaked later as needed.

Things to schedule:

- Application Deadline - Students must turn in their completed applications by the second Monday in September. This will give you plenty of time to review all applications, select your Flag Club members, then notify them of the first training meeting.
- Flag Club Trainers - Contract your local Military Recruiting office to for trainers to assist with training the students the proper Flying, Lowering and Gathering of the flags. These military professionals will come to your school free of charge.
- Training Meetings - You will need to schedule four to six after school training meetings for students to learn proper flag techniques and flag etiquette. Coordinate with your Flag Club Trainers. These dates will need to be finalized with your trainer(s) once they are in place.
- Club Meetings - You will need to schedule the regular Flag Club meetings that will meet the 1st Tuesday of the month, each month, throughout the school year. During these meetings students will work on flag knowledge and patriotic history for that month, as well as other...
activities. Student Handbooks with monthly curriculum will be provided by The F.L.A.G. Program.

- Look over the list of potential community service projects and begin thinking about the one or two you want to lead your club to be a part of.
- Determine what projects will involve the entire school or community outreach.
- Determine Club activities such as school announcements about your community service project or like “This Day in American History”.

STEP TWO:

Prepare recruiting materials and necessary forms:

See the “Forms” section in this Handbook and under Resources at [www.theflagprogram.org](http://www.theflagprogram.org) to see examples of forms and materials you will need to recruit students. You may use the forms as it or add your school information to make them more customized. Make enough copies for your needs.

STEP THREE:

Recruit Flag Club Members:

Implement the recruiting strategies that you developed during your Volunteer Coordinator meeting to recruit.

- **Students** - Be sure to collect application and photo release forms from each prospective Club member.
- **Addition Volunteer Coordinators and Campus Leaders** - It is suggested that you have at least one other teacher or faculty member to help you implement the F.L.A.G. Program on your campus.
- **Trainers** - (e.g., Military Recruiters, Police, Fire Fighters, Ex-Military Patriots).

STEP FOUR:

**Materials:** - Order materials and supplies

Contact your Volunteer Coordinator or F.L.A.G. Program Administrator to order the following:

- Campus Leader Handbooks.
- Student Handbooks.
- The American Patriots Handbook will be provided by WoodmanLife in areas where available from local Woodman Chapters.
- The U.S. Flag Code & Guidelines, booklet and poster will be provided by WoodmanLife in areas where available from local Woodman Chapters.
- Training Flags (3’ by 5’) that students use for training will be provided by WoodmanLife in areas where available from local Woodman Chapters.
STEP FIVE:

**Hold training meetings with the Flag Crew Trainer:**

Contact your local Military Recruiting office for trainers to assist with training the students the proper Flying, Lowering and Gathering of the flags. These military professionals will come to your school free of charge.

**At the final training meeting:**

- Determine Crews and Crew Captains unless already in place from previous years.
- Work with the students to schedule weekly flag raising and lowering crews.

STEP SIX:

**Hold regular Flag Club meetings:**

Begin conducting your regular meetings as were scheduled during your Volunteer Coordinator meeting. Ideally, the Flag Clubs should meet once a month during the school year, but this may be adjusted as necessary. The Flag Club meetings will help your Flag Crew members stay interested and motivated throughout the school year. You might consider having open meetings and allowing students who have not yet been trained and are not part of the Flag Crew to attend the meetings. This will help to spread flag awareness to more students and help more students become interested in being part of a Flag Crew in the future.

**Flag Club meetings will need to follow the curriculum in the Student Handbook:**

- **Educate** – Help students to follow the questions and information in the Student Handbook. Teacher helps and answer key to the questions are in this Campus Leader Handbook. Other educational activities in the handbook include reviewing and discussing the Flag Code, patriotic holidays and bringing in speakers to address pertinent topics, etc.
- **Practice** – Allow students to practice unfolding and folding the flags.
- **Schedule** – Prepare student weekly flag raising and lowering schedule for four to six weeks out.
- **Plan** – Begin with your first meeting planning your community service projects that benefit military or first responders.

STEP SEVEN:

**Take lots of pictures:**

- Throughout the school year, take lots of pictures of your students Flying, Lowering, And Gathering your school’s flag(s).
- Take lots of pictures at your Flag Club meetings and any other flag-related activities your students participate in.
- If your school has a yearbook, submit some of these pictures for inclusion. Also, see about having the Flag Club listed in the yearbook.
- Share some of your pictures with your Community Guidance Committee for possible use on the organization’s website and/or Facebook page(s).
- **IMPORTANT:** Be sure to have all Flag Club members sign a photo release at the beginning of the year (see sample form in this handbook and online).

**STEP EIGHT:**

**Plan your end-of-the year Awards Ceremony:**

Work with your Volunteer Coordinator to plan the awards that will be presented. The F.L.A.G. Program national organization will provide certificates and flag lapel pins for you to present at the end of the school year to your Flag Crew members for their service and achievement. Determine whether your certificates will be awarded to students as part of a campus end-of-year awards ceremony, or whether you will have a special awards ceremony (perhaps at your final Flag Club meeting of the year). Check with your local WoodmenLife chapter to see if they will partner with your Flag Club in offering one or more WoodmenLife History Award(s) to your students.

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The F.L.A.G Program was created in Waxahachie, Texas in August of 2010 at Waxahachie Ninth Grade Academy. Thanks to Mr. John Aune, Principal, for allowing this program to be established.
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

The F.L.A.G. Program will work to assign a Volunteer Coordinator to each Flag Club to serve as liaison between The F.L.A.G. Program and the Flag Club Campus Leader.

Starting a Flag Club at a new school:

- Contact the school’s Principal to explain Flag Clubs and seek their support in establishing a Flag Club on their Campus.
- Work with the Principal to recruit one or more Teachers to serve as Flag Club Leader(s).

Beginning of the school year checklist:

- Submit to the school district’s volunteer background check procedure.
- Meet the Flag Club Leader(s) to review Campus Leader Handbook as well as Student Handbooks, offer support, and find out what their needs are.
- Recruit and train one or more uniformed Flag Club Trainers (e.g., local military personnel, firefighter, police officer, etc.).
- Work through the Counselor’s Office at the local high school to recruit up to three high school students to serve as Flag Club Mentors.
- Arrange a meeting between Flag Club Leader(s) and Trainer(s) to schedule student training sessions for the students.
- Establish a relationship with the local WoodmanLife Representative. Explain the Flag Club program and ask if they can provide WoodmenLife patriotic materials and flags as needed.

How to order Flag Club supplies as needed:

- Flag Club Handbook for each Leader from the F.L.A.G. Program.
- Flag Club Student Handbook for each student from the F.L.A.G. Program.
- WoodmanLife Patriot Handbook for each Leader and Student from the F.L.A.G. Program.
- WoodmanLife U.S. Flag Code Booklet for each Leader and Student.
- WoodmanLife U.S. Flag Code Poster for each Leader and Student.
- Training flag and other flags as needed from WoodmanLife representative.

During the school year:

- Attend Flag Club meetings.
- Make sure Leaders have supplies and materials needed throughout the year.
Be available throughout the year to provide support and encouragement to campus Leaders and students. Be available to assist with projects and special activities.

Work with Leaders to obtain photographs and/or videos of Flag Cub meetings and activities for use in promoting Flag Clubs in community and school media (see #5 below). Also, provide photos/videos to The F.L.A.G. Program for use on the programs’ website and in social media.

Look for opportunities to publicize and recognize the Flag Club and its activities through local media outlets (e.g., radio, TV, newspaper, community magazines, etc.) and school publications (e.g., campus newsletters, district PR publications, etc.).

Work with Leaders to schedule and plan Awards Ceremony at the end of the school year.

Order Certificates of Achievement and other awards from The F.L.A.G. Program.

Attend Awards Ceremony representing The F.L.A.G. Program.

Participate in presenting awards to students.

Seek commitment from Leader(s) to continue as a Flag Club next school year. If they cannot or will not, recruit new Leader(s) for next school year.

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Dr. Mary Edwards Walker served as an unpaid position in a military hospital at the beginning of the Civil War. She was a Prisoner of War in 1864. She was exchanged with other union doctors for Confederate Officers. President Andrew Johnson awarded her the Medal of Honor in 1865, the only woman in United States history to have been awarded this prestigious honor.
Forms
Information and Recruiting
The following pages contain sample forms that will be helpful in organizing and implementing a Flag Club on your Campus.

You may also, download these forms of the website at www.theflagprogram.org under “Resources.”

- Sample Flag Club Program Outline for internal campus use
- Sample Flag Club Student/Parent Flyer
- Sample Flag Club Crew Application
- Minor Photo Release Form
(YOUR SCHOOL’S NAME) FLAG CLUB PROGRAM OUTLINE

*Fly, Lower, And Gather our schools Flags with Pride!*

Flag Club Campus Leader(s) ________________________________

Flag Club Volunteer Coordinator _____________________________

Flag Crew – Who does it?

- Twenty-five or more students are selected by the Flag Club Leader, and other teachers, to make up the Flag Club. Students are selected based on their behavior, responsibility and overall attitude.
- A flyer and application explaining this program and the level of commitment required by the Flag Crew Members is sent home with interested students and must be returned with parent’s signature giving permission for students to participate. A photo release form is also included.

How long do they participate?

Our school has opted for flag crew members to participate for (modified to fit with your schedule). There is a 4 to 6 week training period before the students are actually ready to raise, lower and gather our schools flags.

What does the training include?

- For approximately 4 to 6 weeks, one day per week the flag crew will meet (set time for meeting).
- A uniformed public servant or military volunteer comes to the school, meets with the students and train them on proper etiquette, how to fold, and how to raise and lower the flags.

What is the responsibility as the Flag Club Leader?

- Select the members.
- Schedule dates and times for training.
- Set the Flag Crew members schedule for raising and lowering the flags.
- Conduct weekly Flag Crew Meetings.
- Work with students to answer the Flag Q&A at the end of this handbook.
- Be a part of an end of the year awards program where students who have participated in a Flag Crew and researched all the Flag Q&A questions will receive a citizenship award certificate.
- Be committed and enthusiastic. This is a great program and very rewarding.

Finally, Some Fun Stuff! (Sample Ideas)

- Hold school wide flag raising and/or lowering ceremonies.
- Have Flag Crew Members be on school “announcements” talking about flag facts and etiquette certain times throughout the school year.
- Hold a flag fact finding scavenger hunt.
- Flag Crew members will make posters about flag facts and hang them around the school.

NOTES:
Be A Part of the (School Name) Flag Club!
Fly, Lower, And Gather Our School’s Flags with Pride!

Flag Club – Who does it?
- (Grade or Grades) students are eligible to apply to be a member of the Flag Club.
- Students are selected based on their behavior, responsibility and overall attitude.

How long do they participate?
Flag crew members will participate (insert your schedule). There is a 4 to 6 week training period before the students are actually ready to raise/lower the flag.

What does the training include?
- Approximately 4 to 6 weeks, one day per week the members meet (insert time for meeting).
- A uniformed public servant or military volunteer comes to the school, meets with the students and train them on proper etiquette, how to fold, and how to raise and lower the flag.

What is the responsibility of (Leader’s Name), the FLAG Club Leader?
- Select the Flag Crew Members and schedule dates and times for training.
- Set the Flag Crew members schedule for raising and lowering the flags.
- Campus Leader and students will be a part of an end of the year awards program where students who have participated in the Flag Crew and researched all the Flag Q&A questions will receive a citizenship award certificate.
- Be committed and enthusiastic. This is a Great Program and is very rewarding.

Fun Stuff! (Sample Ideas)
- Flag Clubs will hold school wide flag raising and/or lowering ceremonies.
- Flag Club Members will be on school “announcements” talking about flag facts and etiquette certain times throughout the school year.
- Club members will make posters about flag facts along with other fun ideas.
- Club members will do at least one community service project to assist veterans, first responders or other related organization.
(School Name) Flag Crew Application

(School Year)

FLAG Club Campus Leader _____________

Email: _______________________________

(Use To inform Students and Parents)

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Flag Crew Members duties and responsibilities include:

- School year commitment.
- 4-6-week training one day a week at the school.
- Raising, Lowering and Gathering the Flag daily (members will be scheduled on a rotating weekly basis).
- Participate in various activities throughout the year pertaining to the program educating students via announcements and assisting with other activities.

Criteria to be eligible of consideration and selection:

- Flag Crew Members must be available for training (Insert training dates and times here). Crew members will learn proper etiquette, flag folding technique and fun flag facts from a uniformed public servant or military volunteer.
- Flag Crew members will need to be at school by (insert time) during the week they are scheduled to raise, lower and gather the flag.
- Students who receive (behavior conditions determined) during the school year will no longer be eligible to participate in the program.
- Students who complete the Flag Club program will receive a Citizenship Award Certificate at the end of the year.

Applications are due by (club leader sets date and time)

I have read and understand the Flag Crew members duties, responsibility and criteria. If I am selected I am committed to the program and all that it involves.

___________________________
Student’s Signature

___________________________
Date

___________________________
Parent’s Signature

___________________________
Date
Photo Release Form for a Minor
(For participants under the age of 18)

I, ______________________________, am the parent or legal guardian of ________________________________ (“my child”), a participant in the F.L.A.G. Program (“Program”), held at _______________________________________ (“School”) located in ________________________________, (City, State).

I hereby consent to the publication and use of my child’s name and/or my child’s likeness for promotion, publicity, advertising, or other manner or media by the program, the school, or any other representative authorized to act on behalf of the program or the school. Likeness shall include, but not be limited to, photographs, sound and/or video recordings, films, broadcasts, brochures, publications, reports, web pages, promotional materials or any other audio-visual, electronic, printed, tangible work in any media or format now known or hereafter to become known, and/or reproductions of any of these. I agree that the actual material involved is and shall continue to be the property of the program and/or the school, and that neither I, nor my child, shall have any right of review or approval regarding the use of my child’s name and/or likeness in such material.

I hereby release and hold harmless the program, the school, and their respective employees, agents, affiliates, leaders, or other representatives from all claims, demands, or causes of action arising out of the use of my child’s name and/or likeness, in accordance with the terms of this release. I understand and agree that neither I nor my child will be compensated in any way for the use of my child’s name and/or likeness by the program or the school.

Minor’s name (printed): __________________________________________ Age: _________

Parent/Guardian signature: _______________________________ Date: ________________

Parent/Guardian name (printed): __________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________ Email: ________________________________________
SECTION 4

Flag Club Meetings
Flag Club Campus Leaders:
This section begins the monthly club meeting curriculum with answers to mandatory trivia questions listed monthly along with extra resources. Please feel free to make the content of this section work for you and your club. Student Handbooks will be provided at the first of the school year. We are working to make your monthly flag meeting run as smoothly as possible. Contact Marla Bearden, Administrator at marlak.bearden@yahoo.com to order student handbooks and other materials. Let us know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Student Name ____________________________

School Name _____________________________
AUGUST FLAG CLUB – WELCOME

Discuss expectations for the year and set up daily/weekly schedules for crews to raise and lower the flag. Each Flag Crew will consist of 5 crew members, whose captain will be a member of the highest-grade level participating class; (example: 4th & 5th graders, 5th grade captains). Review the flag etiquette video and discuss community service project ideas for the year.

Flag Trivia

1. What state was the Pledge of Allegiance first recited? (Ohio)
2. What year was the Pledge of Allegiance first recited? (Oct. 12, Columbus Day 1892)
3. Who wrote the Pledge of Allegiance? (Frances Bellamy (1855-1931), August 1892)
4. How many times has the Pledge of Allegiance been changed? (Three)
5. What years did the changes to the Pledge of Allegiance take place? (In 1923, the words, "the Flag of the United States of America" were added. In 1954, President Eisenhower encouraged Congress to add the words "under God," creating the 31-word pledge we say today.)
6. What president was responsible for the last change to the Pledge of Allegiance? (President Eisenhower)
7. What was the change? (added “Under God”)

OBJECTIVE: To help students understand the history and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Why do you think it is important to have a Pledge of Allegiance?
- What does the Pledge mean to you?
- How important do you think it is for people to be respectful when the Pledge is being said?
- Discuss the history of the Pledge, including changes through the years in its wording and in the manner of salute.
- Show the video of Red Skelton’s Pledge of Allegiance sketch from 1969 (available on web page listed above under “Resources/F.L.A.G. Clubs/Pledge of Allegiance.”)
- What is the significance of the timing of the Pledge’s birth, just 27 years after the end of the Civil War?
- Discuss sponsoring a school-wide Essay Contest on the topic, “What the Pledge of Allegiance Means to Me.”

History of the Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was written in August 1892 by the Francis Bellamy (1855-1931). In its original form it reads; "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." In 1923, the words, "the Flag of the United States of America" were added. In 1954, President Eisenhower encouraged Congress to add the words "Under God," creating the 31-word pledge we say today. "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."
### Monthly Flag Crew Schedule

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SEPTEMBER FLAG CLUB

Review your team setup daily/weekly schedule for teams to raise and lower the flag. Review the Flag etiquette video and information on the following link: https://theflagprogram.org/resources/training-video/ as well as page 25 and 26 of this handbook. Choose your community service projects for the year.

Flag Trivia

OBJECTIVE: To help students understand the history and meaning of the National Anthem. NOTE: For an online version of this meeting plan, including links to online resources (e.g., videos, lesson plans, etc.) visit https://theflagprogram.org

8. Who wrote the Star-Spangled Banner? (Francis Scott Key)
9. What date was the Star-Spangled Banner written? (1814)
10. What is the name of the American fort the British were bombarding when the Star-Spangled banner was written? (Fort McHenry)
11. What were the dimensions of the American flag was flown during this bombardment and how many stars did it have? (30x42 15 stars)
12. What was the original name of the Star-Spangled Banner? (The defense of Ft. McHenry)

Practice: - Practice singing the Star-Spangled Banner or our National Anthem. Practice raising and lowering the US and State Flags.

Special Days in August and September to discuss:

- **August 28th** – The day Martin Luther King gave his famous “I Have A Dream” speech.
- **September 11th** – Patriot’s Day to mark the anniversary of terrorist attacks in the USA in 2001.
- **Last Sunday of September each year** - Gold Star Mother’s Day is observed in the United States on the last Sunday of September each year. It is a day for people to recognize and honor those who have lost a son or daughter while serving the United States Armed Forces.

The National Anthem: - Talking points and discussion questions.

- Discuss the circumstances under which Francis Scott Key wrote the words to the poem that later became “The Star-Spangled Banner.”
- What emotions do you think Key would have been experiencing as he watched the British artillery bombarding Fort McHenry? What about the next morning when he looked and saw the American flag still flying?
- With so much deep emotion tied to the words of the Star-Spangled Banner, and with it representing such an important and pivotal moment in the history of our nation, why is it so easy for us to become complacent when singing it or hearing it sung or played?
- Rewrite the Star-Spangled Banner in the language of 21st century casual conversation, rather than early 19th century poetry.
- Go to https://theflagprogram.org/resources/the-star-spangled-banner/ for more information on the Star-Spangled Banner.
- Watch the video about the Star-Spangled Banner at https://theflagprogram.org/resources/f-l-a-g-clubs/the-national-anthem/.
OCTOBER FLAG CLUB

During and After events:

- Video your Flag Crew Flying, Lowering and Gathering your school’s flags. Share those videos on your school’s website and other social media. (Signed photo release form is needed)
- Select one day each week or months to wear red, white and blue.
- Coordinate with your school to lead the Pledge of Allegiance during announcements with a short statement of what being an American means for Veterans Day in November.
- Practice Correctly Folding the US Flag. (see page 24 in your Leaders Handbook)

Flag Trivia

13. What does a Blue Star displayed on the window of a family’s home represent? (A living family member that is currently serving in the armed forces)
14. What does a Gold Star displayed on the window of a family’s home represent? (A deceased family member that served in the armed forces.)
15. What is the name of the organization that the Gold Star is named in honor of? (Gold Star Mothers, Inc.)
16. What day is the national observance of this Gold Star organization? (Sept 30)
17. What date was this Gold Star organization created? (June 4, 1928)
18. After what war was this Gold Star organization created? (World War I)

Special Days in October to discuss:

October 12 - Columbus Day is a national holiday in many countries of the Americas and elsewhere which officially celebrates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas on October 12, 1492. Observed Annually in the Americas, Spain and Italy. Columbus Day is traditionally observed in the Unites States on October 12, or the second Monday in October.

Fun extra projects for your club: - Create posters to hang around your school that answer the questions in this handbook to help others in the school have more respect for our U.S. Flag.

Flag Code:

The United States “Flag Code” is found in Title 4, Chapter 1 of the United States Code, and includes instructions and rules on such topics as the Pledge of Allegiance, display and use of the flag by civilians, time and occasions for display, position and manner of display, and how to show respect for the flag. In this Campus Leader Handbook, references to the Flag Code are
formatted like this: [4 U.S.C. § 7(a)] where “4 U.S.C.” refers to Title 4 of the United States Code, and everything following the § symbol (which stands for “Section”) refers to the appropriate Section and Subsection(s) of the Flag Code.

**Flag Etiquette:** - The Flag Code formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag. It also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used.

**They are:**

- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. [4 U.S.C. § 8]
- The flag is flown upside down only as a distress signal. [4 U.S.C. § 8(a)]
- The flag should not be used as a drapery or for covering a speaker’s desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white, and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top. [4 U.S.C. § 8(d)]
- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard. [4 U.S.C. § 8(i)]
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations. [4 U.S.C. § 8(j)]
- The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind. [4 U.S.C. § 8(g)]
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything. [4 U.S.C. § 8(h)]
- When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object [4 U.S.C. § 8(b)]; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag, it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

**Raising and Lowering the Flag:**

- The flag should be displayed during school days in or near every schoolhouse. [4 U.S.C. § 6(g)]
- The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously. [4 U.S.C. § 6(b)]
- The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. [4 U.S.C. § 7(m)]
How to Fold the Flag:  - http://www.usflag.org/foldflag.html

As the flag is lowered daily at the last note of retreat. Special care should be taken that no part of the flag touches the ground. The Flag is then carefully folded into the shape of a tri-cornered hat, emblematic of the hats worn by colonial soldiers during the war for Independence. In the folding, the red and white stripes are finally wrapped into the blue, as the light of day vanishes into the darkness of night.

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**HOW TO FOLD THE FLAG**

**STEP 1**

TO PROPERLY FOLD THE FLAG, BEGIN BY HOLDING IT WAIST-HIGH WITH ANOTHER PERSON SO THAT ITS SURFACE IS PARALLEL TO THE GROUND.

**STEP 2**

FOLD THE LOWER HALF OF THE STRIPE SECTION LENGTHWISE OVER THE FIELD OF STARS, HOLDING THE BOTTOM AND TOP EDGES SECURELY.
STEP 3

FOLD THE FLAG AGAIN LENGTHWISE WITH THE BLUE FIELD ON THE OUTSIDE.

STEP 4

MAKE A TRIANGULAR FOLD BY BRINGING THE STRIPED CORNER OF THE FOLDED EDGE TO MEET THE OPEN (TOP) EDGE OF THE FLAG.

STEP 5

TURN THE OUTER (END) POINT INWARD, PARALLEL TO THE OPEN EDGE, TO FORM A SECOND TRIANGLE.
STEP 6

THE TRIANGULAR FOLDING IS CONTINUED UNTIL THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE FLAG IS FOLDED IN THIS MANNER.

STEP 7

WHEN THE FLAG IS COMPLETELY FOLDED, ONLY A TRIANGULAR BLUE FIELD OF STARS SHOULD BE VISIBLE.

Flag Retirement:

The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. [4 U.S.C. § 8(k)] If your school has flags that needs to be retired contact your F.L.A.G. Program Administrator who can provide information on local organizations that accept flags that are worn out and ready for retirement.
NOVEMBER FLAG CLUB

Publishing on social media:

- Video your Flag Club flying, lowering and gathering your school’s flags. Share those videos on your school’s website and other social media. (Signed photo release form is needed)
- Invite a Veteran to speak to the group about a topic related to what the Flag means to them.
- Select one day each week to wear red, white and blue.
- Coordinate with your school to lead the Pledge of Allegiance during announcements with a short statement of what being an American means to you.

Flag Trivia - See page 19 - 22 for additional information as well as Elementary Curriculum in Campus Leader Handbook

19. What colors can be found in our national flag? (Red, White, & Blue)
20. What does the red represent? (Hardiness and Valor)
21. What does the white represent? (Purity and Innocence)
22. What does the blue represent? (Vigilance)
23. What formation were the stars placed in our first flag? (Circle)
24. What did this formation represent? (No colony above the other)

Special Days in November to discuss:

November 11th - Veteran’s Day is an official United States public holiday, observed annually on November 11, that honors military veterans; that is, persons who served in the United States Armed Forces. If November 11th falls on a Sunday it is observed on Monday, November 12th.

November 19, 1863 - Gettysburg Address by Abraham Lincoln written on the walls of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington

For the entire speech go to: speechhttp://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/gettysburg.htm
I am the flag of the United States of America.

I was born on June 14, 1777, in Philadelphia.

There the Continental Congress adopted my stars and stripes as the national flag.

My thirteen stripes alternating red and white, with a union of thirteen white stars in a field of blue, represented a new constellation, a new nation dedicated to the personal and religious liberty of mankind.

Today fifty stars signal from my union, one for each of the fifty sovereign states in the greatest constitutional republic the world has ever known.

My colors symbolize the patriotic ideals and spiritual qualities of the citizens of my country.

My red stripes proclaim the fearless courage and integrity of American men and boys and the self-sacrifice and devotion of American mothers and daughters.

My white stripes stand for liberty and equality for all.

My blue is the blue of heaven, loyalty, and faith.

I represent these eternal principles: liberty, justice, and humanity.

I embody American freedom: freedom of speech, religion, assembly, the press, and the sanctity of the home.

I typify that indomitable spirit of determination brought to my land by Christopher Columbus and by all my forefathers - the Pilgrims, Puritans, settlers at Jamestown and Plymouth.

I am as old as my nation.

I am a living symbol of my nation's law: The Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights.

I voice Abraham Lincoln's philosophy: "A government of the people, by the people, for the people."
I stand guard over my nation's schools, the seedbed of good citizenship and true patriotism.

I am displayed in every schoolroom throughout my nation; every schoolyard has a flag pole for my display.

Daily thousands upon thousands of boys and girls pledge their allegiance to me and my country.

I have my own law—Public Law 829, "The Flag Code"—which states my correct use and display for all occasions and situations.

I have my special day, Flag Day. June 14 is set aside to honor my birth.

Americans, I am the sacred emblem of your country. I symbolize your birthright, your heritage of liberty purchased with blood and sorrow.

I am your title deed of freedom, which is yours to enjoy and hold in trust for posterity.

If you fail to keep this sacred trust inviolate, if I am nullified and destroyed, you and your children will become slaves to dictators and despots.

Eternal vigilance is your price of freedom.

As you see me silhouetted against the peaceful skies of my country, remind yourself that I am the flag of your country, that I stand for what you are—no more, no less.

Guard me well, lest your freedom perish from the earth.

Dedicate your lives to those principles for which I stand: "One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

I was created in freedom.

I made my first appearance in a battle for human liberty.

God grant that I may spend eternity in my "land of the free and the home of the brave" and that I shall ever be known as "Old Glory," the flag of the United States of America.
HISTORY OF THE FLAG

OBJECTIVE: To help students understand the historical background of our nation’s flag.

NOTE: For an online version of this meeting plan, including links to online resources (videos, lesson plans, etc.), visit www.theflagprogram.org, Resources, Flag Clubs, History of the Flag. Concurrent Resolution 108, 109th Congress, a booklet entitled “Our Flag,” which contains a detailed, official history of the United States flag. It is available in PDF format from publications.USA.gov, or on the F.L.A.G. Program website under Resources > Downloads. It is recommended that you use this as a primary resource in planning this meeting, and encourage students to obtain their own personal copy, which they are welcome to download from the F.L.A.G. Program website. WoodmenLife provides two handy-sized publications, free of charge, that would serve well as additional primary resources in preparing for this meeting: “The U.S. Flag Code and Guidelines” and “The American Patriot’s Handbook.” Contact your local WoodmanLife Office to order these free materials. To find your representative go to www.woodmenlife.org and click on Contact then Find a Representative.
DECEMBER FLAG CLUB

Flag Trivia
25. What year did Congress redesign the flag with 13 stripes and the number of stars to represent the states? (1818 – 15 stripes)
26. How many red stripes are there on the American flag? (7)
27. How many white stripes are there on the American flag? (6)
28. What is the technical term for the blue part of the American flag? (Canton)

Note: Review page 14 in the Leader Handbook, Flag Code and Etiquette. Practice raising and Lowering the flag.

Special Days in December to discuss:
December 7, 1941 - Pearl Harbor Day, On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service attacked Naval Station Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii Territory, without warning and without a declaration of war, killing 2,403 American servicemen, and injuring 1,178 others. The attack sank four U.S. Navy battleships and damaged four others. It also damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, and one minelayer. Aircraft losses were 188 destroyed and 159 damaged.

December 8, 1941 - the United States declared war on Japan and entered World War II on the side of the Allies. In a speech to Congress, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called the bombing of Pearl Harbor "a date which will live in infamy."

Extra projects for your club:
Identify a local hero (military, firefighter, law enforcement, or first responder) with a connection to your school or community who died in service to their country. Write sympathy and thank you letters to their family members and fellow co-workers or create a poster to hang up in your school that tells the story of this brave hero who lost their life serving others.

HALF-STAFF

OBJECTIVE: To help students understand when and why the flag is flown at half-staff, how to fly the flag at half-staff, and the difference between half-staff and half-mast.

NOTE: For an online version of this meeting plan, including links to online resources (videos, lesson plans, etc.), visit http://theflagprogram.org/?p=365

Talking points and discussion questions:

- Have you ever seen a United States flag flying in the middle of the flag pole instead of at the top of the flag pole?
- Do you know why the flag is sometimes flown at half-staff?
- The United States Flag Code specifies certain times when the flag should be flown at half-staff. (Download and print “Flying the Flag at Half-Staff” from the web page listed above under. Make a copy for each student. Review with students).
Read the editorial at NJLawman.com entitled, “Governor Wrong to Have Flag Lowered to Half Staff for Celebrities” (available on web page listed above). Discuss the reasons why a Governor would want to order flags flown at half-staff for a popular celebrity, and why this is not proper.

Why do we need to have rules governing when the United States flag is flown at half-staff?

**Bottom line:**
The U.S. Flag Code is very specific in its instructions concerning flying the United States flag at half-staff. When the circumstances of any person’s death do not meet the criteria for flying the flag at half-staff, failure to do so is not a show of disrespect for that person. It is simply a matter of following the law.

**Interesting note:**
When a flag cannot be lowered to half-staff (e.g. the type of flag typically mounted to the side of a residence, which is permanently attached to its staff), there is a tradition that allows for the attachment of two black streamers to the top of the flag pole. [Source: "Use of Black Ribbons for Mourning." National Flag Foundation. Accessed October 25, 2014.] 32

**HALF-STAFF OR HALF-MAST?**

- Most people use the terms interchangeably.
- Merriam-Webster’s online dictionary defines “half-mast” as “a point some distance but not necessarily halfway down below the top of a mast or staff or the peak of a gaff.” The entry for “half-staff” simply points to the definition for “half-mast”.
- Grammatist states, “In American English, a flag flown halfway up its flagpole as a symbol of mourning is at half-staff, and a flag flown halfway up a ship’s mast to signal mourning or distress is at half-mast. The distinction does not run deep, though, as the terms are often mixed up, especially in unofficial contexts.”
- The Independence Hall Association, on their USHistory.org website, says that “both terms can be used. The term ‘half-mast’ is preferred by dictionaries and seems more appropriate at sea (as ships have masts). ‘Half-staff’ seems more appropriate on land, and is the preferred term used in the Flag Code and in Presidential proclamations.”
- The CVS Flags website says, “Flying a flag at half-staff is largely associated with land flagpoles, leaving the term ‘half-mast’ to ships.”

**CONCLUSION:** For the purposes of the F.L.A.G. Program, the term “half-mast” will be used to refer to flags flown on ships during times of national mourning; and the term “half-staff” will be used to refer to flags flown on land during times of national mourning.

JANUARY FLAG CLUB

Flag Trivia

Talk about your flag pole and about Half-Staff or Half-Mast.

29. What is the ball on top of the flag pole called? (Truck)
30. What three items were said to be found inside the “ball” on top of the flag pole? (Bullet, Razor Blade and Match)
31. What military branch of the U.S. created the legend of the ball and its contents? (Army)
32. What is the procedure called when the American flag is first raised for the day? (Revile)
33. What is the procedure called when the American flag is lowered for the day? (Retreat)

Special Days in January to discuss:

January 1, 1863 - Abraham Lincoln issued an Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all slaves in the rebellious states “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.” While the Emancipation Proclamation did not free a single slave, it was an important turning point in the Civil War, transforming the fight to preserve the nation into a battle for human freedom.

January 20, 1961 - John Fitzgerald Kennedy is inaugurated as the 35th president of the United States. During his famous inauguration address, Kennedy, declared that “the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans” and appealed to Americans to “ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

Community Service Project:
Continue working on your community service project. Keep us with the hours served by the students and send reports when you can to marlak.bearden@yahoo.com

RESPECT

OBJECTIVE: To help students understand why the flag is worthy of our respect, and how we show respect for the flag.

NOTE: For an online version of this meeting plan, including links to online resources (videos, lesson plans, etc.), visit http://theflagprogram.org/?p=277

Talking Points and Discussion Questions:
- What does the United States flag mean to you?
- What do you think the flag might mean to someone who has served in the United States military services? (Perhaps invite a veteran to attend and let him or her answer that question)
• What do you think the flag might mean to someone who was born in another country and has become a United State citizen? (Perhaps invite a naturalized citizen to attend and let him or her answer that question)
• Why is the United States flag worthy of our respect?
• How does it make you feel when you see someone disrespecting the flag (stomping on it, burning it, dragging it on the ground, etc.)?
• Section 8 of the U.S. Flag Code is entitled, “Respect for flag.” Spend some time reading it and discussing the content of each subsection. Most of the things listed are prohibitions, things you cannot do to the flag or ways in which you cannot use or display the flag. For each of these, ask “Why do you think that prohibition is there? Why would that be considered disrespectful to the flag?” (See Flag Code links on F.L.A.G. Program website under Resources > Downloads)
• Are there any other prohibitions that you would add to the Flag Code to keep people from disrespecting the American flag? Why? (If they come up with something that they feel strongly about, help them write a letter to their Congressman or Senator suggesting the addition to the Flag Code, and explaining why it is important)
• Make plans to attend a local flag retirement ceremony as a group.
• Read “I am the Flag” by Ruth Apperson Rous (see page 28). Or, have one of the students read it, or have students take turns reading one paragraph each. Ask, “What stood out to you the most from that reading?”
FEBRUARY FLAG CLUB

Flag Trivia

34. A properly folded American flag will always represent what patriotic symbol? (Minuteman Hat)

Special Days in February to discuss:

3rd Monday in February - President’s Day - Presidents Day is an American holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February; Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, the holiday became popularly known as Presidents Day after it was moved as part of 1971’s Uniform Monday Holiday Act.

If time permits show one or all three of the 2-minute videos on History.com that give some fun facts about our US Presidents. https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/presidents-day/videos

Community Service Project:
Continue working on your club’s community service project. Submit photos or short videos to our F.L.A.G. Program Administrator. These will be combined with other schools and placed on our website and Facebook page. Please include copies of your photo release forms.

Flag Code

OBJECTIVE: To help students understand portions of the United States Flag Code not covered in previous meetings.

NOTE: For an online version of this meeting plan, including links to online resources (videos, lesson plans, etc.), visit http://theflagprogram.org/?p=402

Talking points and discussion questions:

- In previous meetings, we have discussed the U.S. Flag Code as it pertains to The Pledge of Allegiance, Respect for the flag, specifically the various ways in which the flag is not permitted to be used or displayed and Flying the flag at “half-staff”.
- You will want to spend at least a couple of meetings focusing on other specific instructions set forth in the Flag Code. Print and distribute copies of “The United States Flag: Federal Law Relating to Display and Associated Questions” to students for reference during this discussion. (available on web page listed above)
- § 5. Display and Use of Flag by Civilians; Codification of Rules and Customs; Definition. The Flag Code’s purpose is to set forth guidelines for civilians and civilian groups. Military service branches and personnel have their own rules.
§ 6. Time and Occasions for Display. Discuss each subsection briefly. Be sure to mention subsection (g): “The flag should be displayed during school days in or near every schoolhouse.” By participating in the F.L.A.G. Program, you are helping your school obey the law.

§ 7. Position and Manner of Display. Discuss the various flag display scenarios mentioned in each subsection, using the pictures and illustrations on the following pages to help students visualize the Flag Code’s instructions. The common principles throughout all these scenarios are that the United States flag is always to be treated with great respect, is to occupy a place of prominence when displayed, and the union is to occupy the place of prominence in relation to the rest of the flag. 34

§ 9. Conduct During Hoisting, Lowering or Passing of Flag. Stress the importance of the hand being placed over the heart, even when a cap or hat is being held (place the hand, not the hat, over the heart).

NOTE: The flag display pictures on the following pages are also available for viewing on The F.L.A.G. Program’s Flickr page at http://www.flickr.com/photos/flagprogram/ in the album titled, “Position and Manner of Display.”
MARCH FLAG CLUB

Flag Trivia

35. What is the tune called that is played at most military funerals? (Taps) Practice folding the flags -See page in this Campus Leader Handbook for additional information.

Special Days in March to discuss:

March 23, 1775 - Patrick Henry’s famous speech, "Give me liberty or give me death!" is a quotation attributed to Patrick Henry from a speech he made to the Second Virginia Convention on March 23, 1775, at St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia. He is credited with having swung the balance in convincing the convention to pass a resolution delivering Virginian troops for the Revolutionary War.

Community Service Project:

Continue working on your community service project. Submit photos or short videos to our F.L.A.G. Program Administrator. These will be combined with other schools and placed on our web site and Facebook page. Please include copies of your photo release forms.
APRIL FLAG CLUB

Flag Trivia

36. What was the original color of the President’s mansion? (Gray)
37. What president had it painted completely white and what president named it the White House? (Truman and Roosevelt)
38. What war forced us to rebuild the President’s mansion? (War of 1812)
39. What Country was America at war with when the President’s mansion was burned and damaged? (Great Britain)

Special Days in April to discuss:

April 3, 1995 - Sandra Day O’Conner Day became the first woman to serve on Supreme Court.
April 12, 1981 - First Space Shuttle Fight, the first launch of the Space Shuttle occurred on 12 April 1981, exactly 20 years after the first manned space flight, when the orbiter Columbia, with two crew members, astronauts John W. Young, commander, and Robert L. Crippen, pilot, lifted off from Pad A, Launch Complex 39, at the Kennedy Space Center.
April 30, 1789 - George Washington began as first president of the United States. The first inauguration of George Washington as the first President of the United States was held on Thursday, April 30, 1789, on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York City, New York. The inauguration marked the commencement of the first four-year term of George Washington as President.

Community Service Project:

Wrap up your community service project. Submit photos or short videos to our F.L.A.G. Program Administrator by the end of April. These will be combined with other schools and placed on our web site and Facebook page. Please include copies of your photo release forms.
MAY FLAG CLUB

Flag Trivia

40. Memorial Day was established for what reason? (To honor men and women killed in the service of our country)

41. What procedures do you follow on raising the U.S. flag on Memorial Day? (Raise the flag briskly to the top and then slowly to the midway point of the pole. At noon the flag is raised back to the top of the pole and at end of day it is lowered slowly and removed.)

42. What was the original name used before it was changed to Memorial Day? (Decoration Day)

43. What year was Memorial Day established by Congress to be celebrated on the last Monday of May? (1968)

44. What year did this law go into effect? (1971)

45. What happens at 3:00 pm on Memorial Day? (Moment of Remembrance)

Special Days in May, June and July to discuss:

Memorial Day or Decoration Day is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces. The holiday, which is currently observed every year on the last Monday of May.

June 14 - Flag Day, commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States, which happened on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The United States Army also celebrates the U.S. Army Birthday on this date.

May 19 - Armed Forces Day, celebrated on the third Saturday in May. Although, originally, there were single day celebrations for each branch of the military, the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force; this format changed on August 21, 1949, when Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of Armed Forces Day.

July 4 - Independence Day, also referred to as the Fourth of July or July Fourth, commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Flag Club Members:

Plan to receive a Citizenship Award and Flag Pin at the end of the school year for your participation of this program.
Additional Club Meetings and Community Service Project Ideas
**Additional Club Meeting Ideas:**

Regular Flag Club meetings provide an excellent opportunity to further educate students about the United States flag, helping them to grow in their understanding of the importance of “Old Glory” and everything she stands for.

- Have a coloring contest or Art Contest with all grades with a patriotic theme.
- Send Gold Star Mother’s Day Cards.
- Send thank you cards to first responders, October for Fire Fighters, May for Police and September (9/11).
- Write a skit about being a part of your Flag Club to encourage more participation. Share your skit during announcements or at school gatherings.
- Plan school announcements throughout the year that inform the student body about “On this day in American History” and other related ideas.

**Community Service Projects Ideas:**

- United Service Organizations (USO) in-kind donations for military. Go to [USO.org](http://USO.org) and click on “find a USO” in your area. Look up the local chapter to get a contact person and phone number.
- Fundraiser for a military, first responder or patriotic organization that needs funds for a specific item or program.

**These could include:**

- [Patriotpaws.org](http://Patriotpaws.org)
- [Snowballexpress.org](http://Snowballexpress.org) through the Gary Sinise Foundation.
- [Operationhomefront.org](http://Operationhomefront.org)
- Contact your Local Fire and Police Departments for ideas on how your club can show appreciation.
- Contact local Nursing Homes, Veterans Hospitals, VFW and American Legion Posts to assist these organizations or find local veterans these organizations serve.

**Flag Club Trainers:**

Contract your local Military Recruiting office to for trainers to assist with training the students the proper Flying, Lowering and Gathering of the flags. These military professionals will come to your school free of charge.
Every Fall across America a new school year begins. In many schools a tradition continues that began in the late 1800’s – paying homage to the American flag. On October 21, 1892, children in schools across the nation participated in an event to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ landing in North America. Among the patriotic activities of the day, the ritual of citing the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag began. Though we often still see this tradition today steeped in rich, prideful history, we also see that, for many people, the significance and history of our flag has lost its luster.

The Power of One

“The power of one” is a phrase we’ve all heard, but few truly believe that one person can make a difference. The birth of the F.L.A.G. Program is such a case. In the Fall of 2010, Jim Rodriguez was doing what most parents were doing, taking his daughter to school every morning. Day after day, as Jim dropped her off, he could not help but notice the American flag being raised in a manner not befitting this national treasure. A school employee who had been assigned the task was doing his duties to the best of his knowledge and ability. He casually rolled up the flag and carried it under his arm before securing it to the flag pole to be raised for the day. No one noticed, and no one paused to pay their respect. It had become just a daily routine. As a retired veteran of the United States Air Force, Jim couldn’t help but shudder. So, he took action. He called the principal of the school and proposed an idea to engage the students in restoring the tradition, teaching them the history, the etiquette and proper protocol surrounding the American flag. The support they received from Waxahachie I.S.D. and the school’s student council and administrative staff helped to bring this dream to reality.
The acronym F.L.A.G. stands for “Fly, Lower, And Gather.” Flag Clubs are open to students who are enrolled in the 4th through 12th grades. The flag of the United States – also known as “Old Glory” – represents everything that is good about this country. It represents Freedom, Courage and Hope. Countless men and women have served under her colors and have died defending the United States and State Flag. Students who participate will be held accountable for the proper Flying, Lowering, And Gathering of the United States and State Flag during the school year. Students will be recognized with a Citizenship Award and a flag lapel pin presented by the Leaders of the F.L.A.G. Program. This is a model for all school districts to duplicate and emulate.

The F.L.A.G. Program Corporate Sponsors

Donation levels include:

Red Sponsor: $5,000 and up (in one school year)
White Sponsor: $2,500 - $4,999
Blue Sponsor: $1,000 - $2,499
School Sponsor: $500 - $999
Friend of the F.L.A.G. Program: $100 - $499

The F.L.A.G. Program is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit that provides an active way to connect students to the sacrifices made by our Military, Law Enforcement, Firefighters and Rescue Personnel while instilling patriotism, history and leadership lessons.