

# Flag Retirement Ceremony

## Materials:

US flag which is no longer suitable for display fire, prepared ahead of time

## Ceremony:

Adult Leader: We have come together to dispose of a U.S. flag which is no longer serviceable. This flag has served as a reminder of our nation and those who have defended our freedom. It has served us well.

Leader: Please bring the flag forward and display it one last time.

*Two Scouts bring the flag forward, unfold it, and hold it so it is properly displayed to the audience.*

Leader: The U.S. flag is more than just some brightly colored cloth... it is a symbol of our nation.

Scout #1: Seven red stripes and six white strips; together they represent the original 13 colonies that gained us liberty.

Scout #2: The red stripes remind us of the lifeblood of brave men and women who were ready to die for this, their country.

Scout #3: The white stripes remind us of purity and cleanliness of purpose, thought, word and deed.

Scout #4: The blue is for truth and justice, like the eternal blue of the star-filled heavens.

Scout #5: The stars represent the fifty sovereign states of our union.

Scout #6: The American Creed states, "it is my duty to my country to love it, to respect its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

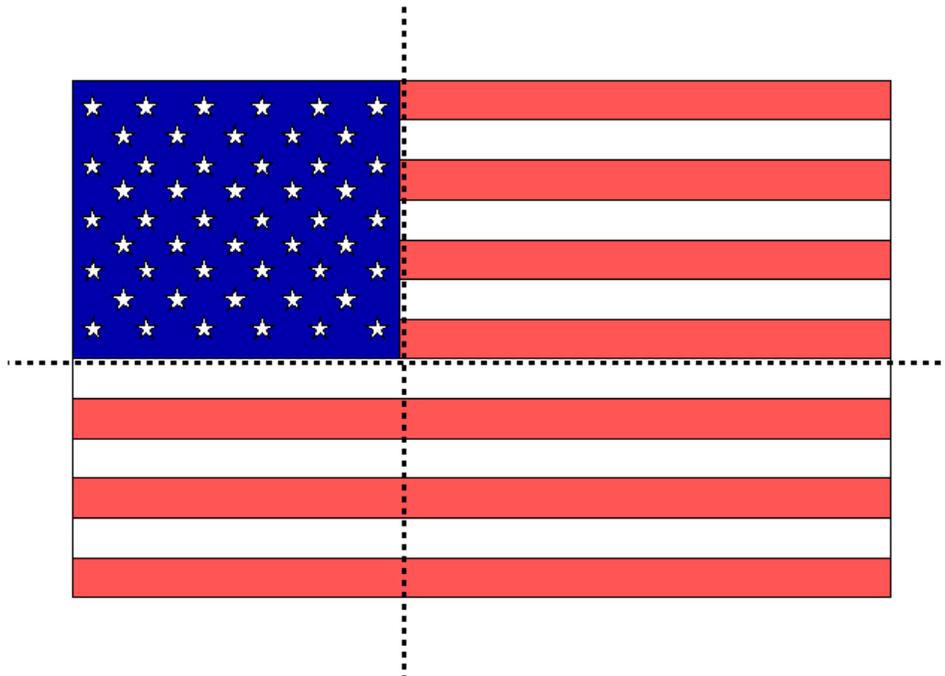
Leader: The U.S. flag should be treated with respect when it's flying, and it should be treated with respect when it's being retired.

Scout #7: Therefore, we retire flags with dignity and respect when they become worn, torn, faded, or badly soiled.

Scout #8: A flag ceases to be a flag when it is cut into pieces. We cut the flag into four pieces: three red and white striped banners and the blue star field. We leave the blue field intact because no one should ever let the union be broken.

Leader: We ask that everyone maintain a respectful silence as this flag is retired. Please retire the flag.

*A leader cuts the flag into the four pieces as shown below.*



*A leader places the flag pieces carefully in the fire. The audience waits in silence until the flag is completely consumed by the fire.*

*Taps may be played on a bugle or sung.*

Leader: Thank you for joining us for this solemn ceremony. God bless America!