

Flag etiquette

Federal law formalizes in the Flag Code the ways in which we show respect to our flag.

The proper way for displaying and using the flag is lengthy, given all the various circumstances in which it may appear.

Generally, though, the code provides that....

- the flag may fly outdoors between sunrise and sunset. If flown at night, it should be lighted. Take it down during inclement weather unless it's of all-weather material.
- the flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is always accorded a position of honor, no other flags flying higher.
- the flag should not be used as wearing apparel or drapery in any manner. It is appropriate, however, to drape a casket of one who has served his/her country.
- the flag should never be used for any advertising purpose.
- the flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform. Excepted are flag patches on military and police and fire uniforms and on uniforms of patriotic organizations.
- the flag should never have anything attached to or placed on it.
- it should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground or floor. It should be folded neatly when taken down.

When a flag is so worn it is no longer a respectful symbol of our country, it should be destroyed in a "dignified manner," preferably by burning. Many American Legion and VFW posts conduct such ceremonies as do Scout troops. Contact them for details.