

AMERICANISM II/The Flag

In our very first article, we identified Americanism as an unfailing love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiances to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity.

It is also important to note that according to Seymour Lipset, “Being an American, however, is an ideological commitment. It is not a matter of birth. Those who reject American values are un-American.”

Included among the sixteen Americanism programs listed earlier, we find included are Boy Scouts of America, Flag Education and Flag Protection. Further review of the programs listed we find eight of them focus attention on young people. Consequently, we feel comfortable deciding that our initial efforts should focus on Cub and Boy Scouts; Why not provide flag education to these young people in hopes that they will grow into proud citizens who are knowledgeable about Flag Etiquette and its Standards of Respect.

During my research on the Flag, we found there is a voluminous amount of material available which addresses the American flag, so much so that we had to recall the question asked during a comedy skit- “How do you eat an elephant?” “ Answer-One bite at a time.” Accordingly, we will address the flag, “one part at a time.”

The Pledge of Allegiance

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.

Flag Display Days

New Year’s Day.....	January 1st
Martin Luther King , Jr. Day.....	3rd Monday in January
Lincoln's Birthday.....	February 12th
Washington's Birthday(President's Day).....	3rd Monday in February
Easter.....	Variable
Mother's Day.....	2nd Sunday in May
Peace Officers Memorial Day(half-staff).....	May 15th
Armed Forces Day.....	3rd Saturday in May
Memorial Day(half-staff till noon).....	last Monday in May
Flag Day.....	June 14th

Independence Day.....	July 4 th
Labor Day.....	1 st Monday in Sept.
Patriot Day(half-staff).....	September 11th
POW/MIA Recognition Day.....	3 rd Friday in Sept.
Constitution/Citizenship Day.....	September 17 th
Columbus Day.....	2 nd Monday in October
Navy Day.....	October 27 th
Veterans Day.....	November 11 th
Thanksgiving Day.....	4 th Thursday in Nov.
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day(half-staff).....	December 7 th
Christmas Day.....	December 25 th

And such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of states (date of admission); and on state holidays.

Information outlined above is part of the Federal Flag Code ([Flag Code](#)) or enacted by Federal legislation. Fly your POW/MIA flag with your United States flag on Armed Forces Day; Memorial Day; Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day.

Observations at High School, College and Professional sporting events reveal that there are far too many sports fans talking, texting, laughing, playing and moving about during the Flag ceremonies, including the National Anthem. Accordingly, next month we will discuss Flag Etiquette/Standards of Respect such as; Raising and Lowering the Flag; Displaying the Flag Indoors; Parading and Saluting the Flag; The Salute; The Flag in Mourning; and Evolution of the United States Flag.



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