

Girl Scout Flag Ceremonies

Always give the flag of the United States the **position of honor**. This means:

- Put the flag to the right of other flags.
- Put the flag in front of other flags.
- Put the flag higher than other flags.
- Never let the flag touch the floor or ground.



Girl Scouts always use the citizen's salute even if they are in uniform. Stand at attention and place your right hand over your heart.

Salute:

- when the flag is being raised or lowered.
- when the flag passes you in a parade.
- when the National Anthem (Star Spangled Banner) is played.

To do a flag ceremony, select a color guard.

The color guard is composed of:

Flag bearer	One for each flag -- carries the flag.
Guards	One or more for each flag -- helps to post the colors, if this is done and protects the flag's honor.
Caller	Announces each part of the ceremony.

Girls should be in full uniform, including white gloves, if this is a public (P.T.A., service clubs, parades, etc.) ceremony. Troop meetings and activities do not require girls to be in uniform for flag ceremonies. Red sashes are **not** worn with the uniform. The sash sets are used, especially at camp, when girls are **not** in uniform to give a "uniform" appearance.

A public ceremony may be done as follows:

Color guard stands ready at rear of room.

Caller -- *"Color guard, attention."*
"Audience, please stand."
"Color guard, advance." (Remember right, front, higher!)

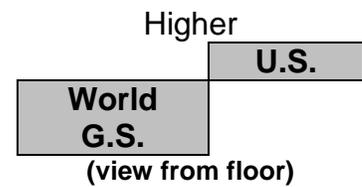
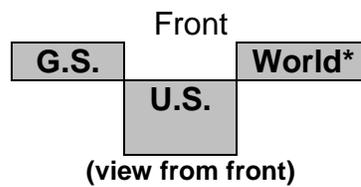
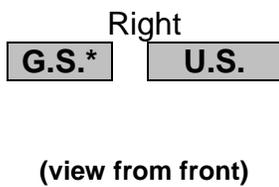
Colors may be held during the Pledge of Allegiance or colors may be posted.

Color guards stand at attention and are **silent** throughout the ceremony. They do not salute, say the Pledge or sing any song that might be included.

Caller -- *"The flag of our country, pledge allegiance."*
Caller -- (Optional) *"Please join me in singing..."* (any patriotic song).
If the colors are **not** to be posted then...
Caller -- *"Color guard, retreat."* Again **remember** right, front, higher.

If colors are posted, post the United States flag last (highest). The U.S. flag should be on its own right or higher or first (front).

Possible flag placements:



*Substitute state flag or church flag if appropriate.

If colors are posted -- **Optional** salute:

Caller -- *"Color guard, post your colors."*

Caller -- *"Color guard, honor the flag of your country."* Girls use civilian salute in unison. Unison can be helped by stepping back on the left foot, closing with the right, raising hand to heart, replacing hand to side in a **silent** four count. Do **not** salute in any position other than at attention -- legs together, body upright. Look at the flag as you salute.

Caller -- *"Color guard, dismissed."* Leave the colors posted.

To retire the colors:

Caller -- *"Color guard, attention."*
"Audience, please stand."
"Color guard, advance."
"Color guard, retire the colors."

(take the United States flag from the stand first [higher]).

