

# PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL COLORS ON FLAG STAFFS - SIMPLIFIED (TROOP 22 MEETINGS ONLY)<sup>1</sup>

## **PLANNING**

### **STEP 1: GATHER INFORMATION**

➤ In addition to person giving commands to the color guard ("Commander"), three persons are required for the national colors. One stands/marches to each side of the bearer. That's a total of four. Who is available and appropriate for those roles?

➤ Determine where the colors will be posted. (See "Flag Courtesy" below [Reference: pp. 42-44 of Boy Scout Handbook, 11th Ed., pp. 42-44])

➤ If a bugle call is to accompany the presentation of the colors, where will the bugler stand? Can the bugler sound the call properly or will he just make noise?

### **STEP 2: FORMULATE PLAN**

➤ See "Flag Courtesy" below.

➤ Identify members of color guard and alternates. Members of color guard are in **complete** uniform, including trousers (or shorts if all members of the color guard are wearing shorts). "Uniform" means uniform = the same.

➤ Locate and have available the national colors, stand, and other materials.

### **STEP 3: COMMUNICATE PLAN**

➤ Be sure the participants know what they will be doing and where and when they will be doing it. (Call to remind team - including reminder to wear complete uniform of the day.)

### **STEP 4: PRACTICE (Imagine that!!)**

➤ Give commands and have color guard execute those commands.

➤ Bugler can practice with and without other members of team.

### **STEP 5: EXECUTE PLAN**

### **STEP 6: EVALUATE PERFORMANCE**

## **Script for Standard Presentation of the Colors on Flag Staffs (vs. flag poles)**

All commands by Commander of Color Guard.

1) Initial command: "Color Guard, attention" (Must be loud enough for all of Color Guard to hear. Color Guard assumes positions for ceremony.)

2) "Troop Attention."

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<sup>1</sup>A more complete version covering Courts of Honor, presentation of Troop colors, and presentation of colors at events other than Troop meetings is available.

3) "Scout Salute." (*NOTE: Members of the Color Guard do NOT salute at any time. Their role is to carry and guard the colors, but the Commander does salute.*)

4) "Color Guard, present the colors." (On this command, Color Guard marches forward to positions near the flag stand where they can later turn to post the colors. Reaching that position, they stop, turn, face the audience, and stand at attention.)(Review point 4 of "Flag Courtesy" above.)

5) If bugler to sound call: "Bugler, sound off."

6) Only if Pledge of Allegiance to be given: After color guard reaches the vicinity of the flag stands, turns to face the Troop or audience, and stands at attention, command is given: "The Pledge of Allegiance." [brief pause] "I pledge allegiance to the flag . . . etc." (Others will join in.)

7) "Color Guard, post colors." (Color bearers only place colors in flags stands, step back, then align with other members of color guard facing the audience. Avoid looking like a herd of cattle milling around. Again, practice.)

8) "Two." (Salute has been held by Scouts and Scouters present and Commander - since command "Scout Salute" (No. 3). Color Guard does not salute.)

9) "Color Guard, retire." (Color guard walks in orderly fashion to rear of space or to other finishing location as per plan and practice.)

10) **At A Troop meeting**, the SPL or acting SPL takes command of the formation and proceeds as planned. He may give the command, "At Ease," which allows the Scouts to relax from the position of attention.

### **Script for Standard Retiring of the Colors on Flag Staffs (vs. flag poles)**

All commands by Commander of Color Guard.

1) (Color Guard takes position quietly near posted flags and stands at attention.)  
Initial command: "Color Guard, attention."

2) "Troop Attention."

3) "Color Guard, retrieve the colors." (Color bearers remove colors from stands and align, at attention, with other members of color guard facing the audience or Troop. Again, practice is required to allow this movement to look planned, as opposed to sloppy.)

4) When color guard has secured the colors and is aligned and still: "Scout Salute."  
(*Members of the Color Guard do NOT salute at any time. Their role is to carry and guard the colors. Commander salutes.*)

5) If bugler to sound call: "Bugler, sound off."

6) "Color Guard, retire the colors." (The color guard starts to move to the rear of the space keeping their alignment. Again, this takes practice to look good. Review point 4 of "Flag Courtesy" above.)

7) When colors have reached the rear of the space: "Two." (Salute has been held by Scouts and

Scouters present - OTHER THAN COLOR GUARD - since command "Scout Salute.")

8) The SPL or acting SPL takes command of the formation and proceeds as planned. If so, he would give the command "At ease." He might then call for the Scout Circle or further closing ceremony (Hopefully, announcements have already taken place. Announcements are inconsistent with the concept of "ceremony.") or he might simply dismiss the Troop.

### **FLAG COURTESY** (pp. 42-44 of 11th Ed., Boy Scout handbook.

1. The U.S. Flag (the "Flag") is always to the right and as high or higher than any other flag being presented. So, if color guard is presenting two or more flags, the Flag is on the right and other flags are angled to be sure their tops are lower than the top of the Flag.

2. If presenting colors single file, The Flag goes first.

3. **The Flag is be held vertically, not on an angle, except when necessary to go under some obstruction.** (Here is where planning and practice avoid problems. Can you start on the "right" side or "inside" of the obstruction?)

4. If the colors are to be posted (placed in a flag holder) on a stage or to the side of a speaker, the Flag is posted to the right of the stage or speaker (left of the audience). This means that the respective color bearers must cross at the front of the space so the national colors can move from the right of Color Guard to the posting position to the right of the stage or speaker. (Practice!!)

5. If the colors are to be posted on the floor of the room and there is no speaker (example: pot luck dinner), national colors are posted to the right of front of room as viewed by audience.

6. The colors must be free and unfurled, rather than wrapped on the pole.