

The Star Spangled Banner:

by Francis Scott Key

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
 What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
 Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous
 fight,
 O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
 And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
 Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
 O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee):Commonly referred to as *America*
by Rev. Samuel F. Smith - 1832

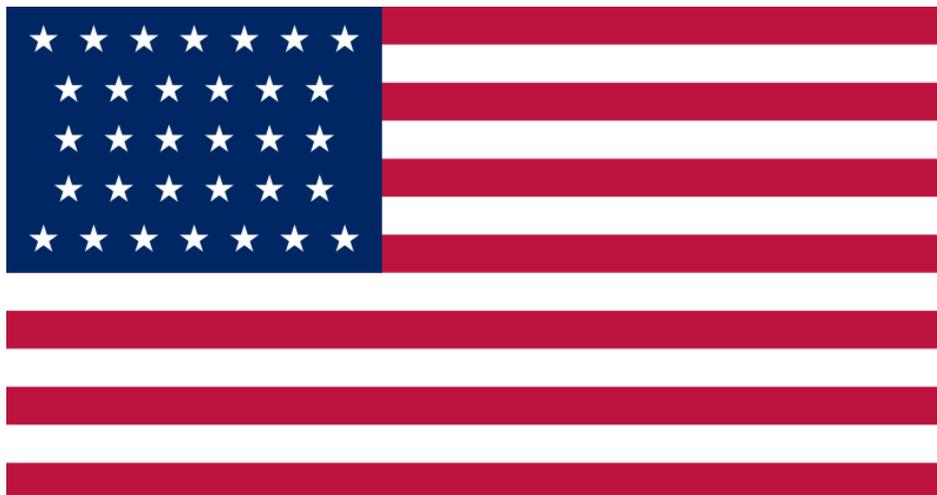
My country, 'tis of Thee,
 Sweet Land of Liberty
 Of thee I sing;
 Land where my fathers died,
 Land of the pilgrims' pride,
 From every mountain side
 Let Freedom ring.

Pledge of Allegiance:**I pledge allegiance...** you promise to be loyal**to the Flag...** to the symbol of your country**of the United States of America...** a nation of 50 states and several territories, each with certain rights of its own.**and to the Republic...** a country where the people elect representatives from among themselves to make laws for everyone**for which it stands,**... the flag represents the values of our form of government, in which everyone is equal under the law**one Nation under God,**... a country formed under God whose people are free to believe as they wish**indivisible,**... the nation cannot be split into parts**with liberty and justice...** with freedom and a system of law**for all...** for every person in the nation, regardless of their differences**Question:**

What do the colors of the American flag mean?

Answer:

According to custom and tradition, white signifies purity and innocence; red, hardiness and valor; and blue signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

Fun Question:Below is an image of an official American flag that was used between 1858 and 1859. Can you describe what looks different about this flag, and why that might be? *Hint: the answer is found in the "union".*

Flag Etiquette

<http://www.usa-flag-site.org/etiquette.shtml>

Federal law stipulates many aspects of flag etiquette. The section of law dealing with American Flag etiquette is generally referred to as the Flag Code. Some general guidelines from the Flag Code answer many of the most common questions:

- The flag should be lighted at all times, either by sunlight or by an appropriate light source.
- The flag should be flown in fair weather, unless the flag is designed for inclement weather use.
- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- The flag should not be used for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.
- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard.
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.
- The flag should never have any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind placed on it, or attached to it.
- The flag should never be used for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.
- The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.
- When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.

Rules for Display of the American Flag

<http://www.usa-flag-site.org/etiquette-display.shtml>

Display Outdoors

Over the Middle of the Street

It should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.

Flown at Half-staff

Should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. By "half-staff" is meant lowering the flag to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff. Crepe streamers may be affixed to spear heads or flagstuffs in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.

Flown on the Same Halyard with Non-Nation Flags

The American Flag should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the right of the flag of the United States.

Suspended Over a Sidewalk

The flag may be suspended from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

From a Staff Projecting Horizontally or at an Angle

The flag may be projected from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, with the union of the flag placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.

In a Parade with Other Flags

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag, or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

With Non-National Flags

The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

With Other National Flags

When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

With Another Flag Against a Wall from Crossed Staffs

Should be on the right, the flag's own right which is the viewer's left, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium on a Podium

The flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker (to the right of the audience).

From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium off the Podium

Custom and not the flag code hold that the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence as part of the audience, in the position of honor at the audience's right.

Used to Cover a Casket

It should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

Other than being Flown from a Staff

The flag should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window it should be displayed in the same way, that is with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. When festoons, rosettes or drapings are desired, bunting of blue, white and red should be used, but never the flag.

The Minnesota State Flag

The Minnesota State Flag is a medium blue color with a narrow gold border and a gold fringe. Centered in the medium blue field is a circular emblem with a white background and a yellow border. Within the circular emblem an inner circle surrounds scenes from [The Great Seal of the State of Minnesota](#) displayed on a field of medium blue matching that of the general flag. The inner circle is surrounded by 19 five pointed stars representing Minnesota as the 19th state, after the original 13 colonies, to join the union. The stars are arranged in four groups of four stars and one group of three stars at the top of the circle. The top star represents the North Star. The five star groups represent a five pointed star. The word "MINNESOTA" is printed in red letters below the inner circle.

Scenes from the Minnesota State Seal are displayed within the inner circle. Shown is a bare-footed farmer plowing a field. The farmer's axe, gun and powder horn rest on a nearby stump. An Indian rides nearby. The field borders a river with a waterfall. Perhaps you can find this same field near St. Anthony's Falls on the Mississippi River? These scenes are surrounded by intertwined pink and white lady slippers (the state flower) and a red ribbon. Printed in gold letters on the red ribbon are the dates 1819, the year in which Fort Snelling was established, 1893, the year that the flag was officially adopted and "L'ETOILE DU NORD" (Star of the North), the Minnesota State Motto. Over the seal in gold letters is the date 1858; the date that Minnesota was admitted to the union as our 32nd state.