Cub Scout Roundtable Planning Sheet – 60 minute Format

**Topic: Flag Ceremonies / Flag Etiquette**

**Scout Law**: Loyal, Courteous, Obedient, Brave

**Take Away:** The American Flag is a symbol of our country. The flag represents us as a people and as a nation. Working with Scouts and showing respect for a flag, whether it’s saying the Pledge of Allegiance, presenting a flag at a ceremony or parade, or learning to properly retire an old tattered flag, is how we can show Scouts to have pride in their country.

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| Time Allotted | Activity | Assigned To | Content Ideas | Notes for Media Team |
| 5 min | Ceremony/Skit/Song/Game | Cub RT Staff or participants | Opening flag ceremony |  |
| 40 min | General Session: All participants | Cub RT Staff | Lead a discussion on different ways to use the flag in den and pack meetings and ceremonies.  Do you do an opening flag ceremony at all meetings, both den and pack? When you have the Scouts conduct a flag ceremony at each of their den meetings, they will be comfortable conducting the pack meeting flag ceremony. Do you have the Scouts set up the flag?  Do you regularly say the Pledge of Allegiance?  When you do outdoor events do you bring the American flag with you?  At what other activities can a flag be used or a flag ceremony be conducted?   * At school assemblies and functions * At high school sporting events * At community parades and functions * At village or city council meetings * As cemetery gravestone markers   How can units work with others in the community to conduct flag ceremonies?  Discuss flag etiquette.  Demonstrate how to conduct a flag ceremony. Have Roundtable participants practice conducting a flag ceremony, giving each participant an opportunity to play different roles in the ceremony.  Demonstrate how to fold the flag and how to properly carry a folded flag. Have the Roundtable participants practice each.  Explain the Pledge of Allegiance (see below).  Discuss the use of a den flag. Bring samples of den flags to show the Roundtable participants.  Discuss the history of the American flag.  Discuss the history and symbolism of your state flag. |  |
| 10 min | Q & A | Cub Scout RTC &  District Committee | Opportunity to answer any additional Flag Ceremonies/Etiquette questions. |  |
| 5 min | Announcements and Closing | Cub Scout RTC | Closing flag ceremony |  |

**Explaining the Pledge of Allegiance:**

When you pledge allegiance to the flag, you promise loyalty and devotion to your nation.

**I pledge allegiance...**  
You promise to be true

**...to the flag...**  
to the emblem of our country

**... of the United States of America...**  
a nation made up of fifty 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 them

**...for which it stands...**  
the flag represents the United States of America

**... one nation under God,...**a country whose people are free to believe in God

**... indivisible,...**  
the nation cannot be split into parts

**... with liberty and justice...**with freedom and fairness

**..for all. ...**for every person in the country - you and every other American.

**The Colors of the Flag:**

**Needed*:***

*1 American Flag, 3 candles (red, white, blue), narrator and three Scouts.* (Be sure to check your meeting place's fire codes before doing this, or use electric candles.) [This could be done for a Summer outside meeting.]

***Narrator:*** Have you noticed the strong bond between our flag and our oath? Let me show you.

***Scout #1*** *(Scout lights blue candle)*One of the Blue is the color of faith. Believing in our self, our country, and our religion. This is like the first part of the Scout Oath, doing our best, and our duty to God and our country.

***Scout #2*** *(Scout lights red candle)* The color red in our flag means sacrifice and courage, the qualities of the founders of our country. Red is the symbol of the second part of the Scout Oath. Our duty to other people requires courage to help anyone in trouble and the self-sacrifice of putting others first.

***Scout #3*** *(Scout lights white candle)* The last colorof the flag is white. It is the symbol of purity and perfection.It represents keeping us strong and having strong morals.

**Narrator:** Let us rise and say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Flag Recipe**

* Large pot, big spoon, American flag, stars,
* 1 cup red crepe paper bits,
* 1 cup blue crepe paper bits,
* 1 cup white crepe paper bits,

*Cub Scouts form a semi-circle around the pot.  American flag is folded and hidden in the pot.  Each Cub Scout is holding an ingredient, which he adds at the right time:*

**Cub #1**:   We are going to fix for you a treat that is really grand; And make for you a recipe… the greatest in the land.

**Cub #2:**  First we’ll put in a heaping cup of red for courage true *(add red paper to pot)*

**Cub #3:**  And then we will add for loyalty a dash of blue *(add blue paper to pot)*

**Cub #4:**  For purity, we will now sift in a layer of snowy white *(add white paper to pot)*

**Cub #5:**  We will sprinkle in a pinch of stars to make it come out right *(add stars to pot)*

**Cub #6:**  We will stir and stir and then you will see, that what we made is *(stir with spoon)*

**All:**         Old Glory! *(Pull out the flag from the bottom of the pot.)*  Please stand now as we recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Flag Etiquette**

**1. Flag ceremonies should be respectful and tailored to the Scouts participating.**

All Scout flag ceremonies should be solemn events, but they don’t all need to be the same.

For Tigers, plan a flag ceremony that’s short and simple. For older Cub Scouts, add a few more lines.

For Boy Scouts, suggest the boys plan something more elaborate and deeper in meaning, perhaps with additional comments by an adult or a more senior Scout.

**2. Don’t ever let the flag touch anything beneath it.**

The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water or merchandise.

However, contrary to an urban legend, the U.S. Flag Code does not state that a flag that touches the ground should be burned or retired.

**3. Never add anything to an American flag.**

The American flag is great enough as it is. That’s why the flag “should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.”

**4. The flag isn’t to be worn as a costume.**

No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations, like the BSA.

**5. The flag occupies a position of honor.**

When carried in a procession, the American flag is to:

* The marching right of other flags, or
* In front of other flags.
* When displayed, the American flag:
* Should be to the flag’s own right (the audience’s left).
* When grouped with other flags, (i.e., state, Scout, council, etc.), should be at the center, in front of or higher than the other flags.
* When with another flag on crossed staffs, should be on the flag’s own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag(s).
* When with the flags of two or more nations, it should be flown from separate staffs of the same height. International use forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in times of peace.

**6. When it’s time to retire a flag, do so in a dignified way.**

The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

**7. The flag may be burned as a whole or separated into pieces.**

Separation is appropriate when the flag is large, or when you have only a few flags and a large number of Scouts who wish to take a substantive part in the ceremony.

**8. The flag should be lowered daily.**

Unless the flag pole is lighted, it should be lowered at dusk. Again, special care should be taken that no part of the flag touches the ground.

**9. Fold the American flag properly.**

In this country, we have special way we fold our flag. The American flag — and only the American flag — is folded into a triangle.

**10. A folded flag is carried against the chest.**

A properly folded flag should show only a triangular blue field of stars. The flag, when folded, is then carried held against the chest with the arms crossed and folded against the chest. The triangle points up.

**Resources related to the American Flag:**

**American Flag Set:** <http://www.scoutstuff.org/american-flag-set.html>

**Your Flag Booklet:** <http://www.scoutstuff.org/your-flag-book.html>