

# The American Flag



**21 Stars**  
1819-1820  
(IL)



**20 Stars**  
1818-1819  
(IN, LA, MS, OH, TN)



**15 Stars**  
1795-1818  
(KY, VT)



**50 Stars**  
1960-  
(HI)



**49 Stars**  
1959-1960  
(AK)



**48 Stars**  
1912-1959  
(AZ, NM)



**23 Stars**  
1820-1822  
(AL, ME)



**13 Stars**  
1777-1795(IL)  
(CT, DE, GA, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, SC, VA)



**46 Stars**  
1908-1912  
(OK)



**24 Stars**  
1822-1836  
(MO)

## EVOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

Shown are the 27 legal flags flown throughout our history. By law, a star is added to the American Flag on the 4th of July following the admission of a state(s) to the Union. Contrary to popular belief, the first official American Flag was not the Betsy Ross flag (13 Stars in a circle) but the staggered star pattern shown above.



**45 Stars**  
1896-1908  
(UT)



**25 Stars**  
1836-1837  
(AR)

## REVEILLE AND RETREAT WHAT TO DO WHEN NOT IN A FORMATION

For the raising of the flag, all members in uniform should stop and salute the flag. Upon completion of the music, personnel can drop their salute. If the person is not in the near vicinity of the flag, they may drop their salute once the flag has reached its peak or once the music has stopped (if they cannot see the flag). For military members not in uniform, they should stand at attention and place their right hand over their heart. The same rule applies if they are not in the near vicinity of the flag.

For the lowering of the flag, much of the same rules apply. Prior to lowering of the flag, the bugle call "retreat" is usually played. At this point, all personnel should stop and stand at "parade rest." Once the music for lowering of the flag starts, members will come to attention and render a salute. Once the flag is removed from the lanyard, then they may drop their salute. Personnel do not have to wait for the flag to be folded before moving on with their business. If the military member is not in the near vicinity of the flag, then the same rule applies as with the raising of the flag—the salute may be dropped once the flag can no longer be seen or the music cannot be heard, whichever is the latter. Military members not in uniform follow the same rules as those in uniform except that they place their right hand over their heart instead of saluting.



**44 Stars**  
1891-1896  
(WY)



**26 Stars**  
1837-1845  
(MI)

## RESPECT FOR FLAG

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

- The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property
- The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.
- The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white, and red always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of the platform, and for decoration in general.
- The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
- The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- 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.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkin or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
- 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. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- 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.



**43 Stars**  
1890-1891  
(ID, MT, ND, SD, WA)



**27 Stars**  
1845-1846  
(FL)



**38 Stars**  
1877-1890  
(CO)



**28 Stars**  
1846-1847  
(TX)



**37 Stars**  
1867-1877  
(NE)



**29 Stars**  
1847-1848  
(IA)



**36 Stars**  
1865-1867  
(NV)



**30 Stars**  
1848-1851  
(WI)



**31 Stars**  
1851-1858  
(CA)



**32 Stars**  
1858-1859  
(MN)



**33 Stars**  
1859-1861  
(OR)



**34 Stars**  
1861-1863  
(KS)



**35 Stars**  
1863-1865  
(WV)