

## **Camp Flag Ceremony**

**COLOR BEARER** – Red sash is over the right shoulder and tied with a square knot under the left arm (same position as a badge sash). The color bearer carries the flag on outstretched hands close to her body, flag point forward.

**COLOR GUARD** – Red sashes are tied around the waist on the left side with a square knot. There may be 2-6 guards. The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, floor, water or merchandise.

**FORMATION** – May be varied. If the horseshoe is used, the camp proceeds in a single or double file (according to number of campers), and forms a horseshoe around the flagpole. Everyone stands at attention. Stand straight and tall, with hands at sides during the flag ceremony.

**SILENCE** – There is absolute silence from the time the camp moves into formation until the ceremony is over. The Color Guard is the official guardian of the flag for the entire period that they wear the red sashes and do not sing or speak.

**CALLER** – Her job is to give the directions to the horseshoe and to the Color Guard.

**ORDERS** – Given by the Caller.

### **LOWERING THE FLAG Orders**

- Horseshoe Attention
- Horseshoe Advance
- Color Guard Advance
- Color Guard Salute the Colors
- Color Guard Retire the Colors
- As the flag is being lowered, we will sing Taps
- Are there any announcements?
- Color Guard Dismissed
- Horseshoe Dismissed

### **RAISING THE FLAG**

- Horseshoe Attention
- Horseshoe Advance
- Color Guard Advance
- Color Guard Post the Colors
- Color Guard Salute the Colors
- Girl Scouts, the Flag of your Country, Pledge of Allegiance
- The Girl Scout Promise
- Are there any announcements?
- Color Guard Dismissed
- Horseshoe Dismissed

**COLORS** – When the flag is raised in the morning, it is spoken of as “colors.”

**RETREAT** – When the flag is lowered at the end of the day, it is called “retreat.”

**SALUTE** – In the morning, the camp salutes the flag when the first clip is attached to the flag until the flag reaches the top. In the evening, the salute begins when the flag starts down and is held until the second clip is removed from the flag. To salute the flag, place your right hand over your heart.

**CEREMONY** – The ceremony takes place after the flag has been raised and before it has been lowered. The ceremony varies but often consists of the Pledge of Allegiance, the Girl Scout Promise and Law, patriotic songs, and poems.

**RAISING or LOWERING** – At Colors and Retreat, the Color Bearer steps forward first and the Color Guards follow, taking their positions on the right and left of the flagpole. They are responsible for seeing that the flag flies free. They catch the flag as it is lowered and see that it does not touch the ground. At Colors, one member may hold the flag as the Bearer attaches it to the flag rope.

**FOLDING** – The flag is held by the Color Guard and folded in half lengthwise. Then again in half lengthwise, always with the blue field down or underneath and nearest the flagpole. The last couple (those farthest from the flagpole) begins folding the flag in a triangle. They fold until they can pass it on to the other members of the Color Guard to continue or until the flag is a triangle, tucking the loose edge under the last fold.

**PLACING** – The Color Guard resumes its original position. One member of the first couple steps forward in front of the Color Bearer, places the flag, point forward, in her outstretched hands and returns to her position.

**TURN** – Each member of the Guard takes one step to the side and then turns to face the center. The Bearer does an about face and walks down the aisle. The first couple follows her, then the second, etc.