



A GUIDE TO HONORING & DISPLAYING

THE U.S. FLAG








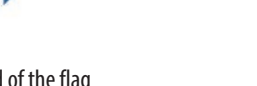
Annin
FLAGMAKERS
AMERICAN FLAGS ★ AMERICAN MADE

Displaying and Honoring the Flag of the United States of America

The United States Flag Code establishes advisory rules for display and care of the national flag of the United States of America. It is Chapter 1 of Title 4 of the United States Code.

How do you fold the American flag?

The folding of an American flag into the shape of a triangle is part of a military ceremony and has evolved into a custom that has been picked up by the VFW, American Legion, the Boy and Girl Scouts and other patriotic organizations. There is no right or wrong way to fold an American flag, if it is treated with respect. The Flag Code of the United States does not mention a specific way of folding the flag nor does it endorse any one ceremony. The recommended details for folding the flag are as follows:

- 1** Fold the flag in half lengthwise 
- 2** Repeat, fold in half lengthwise again, being careful that the blue field is on the outside 

- 3** As one person holds the flag by the blue field, another makes a triangular fold at the opposite end of the flag 


- 4** Continue to make triangular folds until the entire flag is in a triangle.
- 5** Tuck the loose edge of the flag into the pocket formed by the folds so that only the blue field and white stars are visible.

There is one well-known ceremony for flag folding, often attributed to the Air Force Academy, in which each of the twelve folds of the flag is assigned a symbolic meaning. A copy of the ceremony may be found on our [Resources page](#).

How do you display the U.S. flag?

When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall or in a window, the union (blue star field) should be on the top left, as you face the flag.



How do you display the American flag with other flags?

When displayed with other flags on the same pole, the U.S. Flag must always be on top and the other flags must not be any larger than the U.S. Flag. When displayed with other flags on individual poles, the U.S. flag should be in the center and more prominent (a larger flag or on a taller pole).

Is it against the law to fly the flag at night?

The flag code states that it is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag poles in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.



Should the flag ever touch the ground?

It should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water or merchandise. The flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. It should never be displayed with the union down, save as a signal of dire distress. It should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

When should a flag be flown at half-staff?

There are several official days whereby the U.S. Flag must be flown at half-staff either from sunrise to noon or from sunrise to sunset. Visit our [Flag Flying Holidays](#) page to learn more. Other days may be announced by the President of the United States or a State's Governor to commemorate a tragic event or the passing of an honorable statesman.



FLAG FACTS

RED, WHITE, AND BLUE

The colors of the flag have very important meanings:

- RED symbolizes hardiness and valor.
- WHITE symbolizes purity and innocence.
- BLUE represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

CHANGE IS GOOD

The 50-star flag is the first flag design to last 50 years unchanged. During a 50-year period in the early 1800s, *the flag went through 17 different versions!*

KIDS RULE!

The current U.S. flag was designed by a high school student. Robert G. Heft, a 17-year old high school student from Lancaster, OH, created the design in 1958. His design with 50 stars and 13 stripes, was chosen by President Dwight D. Eisenhower out of 1,500 entries. Can you believe Robert originally got a B- on this project?

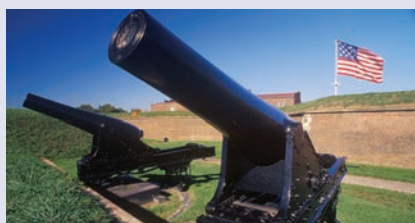
OUT OF THIS WORLD

Six flags were planted on the moon and five of them are still standing. The first flag was planted by Neil Armstrong during the Apollo 11 mission. It is the only one no longer standing. The rest have been standing for more than 48 years.



OH SAY, YOU CAN SEE

The Flag that inspired The Star Spangled Banner still exists. Flying at Ft. McHenry during the War of 1812 was a 15-star, 15-stripe flag that became the inspiration for Francis Scott Key's patriotic anthem. Today, the remaining parts of the flag reside on permanent display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington D.C.



DID YOU KNOW...

- The American flag is only allowed to be flown upside down to signal distress.



- The last star added to the current American flag represents the state of Hawaii.



The American Flag must be raised quickly and lowered slowly, and no flag can be placed above it.



Caring for Your New Annin Product

The guidelines below may be used to care for Annin flags and decorations.

- For the best results, do not expose your flag to rain, snow or abnormally high winds; these forces of nature can shorten its life considerably. Should the flag become wet, it should be spread out and allowed to dry completely. Do not fold or roll up a wet or damp flag.
- To keep its rich colors looking bright, clean your flag regularly, before soiling and discoloration from dirt, smoke, dust and other airborne contaminants "set" in the fabric. Your flag can be washed by hand or by machine on "gentle" cycle in cold water with mild detergent, then thoroughly rinsed and hung or laid flat to dry. Do not let stand in the wash water or you may experience some color transfer. Cotton and nylon flags may also be dry-cleaned. Dry cleaning is not recommended for polyester or polyester blend flags.
- Do not place the flag where the wind will whip it against rough surfaces, tree branches, wires, cables, etc. The smallest tear can soon result in a tattered flag. Keep pole surfaces free of rust and corrosion that could damage your flag.
- Inspect your flag regularly for signs of wear. In particular, look for "normal wear" fabric or thread breaks that may occur in the "fly" end (the end farthest from the staff). Trimming and re-hemming torn or frayed ends will help extend the life of your flag.
- How long will a flag last? There is no exact answer. The U.S. Government generally expects a flag to last approximately 90 days based on daily usage from sunrise to sunset – but not during periods of inclement weather. Tests have shown that in some cases a flag flown 24 hours a day will only last one-fourth as long as one flown during the daylight hours only.

FLAG FLYING DAYS



Flag Etiquette

For a complete guide to flag etiquette, visit:

Annin.com/flag-etiquette

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JANUARY

New Year's Day

January 1

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

3rd Monday in January

FEBRUARY

Lincoln's Birthday

February 12

Presidents' Day

3rd Monday in February

Washington's Birthday

February 22

MARCH/APRIL

Easter Sunday

Variable

Patriots' Day

3rd Monday in April

MAY

International Firefighters' Day

May 4

V-E Day

May 8

Mother's Day

2nd Sunday in May

Peace Officers' Memorial Day

May 15 – Half Staff (sunrise to sunset)

Armed Forces Day

3rd Saturday in May

Memorial Day

Last Monday in May – Half Staff
(sunrise to noon)

JUNE

Flag Day

June 14

Juneteenth

June 19

Father's Day

3rd Sunday in June

JULY

Independence Day

July 4

Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

July 27 – Half Staff (sunrise to sunset)

AUGUST

Purple Heart Day

August 7

V-J Day

August 10

National Aviation Day

August 19

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day

1st Monday in September

Patriot Day

September 11 – Half Staff (sunrise to sunset)

Constitution Day

September 17

National POW MIA Recognition Day

September 20

OCTOBER

National Fallen Firefighters' Memorial Day

1st Sunday in October – Half Staff (sunrise to sunset)

Columbus Day

2nd Monday in October

Navy Day

October 27

NOVEMBER

Election Day

1st Tuesday after 1st Monday

USMC Day

November 10

Veterans' Day

November 11

Thanksgiving Day

4th Thursday in November

DECEMBER

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 7 – Half Staff (sunrise to sunset)

National Guard Day

December 13

Christmas Day

December 25

About Annin

Annin Flagmakers has been making the U.S. Flag since 1847 and is the oldest and largest flag manufacturer in the United States. We have the highest-quality products, broadest product line, largest inventory, best customer service, highest fill rates and the greatest production capacity in the industry. At Annin, we produce our flags with the highest degree of integrity, honor and pride.

We have been proud flagmakers – and enthusiastic flag flyers – since our company's founding in 1847. Through the years, Annin Flags have played a role in countless moments of national pride and celebration. Our flags have flown over the White House, on foreign fields of battle and even on the surface of the moon.

We are a family-owned business that operates three U.S. manufacturing facilities in Virginia and Ohio. We're proud to say that our flags are produced entirely with American labor and materials.

OUR HISTORY

Our great-grandfather, Louis Annin Ames, guided the company from 1896 until 1952. He took pride in leading the company that his grandfather and uncles had run since 1847. His grandchildren, Randy Beard, Lee Beard and Jack Dennis, ran Annin Flagmakers from the 1950's until the early 2000's. Today, the company is run by Carter Beard.



OUR FLAGS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN WORLD EVENTS SUCH AS:

- The inauguration of Abraham Lincoln, as well as the flag that draped his casket.
- The opening ceremonies of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883.
- The arrival of Commander Robert E. Peary at the North Pole in 1909 and Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd at the South Pole 21 years later.



- Raising the flag by U.S. Marines atop Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima in 1945.
- The Apollo 11 historic mission to the moon in 1969 and many other NASA Apollo moon missions.
- America's 1976 bicentennial celebration.

- The design and inception of the POW-MIA flag in 1979 in conjunction with the National League of Families of POW/MIA.



- The Field of Remembrance at Battery Park, New York for the 10th Anniversary of September 11th.

"Our hearts aching, our prayers praying, our flags waving, never forget."

- Betsy Ross



Is Your American Flag Made In The U.S.A.?

Annin Flagmakers is one of the founding members of the Flag Manufacturers Association of America (FMAA). The FMAA proudly sponsors the "Certified Made in the U.S.A." certification program to ensure the American flags you purchase are homegrown with pride. "Certified Made in the U.S.A." certifies that your flag has been made in the U.S.A. of materials that are domestic in origin and that all processes in every step of its manufacture were completed in U.S.A. facilities with U.S.A. labor.



U.S. law requires every flag be labeled with its "country of origin." Only the FMAA "Certified Made in the U.S.A." certification label assures the standards and continued compliance as monitored by a professional association and its domestic members.

For more information about the FMAA "Made in the U.S.A." certification program go to www.fmaa-usa.com



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HOW TO CHOOSE THE CORRECT SIZE FLAG *For Your Flagpole*

FLAG SIZE

3 x 5' 4 x 6' 5 x 8' 6 x 10' 8 x 12' 10 x 15' 12 x 18' 15 x 25' 20 x 30' 20 x 38' 30 x 50' 30 x 60'



FLAGPOLE HEIGHT

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