

Flag Folding Introduction

Leader 1: You've seen the word patriotism in the library, but do you know what it really means? Please raise your hand if you have an answer. (*Take a few answers*)

Leader 2: Thanks for all of those great answers! Today we're going to review what a patriotic student does, and teach you how to properly fold our great American flag.

Leader 3: As patriotic students, we are loyal to our country and respect our military because they risk their lives for our freedom.

Leader 4: We sing patriotic songs with sincerity, and when we say the Pledge of Allegiance, we stand at attention, place our right hand over our heart, and keep our eyes on the flag.

Leader 5: Handling the flag according to the flag code is important. The flag code is the set of official laws that tell us the proper way to display and hold the flag. This code says that the flag never touches the ground or anything beneath it.

Leader 6: The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. When we hang it, we let it hang freely, and when a flag is too tattered to represent our country, it must be retired properly in a special ceremony.

Leader 7: The flag code includes instructions on how to properly fold a flag when it is being taken inside for the night. We're going to demonstrate how to do it now, then you'll get a chance to try it for yourselves.

Groups of six students demonstrate the directions as they are being said.

Leader 8: Begin by holding the flag waist-high with its surface taught and parallel to the ground. Fold the lower half of the stripe section lengthwise over the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely.

Leader 9: The stars side should be on the bottom. Fold the flag again lengthwise with the blue field on the outside. Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open edge of the flag.

Leader 10: Turn the outer point inward, against the open edge, to form a second triangle. Continue the triangular folding until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.

Leader 11: When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible. Hold the flag with the point out and with your hands flat on the top and bottom.