



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF NEW YORK**



**Recommended Squadron Flag Education Program for Grade
School Children.**

This Program is set up for two people. One as Speaker and one as demonstrator and disbursement of Hand Outs.

Necessary Items needed: One American Flag on a Staff, Flag Stand, and one 3x5 American Flag to be used during demonstrations. Flags to hand out, Literature. (Optional - Squadron Colors.)

As Students are coming into the room, hand out the Flags and literature, if Students are already seated, have assistant go around and hand out Flags and literature, while you are setting up your Flag, and table. Set up the American Flag in the Stand on the RIGHT side of the SPEAKER, if you also have your Squadron Colors, they are set to the LEFT side of the Speaker.

(Squadron Rep.) "Good Afternoon (morning) My name is _____, and helping me today is _____. We are with The Sons Of The American Legion Squadron # _____, Detachment Of New York. We would like to Thank all of you for having us here today. We have two short presentations we would like to do, to help you understand how to respect the American Flag, and what the meaning of The Pledge of Allegiance is."

"Our first will be Flag Etiquette, what that means is, how to display The Flag, and what to do when you see it in a Parade."

(Have assistant hold the 3x5 American Flag in the proper manner as you describe.)

"When The Flag is hung, and not on a staff, the Stars which is called the "Union" is always on the left side. When it hangs across (Assistant hold Flag Horizontally) It looks like this.

When it hangs down (Assistant hold Flag vertically) It will look like this.

When used behind a Speaker on the wall it looks like this (Assistant stands behind Speaker holding Flag in the Proper position, with the "Union" on the Right side of the Speaker.) When the Flag is used on a Staff, it is displayed like we have it here today, on the right hand side of the speaker. In a Parade The Flag is used different ways, but there is the proper way to have it. If you have your Flag In line beside you the Flag is flown to the very Right. When you have The Flag in a single File, The Flag always first in line.

Whenever The American Flag passes by you in a Parade, you should take off any hats, stand up tall and put your right hand over your heart. (Have assistant and yourself demonstrate)

On Memorial Day, the Flag is flown, at what is called "Half Staff". Which is half way down on the pole. The Flag is often Flown at Half Staff to pay honor to someone or a group of people, such as our Veteran's on Memorial Day, and Veteran's day, or terrible things like September 11th, to honor those who were lost.

If you have a Flag and it gets tattered or torn, you can take it to any American Legion, and usually on or around Flag Day, they have a ceremony called a Flag Retirement. It is how we properly retire the Flags. It is really a very nice ceremony, if you would like to go, ask your parents to take you."

Also the proper way to respect the Flag when you say the Pledge of Allegiance is to remove your hat, and put your right hand over your heart, and that brings us to The Pledge of Allegiance. (have you and your assistant do this while you are explaining how to to the students)

"Our second presentation is the what the words of The Pledge Of Allegiance mean., and where it started."

The Pledge Of Allegiance and What It Means...

School children first recited The Pledge Of Allegiance in 1892, when President Benjamin Harrison called for patriotic exercises to mark the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America. Francis Bellamy, an associate editor from Boston wrote, the original Pledge, which has been changed three times. The last change, in 1954, added the words "under God".

The Pledge was officially recognized by The United State Congress in 1942, when it was made part of the code for the use of The American Flag. According to federal legislation, when a person is saying the Pledge, he or she should stand upright, remove any headdress and place their right hand over their heart.

I PLEDGE - means I promise

ALLEGIANCE - means my support and loyalty

TO THE FLAG - means the Stars and Stripes, the world's most recognizable symbol of Democracy

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - means fifty self-governed, free and unique States united in support of Democracy, Equality and Justice

AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS - means a Nation in which the power rests with the people, who elect fellow countrymen to govern with their consent

ONE NATION - means one Country united in the pursuit of a more perfect union, dedicated to the goals of peace, security and happiness

UNDER GOD - means acknowledging a supreme and loving presence to whom we look for guidance

INDIVISIBLE - means unbreakable

WITH LIBERTY - means the right to freedom

AND JUSTICE - means impartial, equal and fair

FOR ALL - means for everyone!!

(Choose a Student from the audience to come up and lead the class in the proper way to say the Pledge. Instruct all to STAND, take OFF ANY HATS, place their RIGHT HAND OVER THEIR HEART.) Recite Pledge Of Allegiance.

(Squadron Rep.) "This concludes our presentation, I want to Thank You all again for having us, In closing I would like to leave you with this reading..."

I AM YOUR FLAG

I am your Flag.

I was born in 1777.

I am more than just a cloth, shaped into a design.

I am the refuge of the World's oppressed people.

I am the silent sentinel of Freedom.

I am the emblem of the greatest sovereign Nation on earth.

I am the inspiration for which American Patriots gave their lives.

I have led your Sons into battle from Valley Forge to the Country of Iraq.

I walk in the silence with each of your Honored Dead to their final resting place beneath the silent white crosses, row upon row.

I have flown through peace and war, strife and prosperity and amidst it all I have been respected!

I AM YOUR FLAG!

Again, Thank You All, and God Bless America!

OPTIONAL: (Squadron Rep.) "Are there any questions?" **

** BE PREPARED!!!! Children ask very leading questions, be sure you are very well versed in Flag protocol and Etiquette