Did you know that there are rules for displaying and handling the flag? These rules are called the “Flag Code.” Knowing these rules will help you demonstrate your patriotism and respect towards those who have sacrificed for our freedom.

- Unless it is an “all-weather” flag, it should never be flown in the rain.
- Flags should not be flown at night, unless illuminated by a light.
- The color guard, is the person (or group of people) responsible for raising, lowering, and folding the flag.
- When a flag is worn out or torn, it should be disposed of by burning in a dignified manner, which is called a flag retirement ceremony.
- When a flag is lowered, it should never touch the ground.
- The flag should be flown at half-mast only if an important person dies (like the President of the United States).
- When the flag is flown with other flags, the other flags cannot be larger than the American flag, and no flag can fly above the American flag. The American flag is the first to be raised and last to be lowered.
- If you are wearing a hat when the flag is being presented, raised, or lowered, then you need to remove your hat. You also remove your hat when reciting the Pledge.

Flag Folding Fun

You may be asked to help fold the flag at your school, 4-H event, or 4-H camp. Here are some tips:

- It takes 2 people to fold the flag.
- Each person should start by holding the short sides of the flag.
- Fold the flag in half lengthwise and then again lengthwise.
- Now you are ready to begin “cornering.” Begin at the striped end of the flag and fold it into triangles. Only one person should do the cornering.
- The process for unfolding the flag is the same—only in reverse.
Flag Facts

1. Who was honored for cutting up an American Flag?
2. Is it ever OK to fly a flag upside down?
3. What do you do with a worn-out flag?
4. What is a vexillologist?
5. Flagpole sitting was a craze started in Baltimore, Maryland in 1929. Who holds the record for flagpole sitting?

Patriotic Perceptions

- What did you learn about flag care that surprised you the most?
- Why do you think there are rules that govern the display of the flag?
- Why do you think it is important to show respect for the flag?
- How do you think knowing about flag etiquette can benefit you in the future?