**Scout Flag Retirement Ceremony**

***Notes about the ceremony:***

*Remember, this is a very solemn ceremony.  It is like a funeral; Scouts should be in uniform and behave accordingly.  We are laying tattered US flags to rest. Make sure that the flag is burned entirely, so that it is unrecognizable as an American Flag.*

**LEADER:**

"We are gathered here to destroy these flags that have been deemed no longer serviceable. The US code title 36, section 176 states: "The Flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

These flags have inspired those who desired the taste of freedom and have represented hope to those oppressed by tyranny and terror. These flags have welcomed any and all in the name of liberty. The American flag flies free to the wind.

The American flag flies above residential porches, camp sites, small businesses, corporate offices, hospitals, schools, military and naval bases, government buildings and nonprofit organizations. The American flag is the most displayed and recognized banner in the world.

These flags serve as constant reminders to all of us that we live in a country where our freedom has been deeply purchased by blood, sweat, tears and ultimate sacrifice. We must not forsake what those in the service to this flag, and their families, have forfeited.

To all who shall see these presents, greeting. Know ye that these flags have served well and honorably. Their stars and stripes have been loosed to the winds of freedom and have basked in the light of liberty."

**Scout 1 :**

"Seven red stripes and six white strips; together represent the original 13 colonies that gained us liberty. The red stripes remind us of the lifeblood of brave men and women who were ready to and who have died for this, their country."

**Scout 2 :**

"The white stripes remind us of purity and cleanliness of purpose, thought, word and deed. The blue is for truth and justice, like the eternal blue of the star-filled heavens."

**Scout 3 :**

"The stars represent the fifty sovereign states of our union. The American Creed states: "it is my duty to my country to love it, to respect its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

**Scout 4 :**

The U.S. flag should be treated with respect when it's flying, and should be treated with respect when it's being retired. Therefore, we retire flags with dignity and respect when they become worn, torn, faded, or badly soiled.

**Scout 5 (if doing a color guard presentation):**

Color Guard Advance

Color Guard prepare the Colors (flag can be precut into strips)

Color Guard retire the Colors

**Scout 6 :**

Our flag, just a simple piece of cloth, sewn together in a red, white, and blue design. A piece of cloth that of itself does nothing more than hang or blow in the wind. But to many thousands of people throughout our Nation’s glorious history, it has stood tall, standing as a monument of Freedom, for all Americans.

**Scout 7 :**

Men and women have given their lives for it, fought for it, cried for it, and revered it as a symbol for the greatest country on earth. Books, songs, and poems have been written for it, and our National Anthem was inspired by it. Each day our children are encouraged to pledge their allegiance to it, and whenever it is raised or passes by, we all place our hands over our hearts or salute it. It stands for the freedom we all share and the pride and patriotism we feel for our country.

**LEADER or Scout 8 :**

Our Flag stands for Freedom, Liberty, and Patriotic Duty. So, when you see me, stand straight, think about what I stand for, think about all of the Americans that have died for our country, and place your right hand over your heart or salute to honor me. I'll be saluting you back by waving strong and proud in the wind. And I'll know that you remembered me.

*Note: Each Scout may take a turn to lay a piece of the flag onto the fire, preferably using a shovel so as not to be in any danger of burns. Scouts should come forward in ascending rank order (youngest or lowest rank first). You may choose to salute, have hand over heart, or sing a patriotic song in honor of the flag’s retirement.*