



## FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

### Preparing the Flag for the Ceremony

Before the ceremony, properly prepare the American flag for by cutting out the red and white stripes. Leave the blue field of stars intact. Distribute the dissected pieces of the flag evenly among the Patrol Leaders, so each one has pieces of the flag. Make sure each Patrol Leader has only red stripes, white stripes or the blue field, not a combination of the three. Have the Patrol Leaders stand up front and to the right side of the ceremony leaders.

**Ceremony Leader:** Our Flag was born on June 14th, 1777, amid the first flames of America's fight for independence. It represented 13 colonies who together fought oppression so that we today could enjoy our freedom. From those 13 colonies we have grown into a nation of 50 states. Since those days our country has been a beacon of freedom for other peoples from around the world. We have sent men and women into harms way to keep that beacon lit. Our flag flew proudly in 1812 when our freedom was in doubt. It was there at Fort Sumpter, Gettysburg and at Appomatox. In World War 1 it led Dough Boys as they fought across Europe. A generation later it flew over Pearl harbor, Guadacanal and Iwo Jima. It flew over Africa, Normandy and again led Americans across Europe. In Korea the flag flew from one hill to another, in Vietnam it flew proudly while it lay burned and tattered back home. The flag was there in Beruit, Graneda, Panama, Kuwait, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

So that is why we are here tonight, to give our flag honor as so many have done before.

The Patrol Leaders who have white pieces, please come forward and place them on the fire.

***(half way through read below)***

The white represents purity that is in all our hearts it represents the honor deep inside our soul.

The Patrol Leaders who have red pieces, please come forward and place your pieces on the fire.

***(half way through read below)***

The red stands for the men and women in the armed forces who have served or died to keep freedom alive. It also stands for those on our soil who have died to protect the rights of others.

***(Once everyone who had a red piece is done have the Patrol Leader with the blue field and kneel. Then read the following.)***

The blue stands for valor and courage that binds our fifty states together. The blue field is indicative of God's heaven under which it flies. Will the Patrol Leader holding the blue field of stars please place it in the fire.

Our Flag is more than colored cloth shaped into a design, it represents us, you and me.

***(In the next statement, they are talking about the flag they are retiring and its history – if known)***

Tonight we have laid to rest a very dear old friend, it did not lead soldiers into battle. It did not fly from a place on high, but it has served us well.

***(Pause for a moment, then say...)***

Thank you for everybody's attention tonight. This concludes our flag retirement ceremony.