



Girl Scouts of the USA Flag Ceremony

Terms Used in a Flag Ceremony

The **color bearer** (or flag bearer) is the person who carries the flag. There is one color bearer for each flag used in the ceremony.

The **color guard** is a team that guards the flags. Any even number of guards may be used, but usually four or six girls are sufficient.

The **Girl Scout in-charge** (or caller) is a designated Girl Scout who announces or calls each part of the ceremony.

Possible Commands for a Flag Ceremony

"**Girl Scouts, attention.**" Used to announce that the flag ceremony is about to start.

"**Color guard advance.**" This signals the color guard to advance with the flags, or advance to pick up the flags.

"**Color guard, honor your flag.**" The color guard salutes the American flag.

"**Color Guard, post the colors.**" This directs the color guard to place the flag in flag standards, or to attach the grommets to a flag pole rope.

"**Color guard, retire the colors.**" This asks the color guard to remove the flag from standards, or to lower the flag, detach from the rope, and fold prior to being dismissed.

"**Color guard, dismissed.**" The color guard leaves in formation, with or without the flag.

"**Girl Scouts dismissed.**" Girls may leave in formation or be at ease where they have been standing.

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### Basic Commands of a Girl Scout Flag Ceremony

To get audience attention:

Caller: "**Girl Scouts, attention!**"

Caller: "**Audience, please stand for the presentation of the American flag.**"

Caller: "**Color guard, attention.**"

(Girl Scout color guard stands straight, ready to advance. Flag bearer is even with or slightly in front of guards.)

Caller: "**Color guard, advance.**"

(Guard moves to front of room or to open end of horseshoe-style seating, facing the flag stand, or the audience if there is no stand.)

Caller: "**Color guard, present the colors.**"

(Flag bearer then takes one step toward the audience to present the American flag.)

Caller: "**Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.**"

(Say the Pledge of Allegiance first. Then repeat the Girl Scout Promise, and if desired, sing a song or say a poem.)

If there is a flag stand, the girls can "post the colors" when the caller says:

Caller: "**Color guard, post the colors.**"

(Flag bearer steps forward and places the flag in stand. If there is more than one flag, the American flag is placed in flag stand last. If bearer has trouble, a guard member assists. If there is no flag stand to post colors, then move on to the next command.)

Caller: "**Color guard, honor your colors.**"

(The color guard salutes the American flag or can take one step back, put hand on their heart, then down by their side and return to "Attention" stance.)

Now that the flag has been given proper honor, the color guard can leave. The caller states:

Caller: "**Color guard, dismissed.**"

When guards have returned to starting place, the caller announces:

Caller: "**Girl Scouts, dismissed.**"

### **Closing Flag Ceremony**

Caller: "**Please stand for the retrieval of the flag.**"

(If you have an audience, i.e., at an investiture/rededication ceremony or a bridging ceremony with parents and invited guests, this is the signal that the flag ceremony is about to start.)

Caller: "**Color guard, attention.**"

(Girl Scouts stand straight, ready to advance. Flag bearer is even with or slightly in front of color guard.)

Caller: "**Color guard, advance.**"

(Color guard goes to the front of room and faces the flag stand or audience, if there is no stand.)

Caller: "**Color guard, retrieve the colors.**"

(At an indoor ceremony, the color guard removes the flag(s) from the stand(s), taking the American flag first. At an outdoor ceremony, the flag bearer lowers the flag slowly, showing respect and dignity for the American flag. The color guard then folds the flag(s). The color guard removes the flags, lifting the American flag first.)

Caller: "**Color guard, dismissed.**"

For more information go to: [http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs\\_central/ceremonies/flag.asp](http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/ceremonies/flag.asp)