About Flying the Flag...

- Raise the flag briskly. Lower it ceremoniously.
- Never allow the flag to touch the ground or floor.
- Do not fly the flag in bad weather, unless it is an all-weather flag.
- The flag can only be flown at night if properly illuminated. Otherwise, it should only be flown from sunrise to sunset.
- The flag should never be used to carry, store, or deliver anything.
- Never fly the flag upside down except to signal an emergency.

The Star Spangled Banner

Oh, say can you see
by the dawn’s early light
What so proudly we hailed
at the twilight’s last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars
thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched
were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare,
the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled
banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave?

Troop 1
Thom Grote, Troop Guide
Gilwell Field, IA
bearsrule@troop1.com

I love my flag!

... but it has seen better days ...

WHAT CAN I DO?
When you care enough to fly the very best …

Much effort has, is, and will be spent protecting the freedom that we cherish. It is our honor and privilege to display the American flag as a beacon of our commitment to these ideals. Each of us is a thread of freedom, woven together as a nation to form an amazing tapestry of a strength that the world has never seen. Our flag proudly represents this national tapestry.

If the flag that we fly is worn or tattered, what kind of message are we sending about our national tapestry of freedom?

What do I do if my flag is not sending the right message?

The United States Flag Code states the following:

“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.”

There are many images of flags being burned by those who stand against the freedoms that our nation represents. Are we not speaking against our nation by burning our flag? The simple answer is NO! By conducting a respectful flag retirement ceremony, our flag, our tapestry, can be honorably retired, to be replaced by new, fresh, strong flags.

I don’t do ceremony. Who can handle retirement for me?

An excellent question! The Boy Scouts of America would be proud to help. Consider donating your flag to a local cub scout, boy scout, varsity scout, or venturing crew in your area. This donation can be used by the scouting unit in many ways. Scouts can use these flags in many ways to learn and practice proper flag handling procedures. In addition, they are learning good citizenship and service to others. What was a disposal problem a short time ago, is now an exciting opportunity that you can provide to a scouting unit near you! Win—Win!

Rest assured, once your worn flag is dropped off with your local scouting unit, it will be used and then retired with the same dignity that you handled your own flag. Whether the scouting unit conducts its own ceremony or has another group conduct it, you know it will eventually be retired in an appropriate, dignified way.