

Flag Retirement Ceremony

<http://pack800.ocbsa.org>

There are regulations on how and when to display the flag of the United States of America. One of these states that when a flag is too old, faded, tattered or dirty to be displayed, it should be retired by burning, in a solemn ceremony.

Tonight, we will retire two flags. This is an occasion which calls for complete respect and attention. I ask you for a bond of silence during the ceremony.

Color guard, attention.

Color Guard advance.

(Wait for Amazing Grace to begin, then Color Guard walk slowly down steps, each side carrying a folded US flag in front, and one or more attendees behind. Upon reaching the firepit, each team carefully unfolds their flag and holds by the top corners, one on each side of the firepit, if possible)

(Start "America the Beautiful")

Den Chief: (speaks over music)

Before you stands a proud lady. She stands for peace and the promise of liberty. She welcomes the homeless, who seek her protection. She strikes terror in the hearts of tyrants, for they know her sons and daughters will defend her to the last. She has seen the blood of her sons and daughters shed on foreign soils, to keep our country free. She has been degraded abroad, and at times at home. Yet, she proudly waves in the breeze as her citizens come to her rescue. Freedom is a fragile thing and never more than a generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance. It must be earned, fought for, and defended. (Den Chief rejoins Scouts at firepit)

Cubmaster: (continue voice over music)

The flags before you were proudly flown over buildings in the city of Laguna Hills. What you see here represents the past, the present and the future. The stripes of Old Glory stand for the 13 original colonies. The stars represent the 50 states of today. The Scouts represent the men of tomorrow. The corners of the flag remind us of the four great freedoms- Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Want and Freedom from Fear.

(wait for completion of 1st verse of America the Beautiful)

Cubmaster

Please stand and join me in the final Pledge of Allegiance to these flags. We will hold the salute until the conclusion of the ceremony.

I pledge allegiance ...

Color Guard, retire the colors.

(The left team moves in front of the firepit, holds the flag horizontally. Start Taps, Scouts then lower the flag onto the fire. As the flag catches, Scouts toss each corner into the fire. Assistant Cubmaster stands by and helps make certain flag is completely burned (keep poker stick at the ready). Scouts step back to their previous positions and salute. Right team repeats process. Scouts and Assistant Cubmaster step back and salute.

(wait for conclusion of Taps and completion of burn)

Cubmaster:

Two. (Salute is released by all) You may be seated.