

# United States Flag Retirement Ceremony

## SUPPLIES:

Book lamp (clip-on type)  
Clip board with MC script  
Scripts (For each color guard Scout – these should be memorized!)  
Scissors  
Channel lock pliers (to remove grommets from embers)  
Shovels  
Garden rake

## CEREMONY NARRATION:

*<MC walks to the front of the gathering with script on clipboard; illuminate the script with a clip-on book lamp.>*

**MC:** "Will the audience please rise."

**MC:** "Scouts, attention! Audience, attention!"

**MC:** "Color guard advance."

**MC:** "Color Guard halt"

**MC:** "Color guard prepare to retire colors"

*<Two Scouts, side-by-side march to the front of the gathering, one carrying the folded American flag. They are followed by additional Scouts serving as the color guard. Upon arriving at the front the two flag bearers turn around to face the audience and the other color guard move into position so there are two lines of Scouts to the right of the two flag bearers, everyone facing the audience.>*

**MC:** "Scout salute, those not in uniform please place your right hand over your heart"

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

*<Recite the Pledge of Allegiance>*

**MC:** "Retire colors"

*<One the flag is off the staff>* **MC:** "Two!"

*<Scouts continue to fold the flag>*

**MC:** Thank you to all our Veterans who are able to be with us tonight. God bless you and your families.

*Pause for a moment*

**MC:** "The U.S. flag is more than just some brightly colored cloth... it is a symbol of our nation."

**Color Guard 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 die for this, their country."

**Color Guard 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."

**Color Guard 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."

**MC:** "The U.S. flag should be treated with respect when it's flying, and should be treated with respect when it's being retired."

**Color Guard Scout #4:** "Therefore, we retire this flag with dignity and respect when it has become worn, torn, faded, or badly soiled. The traditional way to retire a flag is to incinerate it, the flag is to be retired in a manner that is dignified and respectful. Remember, we are retiring a symbol of America's honor, courage, and strength."

**MC:** "This Flag has served its nation long and well. It has worn to a condition to which it should no longer be used to represent the nation."

<once the flag has been folded>

**MC:** "Color guard, reform"

**MC:** "Color guard, retreat"

<The flag bearers, side-by-side, walk to the back of the gathering followed by the color guard>

**MC:** "Color guard, halt."

**MC:** "Please present the color guard with the new flag."

**MC:** "Color guard advance."

**MC:** "Color guard, halt."

**MC:** "Color guard, prepare to post colors" <Scouts unfold the flag, once the flag is unfolded>

**MC:** "Post the colors, scout salute" <once the flag is at the top of the staff>

**MC:** "Those not in uniform please place your right hand over your heart"

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

<Recite the Pledge of Allegiance>

**MC:** "Two!"

**MC:** "Color guard, secure the halyard."

**MC:** "Color guard, reform"

**MC:** "Color guard, retreat"

**MC:** "Color guard, halt"

<MC closes the ceremony>

**MC:** Thank you for respectfully participating in this flag retirement ceremony. As you leave this evening I encourage each of you to remember what the American flag stands for and all the men and women over the years that have given their lives to uphold its values and defend it. You are dismissed.