

# Flag Etiquette

For most Americans, the *Star Spangled Banner* evokes a variety of emotions – pride in our nation and the freedoms for which it stands, appreciation for the blood spilled by our country’s sons and daughters in defense of this land, a renewal of commitment to the principles upon which our republic was founded. Its display at public events sends chills down the spine because of its symbolic meaning.

Consequently, we should treat the flag with the respect it deserves. Today, June 14, is Flag Day, commemorating the adoption of the flag of the United States, which happened on that date by resolution of the Second Continental Congress in 1777. For Life Care and Century Park, display of Old Glory is particularly significant, since we serve many veterans who have a special regard for the flag because of their contributions to our security.

Here are some important reminders for flag etiquette:

## ***Displaying the flag outdoors:***

When flags are flown on three separate poles, which is the case with many of our centers ...

- If the American flag is in the middle, it must be on a pole 1.5 feet higher than the other two. As a person stands looking at the front of a building, the state flag should be posted on the left pole, and the company flag on the right side of the American flag.
- If the three poles are the same height, as a person stands looking at the front of a building, the American flag should be on the left pole, the state flag on the center pole, and the company flag on the right pole.
- When it is displayed from the same flagpole with another flag – of a state, community, society or Scout unit – the flag of the United States must always be at the top.



## ***Displaying the flag indoors:***

- When on display indoors, the American flag is accorded the place of honor, always positioned to the right of the speaker or staging area or sanctuary. (That means it would be to the left of a person sitting in the audience.) Other flags should be to the left of the speaker.

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- When displaying the flag against a wall, vertically or horizontally, the flag's union (stars) should be at the top, the flag's own right, and to the observer's left.

Let us honor and celebrate the flag of the United States of America in our own meaningful ways this weekend.

– Beecher Hunter