

FLAGS

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FLAGS

General Information

- a. Do not store your flag while it is wet, damp or dirty. Dirt is sharp and can cut fabrics as well as causing the colors to become dull. Have your flags dry-cleaned when needed. If your flags are hanging in your Pathfinder room or displayed in church, set them where they will be out of the direct sunlight. Exposure to direct sunlight, soot, gas fumes, or heavy humid stale air causes damage to flags. Flags should not be flown in weather that could damage a flag unless 'all weather' flags are used.
- b. Watch the corners of the "fly end" of your flag; this is normally the first area to show signs of wear. Trimming off the worn hem and hemming the end of the worn flag is perfectly proper and when done properly can greatly extend the life of your flag.
- c. Always show proper respect for all flags. Care should be taken so that flags do not drag on the ground or are regarded as just another 'thing'.
- d. Gold fringe is only to be used for indoor flags.

THE NATIONAL FLAG

1. History

- a. Before we became a nation, our land knew many flags. Long ago, the Norsemen probed our coastal waters sailing under the banner of the black raven. Columbus carried a Spanish flag across the seas. The Pilgrims carried the flag of Great Britain. The Dutch colonists brought their striped flag to New Amsterdam. The French explored the continent under the royal fleur-de-lis. Each native Indian tribe had its own totem and insignia. Immigrants of every race and nationality, in seeking a new allegiance, have brought their symbols of loyalty to our shores.
- b. During our Revolution, various banners were used by the not-yet-united colonies. A green pine tree with the motto, "An Appeal To Heaven," was popular with our young Navy. The rattlesnake's warning, "Don't Tread On Me," was displayed by aroused colonists along the Atlantic seaboard. The Moultrie "Liberty" flag, a large blue banner with a white crescent in the upper corner, rallied the defenders of Charleston, South Carolina, in 1776. The Bunker Hill flag was a blue banner with a white canton filled with a red cross and a small green pine. The flag of the maritime colony of Rhode Island bore a blue anchor under the word "Hope." Strikingly similar to the stars and stripes was the flag carried by the Green Mountain Boys of Vermont at the Battle of Bennington on 16 August 1777.
- c. The first flag of the colonies to have any resemblance to the present Stars and Stripes was the "Grand Union Flag," sometimes referred to as the "Congress Colors." When Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1776, he stood under the "Grand Union Flag" which continued to show a dependence upon Great Britain. The flag consisted of thirteen stripes, alternately red and white, representing: the Thirteen Colonies, with a blue field in the upper left hand corner bearing the crosses of St. George (England) and St. Andrew (Scotland), signifying union with the mother country.
- d. The first Stars and Stripes was created by the Continental Congress on 14 June 1777. This date is now observed nationally as "Flag Day."
- e. In this flag the thirteen stars, representing a constellation, were arranged in a variety of designs. (Congress did not specify the arrangement of the thirteen stars on the blue union, except to say that they should represent a new constellation.) The most popular -with the stars in a circle so that no state could claim precedence over another-is known as the Betsy Ross flag, in honor of the seamstress who is supposed to have sewn the first one.
- f. The first Navy Stars and Stripes had the stars arranged in staggered formation in alternate lines and rows of threes and twos on a blue field. A close inspection of this arrangement of the stars shows a distinct outline of the diagonal X-shaped cross and the cross of St. George of the English flag. This indicates how difficult it was for the colonists, even at this late date, to break away entirely from the British flag under which they had been born and had lived all the years of their lives.
- g. As the American frontier expanded, two new States were added to the Union, and these were incorporated into the flag. This meant that two stars and two stripes were added to the design - making a total of fifteen each. It was this flag that withstood enemy bombardment at Fort

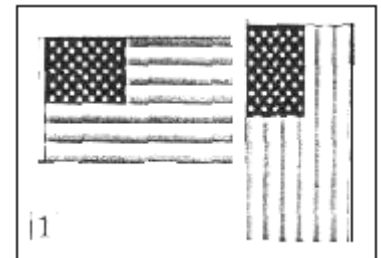
McHenry, Maryland, 13-14 September 1814, and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the “Star Spangled Banner.”

- h. Realizing that the flag would become unwieldy with a stripe for each new state, Captain Samuel C. Reid, USN, suggested to Congress that the stripes remain thirteen in number to represent the Thirteen Colonies, and that a star be added to the blue field for each new state coming into the Union. A law of April 4, 1818, that resulted requires that a star be added for each new state on the 4th of July after its admission.
- i. Since 1818, each new state has brought a new star for the flag. A 48-star flag came along with admission of Arizona and New Mexico in 1912. Alaska added a 49th star in 1959, and Hawaii paved the way for 50 stars in 1960. This growing pattern of stars could be said to reflect the growing dimensions of America’s responsibilities, as the thirteen stripes reflect the constant strength of our country’s traditions.

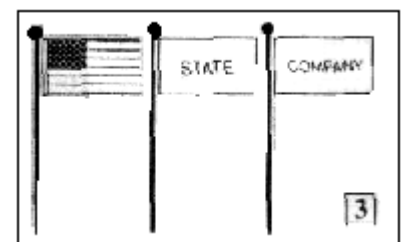
- Excerpt from Marine Corps Flag Manual

2. Use and Display

- a. The national flag represents the living country and is considered as a living thing, the union being the honor point. The union of the flag, and the flag itself when in company with other flags, is always given the honor point, i e., the marching right, the flag’s own right, or an observer’s left.
- b. It is the universal custom to display the flag from sunrise to sunset. However, when a patriotic effect is desired for special occasions, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.
- c. In general, the national flag should be displayed flat. It should not be festooned over doorways or arches, tied in a bowknot, or fashioned into a rosette. When used on a rostrum it should be displayed above and behind the speaker. It should never be used to cover the speaker's desk or draped over the front of the platform For this latter purpose, as well as for decoration in general bunting of the national colors should be used, and since the union of the flag always goes to the honor point, the colors should be arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below.
- d. When the national flag is displayed from a staff in a public auditorium or chapel, whether on the same floor level or on a platform, it should be in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the speaker's right as he faces the audience or congregation. Any other flags should be placed to the speaker's left or to the right of the audience.

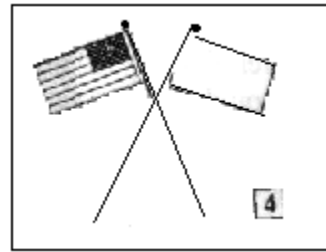


- f. No lettering, figure or object of any kind will be placed on or attached to the national flag.
- g. No other flag or pennant should be placed above or, if on the same level, to the right of the national flag.
- h. The national flag, when flown at a camporee or when carried by Pathfinders, will not be dipped by way of salute or compliment.

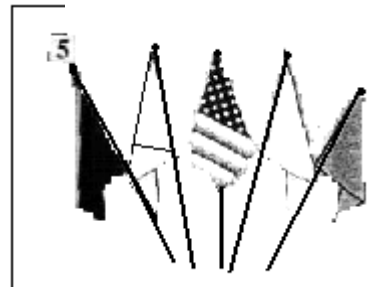


i. When the national flag is carried, as in a parade, with another flag or with other flags, the place of the flag is on the marching right, i.e., the left of an observer whom the flag is approaching, or if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

j. The flag of the United States of America, when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from **crossed staffs**, should be on the right, the flag's own right and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

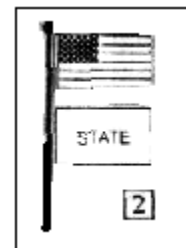


k. The national flag should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.



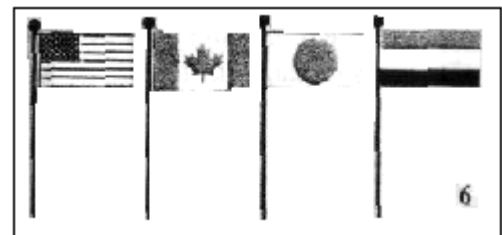
l. When displayed over the middle of the street, the flag should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street, or to the east on a north and south street.

n. When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at any angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should go clear to peak of the staff (unless the flag is to be displayed at half-mast).



o. When flags of states or cities, or special flags such as the POW/MIA flag are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States of America, the latter should always be at the peak. When flags are flown from adjacent staffs the Stars and Stripes should be hoisted first and lowered last.

p. When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.



q. The flag when flown at half-staff should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day, the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff. By order of the President, the flag should be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of the State, territory or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law.

THE PATHFINDER FLAG

1. History

- a. The Pathfinder flag is of the same design that has been in use since the first flag in 1949. The flag is a proud symbol of what Pathfinder's stand for as it hangs in Pathfinder rooms, churches, at Camporees, fairs, or is carried along parade routes. The following section will help you properly display the Pathfinder flag and guidons for Pathfinder events.

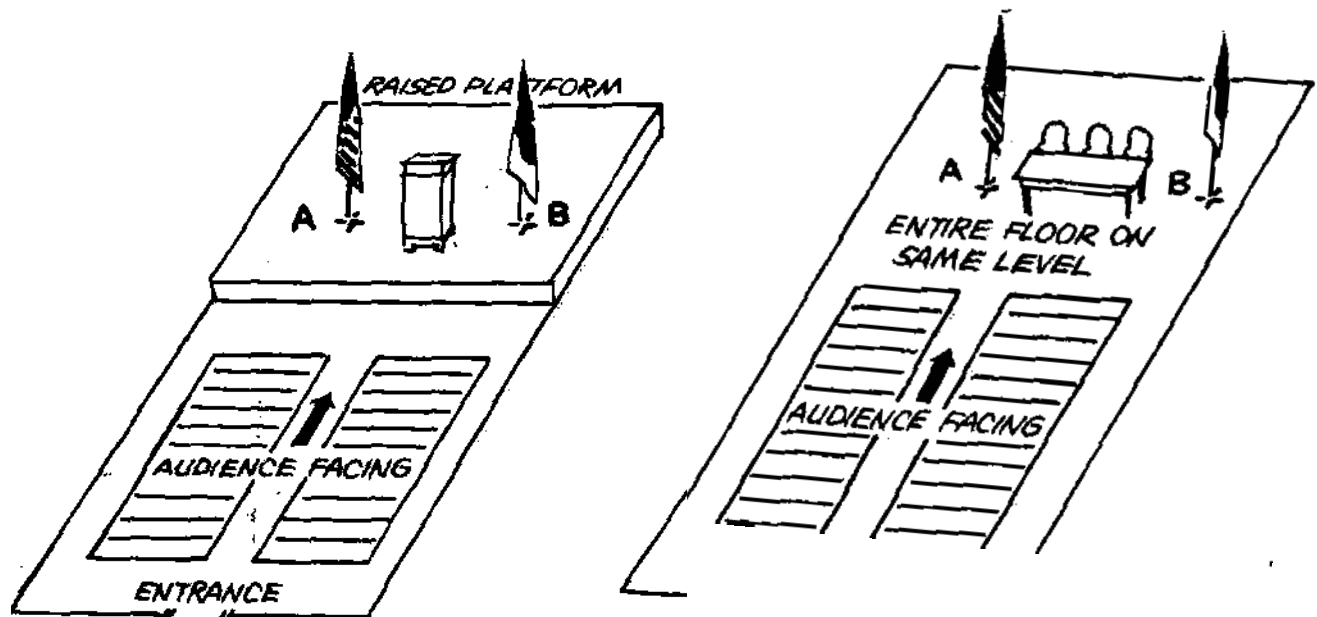
2. Use and Display

- a. The Pathfinder flag should be flown in accordance with the etiquette set forth for the National colors. The pathfinder flag is always to the left of the National Colors.
- b. No other special regulations cover the display of the Pathfinder Flag.

Flags at Pathfinder Functions

General Programs

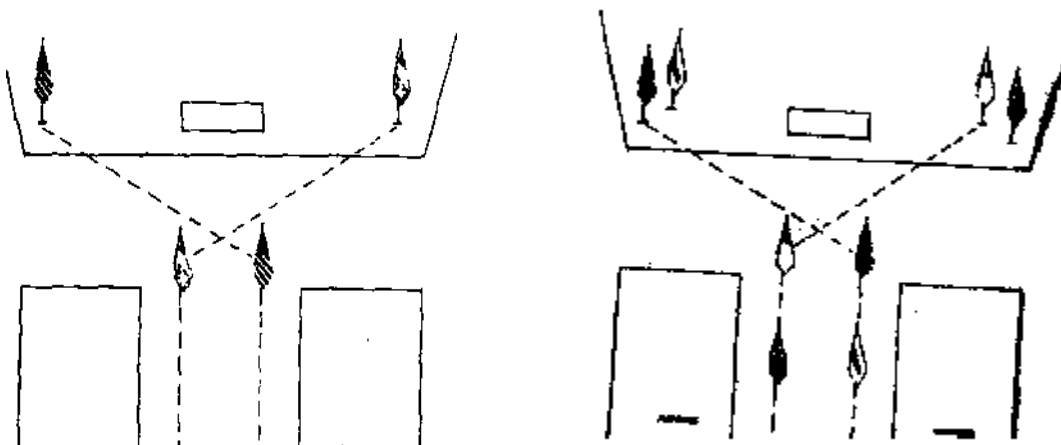
- a. Refer to regulations regarding display of flags for position placement in auditoriums or chapels.
- b. The national colors are **always** placed to the speaker's right. Other flags are placed to the left of the speaker.
- c. If guidons are present, they should be displayed in such a manner as not to be in a position of greater honor than the National or Pathfinder flags. i.e. always to the flags left **or** on a lower level.



COLOR GUARD

If a color guard is used to post colors for a function, the procedures are as follows:

- When preparing to carry the flags from the rear of the church, hall or Pathfinder room the bearer of the U.S. flag stands on the right and the bearer of the Pathfinder flag on the left.
- The two bearers march together until the first row, where the Pathfinder flag bearer paused so that the bearer of the U.S. flag crosses over to the left. The bearer of the Pathfinder flag then crosses over to the right and they both proceed together to the platform where they stand until the command to "post" is called.
- If there are also bearers of the State and Christian flags they proceed behind the U.S. and Pathfinder flags and in the same way the State flag begins on the right and the Pathfinder on the left. At the the first row the flag bearer of the Pathfinder flag pauses so that the bearer with the State flag crosses over and then both bearers proceed to the platform. These flag bearers will stand inside of the other two flag bearers as noted on the diagram.
- Care must be taken to avoid hitting doorways or light fixtures with the staff peak. As the colors are angled down to pass through the doorway, be careful that they do not touch the floor. If necessary, a color guard may start at the rear of the auditorium or chapel with their flags inside the door to allow for ease of movement when they start marching
- In many churches the isles are narrow so the Color Guard must enter and walk down the isle single file. The colors must lead the way before Pathfinder's enter. The congregation or audience is to stand when the colors enter if they do not automatically do so please announce for them to rise and remain standing until the color guard is seated or the colors are posted.
- The Guidons should be carried down the isle when the Pathfinder Units march into the meeting and they may post the guidons on the outside isles of their row of not placed in the front.

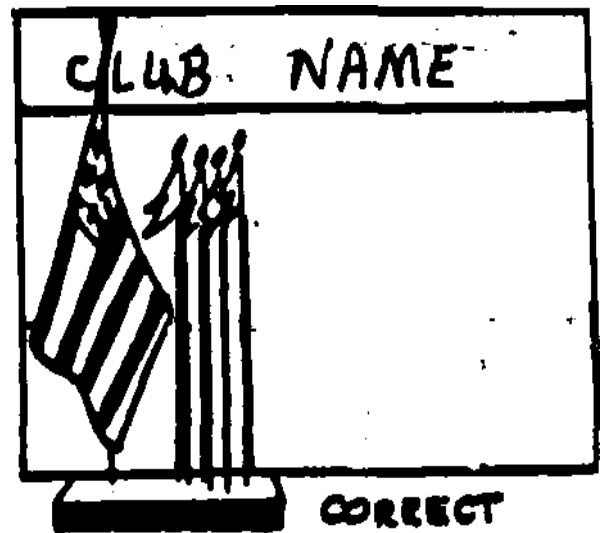
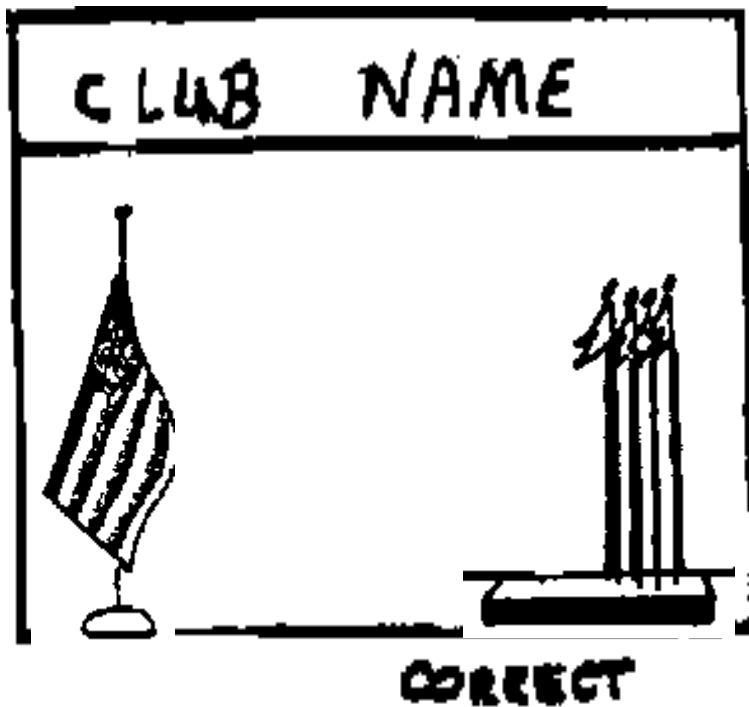


- Following the color guard the Pathfinder and staff march in and stand at attention at their seats. The drillmaster or member of the Color Guard will announce “Color Guard Post the Colors.” After placing the flag poles in the flag stands, the Color Guard march off the platform and take their seats in the front row and stand at attention. The Color Guard should keep their hats on, they do not uncover when carrying the colors until they are seated, unless in a house of worship. In a house of worship, no Pathfinder may wear hats.
- At the end of the program, the Color Guard replaces their hats (unless in a church) and takes their place behind the flags during the closing song. At the signal, following closing prayer the Color Guard leads the procession out of the sanctuary; the American flag always leads the way, the rest of the Color Guard follows, then the Pathfinder club.

NOTE: These **procedures** are for reference. It may be necessary to modify these actions to suit your clubs needs

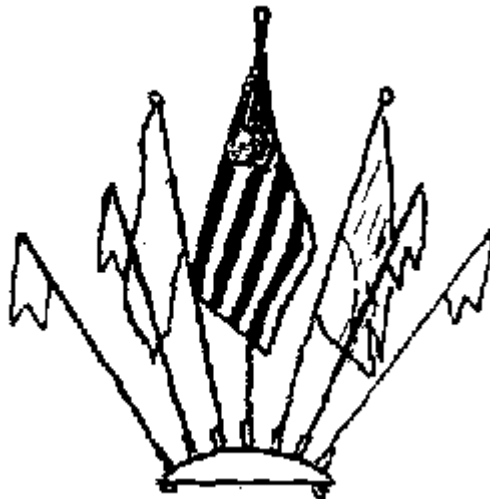
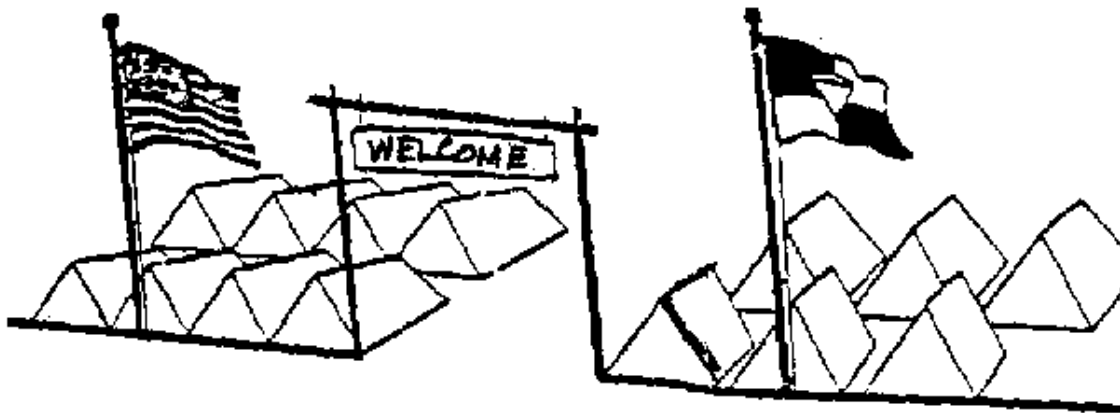
FLAGS AT THE PATHFINDER FAIR

- a. The American flag should be placed on the booth's right and the inspector's left. If it is a part of a group of flags, it should be in the center and slightly forward or raised. At public fairs, flags may be placed inside the booth, but the American flag is always on the viewer's left.
- b. If a float is used instead of a booth, the same rules still apply except that now the flags are placed in relation to the boundaries of the Club's designated area.
- c. Never display a U.S. flag from a float except from a staff, or so suspended that its folds fall free as though staffed.
- d. The American flag, when carried in a procession with another flag or other flags, should be either on the marching right (The flag's own right). If there is a line or other flags, the American flag goes in the front of the center of that line.
- e. Care should be taken so that flags on parade are always carried high and straight.



FLAGS AT THE CAMPOREE

- a. For the club: When the flag of the United States is displayed at a Pathfinder Camporee or a campout it should be placed on the right of those who are camping. If the flag were a person, it would be greeting the visitors or inspectors and would naturally face **from** the camp. The state flag would hang next to it and the Christian and Pathfinder flags across from them. They may all be flown together but the United States flag would be slightly higher.
- b. For the conference: Conference flags should be flown at the main entrance to the conference area and in accordance with regulations set forth for the U.S. and Pathfinder flags.

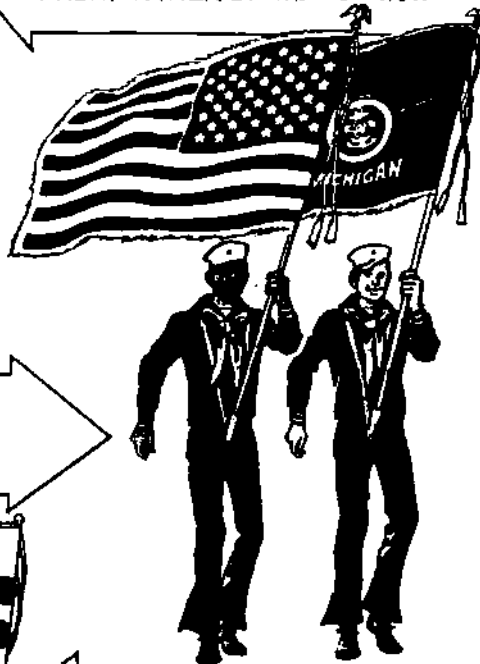


FLAGS ON PARADE

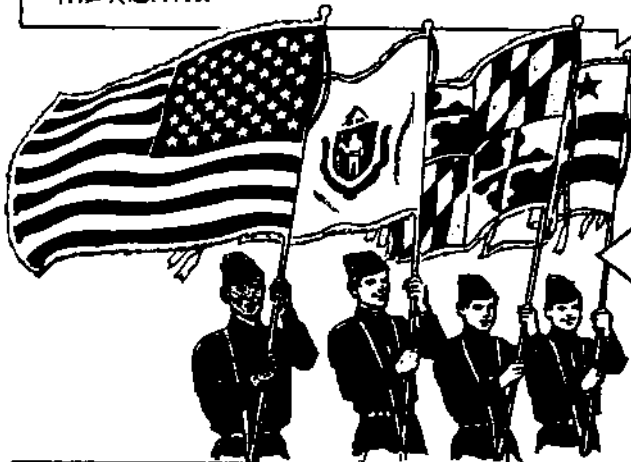
The following diagrams illustrate the correct positioning when carrying flags in a parade.



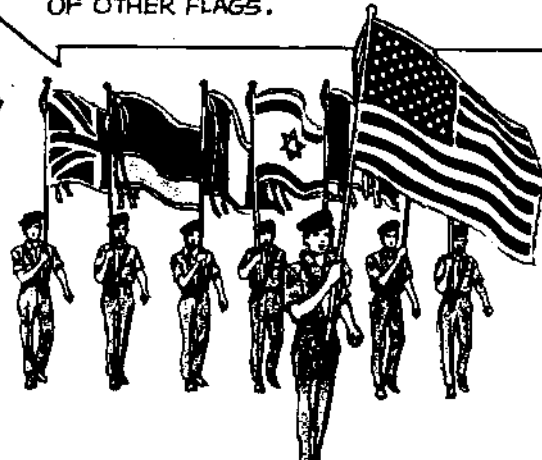
WHEN THE NATIONAL COLORS ARE BEING CARRIED ALONE, THEY SHOULD BE IN THE FRONT CENTER OF THE COLUMN.



WHEN CARRIED WITH ANOTHER BANNER THE NATIONAL COLORS ARE ALWAYS ON THE RIGHT...



AND ON THE RIGHT OF A ROW OF OTHER FLAGS.



IF THERE IS A LONG ROW OF OTHER FLAGS THE NATIONAL COLORS ARE CARRIED ALONE, CENTERED, AT A FEW PACES IN FRONT OF THE ROW.