

A Time Line of the Flag

It was 1777 when the Continental Congress resolved that the flag of United States contain 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, "representing a new constellation."

According to usflag.org, the different colors of the flag all hold specific meanings.

- **White:** Signifies purity and innocence.
- **Red:** Represents hardiness and valor.
- **Blue:** The color of the Chief, signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice.

Since the flag's inception, the flag has seen many stars added to its union, as the United States acquired new territories. The following time line, provided by ushistory.org, showcases the times when new stars were added and which states they represented.

1777: The first nationally approved flag represented Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina and Rhode Island.

1795: Two stars and two stripes were added to a new version of the flag to represent Vermont and Kentucky. This was the only version of the flag to contain more than 13 stripes, with 15.

1818: The end of the 15-strip flag, this version added five more stars and returned to 13 stripes, to represent the 13 original colonies. The states added to the union were Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana and Mississippi.

1819-1877: For decades, states earned their own place in our flag's union sporadically. These states are Illinois, Alabama, Maine, Missouri, Arkansas, Michigan, Florida, Texas, Iowa, Wisconsin, California, Minnesota, Oregon, Kansas, West Virginia, Nevada, Nebraska and Colorado.

1889: Improper planning by flag manufacturers caused this version to forgo an official debut. Manufacturers believed the two Dakotas would be admitted as one state, so the flag lacked one star. It is said that these



Notable Journeys

1945: The same flag flown over Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 was flown over the White House in August when the Japanese accepted surrender terms.

1963: The flag was placed on top of Mount Everest by Barry Bishop.

1969: Neil Armstrong placed the American flag on the moon.

2001: The flag from the World Trade towers survives and becomes a symbol of sacrifice in service, loss and determination.

flags still exist. If so, they would make a great collector's item.

1890-1960: Another era during which stars were added to the union over a long period of time. These states are North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Alaska and finally Hawaii.

Indoor Flags

Whether you are planning to display a flag in your home, business or a public place, there is a protocol to follow. When on display, the flag is to be accorded a place of honor. This means always positioning it properly.

You have surely seen American flags displayed around your neighborhood and during television press conferences. But did you know that the position it is displayed in is due to regulations within the U.S. Flag Code? The amount of the thought that goes into properly displaying a flag might surprise you.

Displaying with a Speaker

When the flag is featured on a speaker's platform, there are two acceptable positions.

- Flat display: If the flag is not being displayed

played from a staff, it is to be flat against a wall. While it may lay vertically or horizontally, the flag's union should be at the top, to the flag's right and to the observer's left.

- From a staff: When displayed on a podium, the flag should be in advance of the audience and in the position of honor at the speaker's right as he or she faces the audience.

Displaying with Other



Flags

The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when multiple flags of states, localities or societies are grouped for display.

If the American flag is displayed with one other flag, the staffs are to be crossed. The United States flag is always positioned

to its right, with its staff crossed in front of the other flag.

Displaying in a Window

If an American flag is to be displayed in a window, remember that it is on display to those outside. That means its union should be positioned to its right when being viewed from the street or sidewalk.

These regulations ensure that our flag is always being displayed with the respect and honor it deserves. When viewing flags around your neighborhood, make note of whether they are being exhibited properly. If you notice any imperfections with the presentation of the flag, the one responsible may not be familiar with the code. It might be worth noting the issue if you are familiar with the owner.

Choosing an American Flag

Before honorably destroying your tattered flag, you should have a new one readily available. When choosing a new American flag, you have different options in materials, size and the quality of construction.

Regardless of which style you choose, be sure to buy an American-made flag. This allows you to support the U.S. economy and buy a far superior product.

Here are some of the materials used to produce American flags:

- **Nylon:** This is a popular choice in American flags being displayed indoors and outdoors. It is light and durable, resists outside elements and dries quickly. Because its lightweight, it flies efficiently in slight breezes and shines bright in the sunlight.
- **Tough-Tex Polyester:** If you live in extreme weather conditions or areas with high wind threats, this is great choice. It is considerably heavier than nylon and contains a special weave that has the

look and feel of cotton. It is a long-lasting option.

- **Cotton:** Cotton is the traditional flag fabric. It is designed to withstand outdoor use but may require extra care to maintain the integrity of its materials.

Choosing a Size

The proper size for your display depends on the size of flagpole you will use to hoist it. The following guide will show you what size flag will work best for your situation.

A traditional home kit features a flag of 3 feet by 5 feet. A proper flagpole on which to display this size flag is 20 feet. A taller flagpole requires a larger flag size to look spectacular. A 25-foot flagpole should feature a 4-foot-by-6-foot flag, while a 30-foot pole looks its best with a 5-foot-by-8-foot flag.

You may see flags as large as 30 feet by 60 feet. These are suitable for poles over 200 feet tall.

How Long Should a Flag Last?

The lifespan of the flag you choose will greatly depend on its exposure to the elements. Bringing a flag that lacks weather resistance indoors during rain or high

wind can increase its longevity. Keep in mind that long exposure to sun also will cause your flag to fade prematurely.





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