

# Showing Respect for American and 4-H Flags



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## Citizenship

Citizenship is one of the *Six Pillars of Character* that 4-H members strive to develop. Citizenship means being committed to the welfare of your community, state, country, or world. Showing proper respect for the flag of the United States of America, the flag of the State of Ohio and the 4-H flag is part of citizenship. The other five Pillars of Character, from the Josephson Institute of Ethics, are Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, and Caring.

## Flag Bearer

Some 4-H clubs elect a flag bearer. The flag bearer is responsible for the club's flags. This includes making sure the flags are at all club functions, that they are displayed correctly and that they are given proper respect.

## Displaying Flags at a Meeting

When the American flag and the 4-H flag are placed on a table at a club meeting, the American flag is always on the president's right and the 4-H flag on the left. Those facing the president see the American flag on their left.



## Pledging to the Flags

After the president calls the meeting to order, the first items on the agenda of a 4-H meeting should be the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H Pledge. Everyone should stand and face the flags for the pledges.

## The Pledge of Allegiance

*I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

Please note the punctuation. Learn to pledge allegiance without pausing between the words "Nation" and "under" and teach others to do the same.

When pledging allegiance, you should stand tall and face the flag with your right hand over your heart. Hats should always be removed during pledges.

## The 4-H Pledge

*I pledge  
My head to clearer thinking,  
My heart to greater loyalty,  
My hands to larger service, and  
My Health to better living  
For my club, my community, my country and my world.*

Many 4-H members forget the "and" before "my Health to better living." Practice saying the 4-H pledge correctly and teach others to do the same.

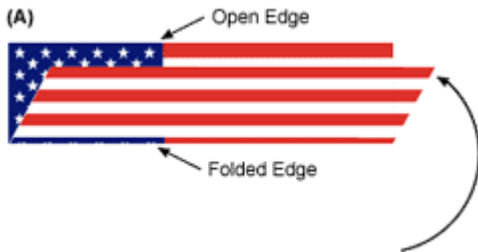
When saying the 4-H pledge, members stand straight and tall with their arms at their sides. They raise their right hand to their forehead when they say, "I pledge my head to clearer thinking." They lower their right hand to their heart when saying, "my heart to greater loyalty." Their arms are slightly bent with palms up when saying, "my hands to larger service." They stand with their arms at their sides for the conclusion of the pledge, "and my health to better living, for my club, my community, my country and my world."

## Folding the American Flag

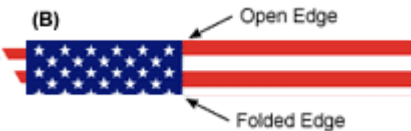


### Correct Method of Folding the U.S Flag

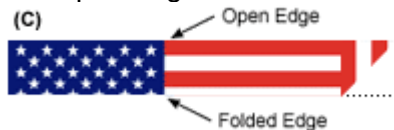
(A) Fold the lower striped section over the blue field.



(B) Folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge.



(C) A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.



(D) Outer point is then turned inward parallel with the open edge to form a second triangle.



(E) Triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in the triangular shape of a cocked hat with only the blue field visible (F).



## Folding the 4-H Flag



1. To fold the 4-H flag, hold the flag lengthwise and fold in half, with the stem of the clover on top.
2. Next, continue to hold the flag lengthwise and fold it once more so that it is one-fourth of the original width. The stem of the clover should still be on top.
3. Fold the flag to the center from each end, covering the clover.
4. Complete folding the flag by bringing the ends together. This leaves a leaf of the clover on each side.

## Folding the Ohio Flag



1. With the flag unfolded, fold the flag in half lengthwise so that the points of the flag are aligned.
2. Fold the flag in half lengthwise a second time to form a long strip with the red disc facing the ground.
3. Next, fold the pointed end back onto itself to form a rectangle. These steps entail three folds.
4. Starting on the end formed by the fold of the pointed end back onto itself, fold two inches of the flag onto itself.
5. Repeat the folds a total of fourteen times, alternating the folds in a fan-like manner. The result is a total of seventeen folds symbolizing that Ohio was the seventeenth state admitted to the Union. Finally, neatly and snugly wrap the remaining length of flag around the fan-folds to form a compact rectangle.