**Troop 325 Flag Retiring Ceremony**

Materials needed:

Carry Grill to camp

Will need charcoal, wood, fuel starter

Metal trash can for ashes

Metal dustpan

Long Stick or fire prong

Scissors

Prep:

During afternoon downtime, cut one flag into 13 stripes and field of blue with stars (don’t cut field of blue, leave intact). Each scout should cut at least one stripe. Separate into red, white, and blue groups.

All flags to be considered for retirement will be unfolded, inspected, certified that retirement is valid and finally properly refolded. Use this opportunity to use EDGE method to train scouts on how to fold Our Flag.

Review ceremony procedure and assign all scouts to at least one task for participation at the ceremony.

Determine ceremony time. Class A uniform required for ceremony.

Make ceremony assignments:

Fire preparation:

**Senior Patrol Leader:**

**Detail Leader:**

**Flag Detail:** (1 scout/flag)

NOTE: If possible, Before accepting a flag for retirement, the recipient should obtain information about its history. For example: Where has it flown? How long? Any memorable events happen at that site? This information should be used in the ceremony.

**Flag Retirement Ceremony**

**Call group to assemble**

Explain the process to the audience.

**Senior Patrol leader:** “Several flags will be retired today, all flags will be presented for retirement today, one flag will be designated as a gift to the ceremony to be dismantled before retirement, the remaining flags will be offered for retirement at the ceremony. One flag will be used for the ceremony and the remaining folded flags will be retired after dismissal of troop. This is a reverent ceremony, at the conclusion of the ceremony please exit quietly and prepare for lights out”

*Insure that the flags are completely turned to ash. The ashes will be collected and properly disposed.*

**Detail Leader:** “Senior Patrol leader, we wish to present a number of unserviceable Flags of our Country for retirement.”

**Senior Patrol leader:** “Flag detail, advance and present the Flags for retirement.”

(Detail leader calls his detail to attention. Flag Detail form at designated area. Detail leader command Detail to take the Flags which have been inspected and march abreast down center until opposite the Senior Patrol Leader. Detail Leader steps up and address the SPL.)

**Detail Leader:** “Senior Patrol leader, we present these unserviceable Flags for your final inspection and fitting disposal.”

**Senior Patrol leader:** “Is the present condition of these Flags the result of their usual service as the Emblem of our Country?”

**Detail leader:** “These Flags have become faded and worn. We proclaimed that each of these flags has served well. These flags have inspired those who desired the taste of freedom and have represented hope to those oppressed by tyranny and terror. These flags have welcomed any and all in the name of liberty. These flags served as a constant reminder to all of us that we live in a country where our freedom has been deeply purchased by blood, sweat, tears and ultimate sacrifice.

 **Senior Patrol leader:** “Have these Flags been inspected”

**Detail Leader:** “They have.”

**Senior Patrol Leader:** “What does your inspection show and what do you recommend?”

**Detail Leader:** “Senior Patrol leader, since these Flags have become unserviceable in a worthy cause, I recommend that they be honorably retired from further service.”

 **Senior Patrol Leader:** “Fellow Scouts, we have presented here these Flags of our Country which have been inspected and condemned as unserviceable. They have reached their present state in a proper service of tribute, memory and love.

“A Flag may be a flimsy bit of printed gauze, or a beautiful banner of finest silk. Its intrinsic value may be trifling or great; but its real value is beyond price, for it is a precious symbol of all that we and our country people have worked for and lived for, and died for, a free Nation of free men and women, true to the faith of the past, devoted to the ideals and practice of Justice, Freedom and Democracy. Let these faded Flags of our Country be retired and destroyed with respectful and honorable rites”

**Senior Patrol Leader:** “The Chaplain Aide will offer prayer.”

**Chaplain Aide:** “Almighty God, Captain of all hosts and Commander over all, bless and consecrate this present hour.

“We thank Thee for our Country and its Flag, and for the liberty for which it stands. “To clean and purging flame we commit these Flags, worn out in worthy service. As they yield their substance to the fire, may Thy Holy Light spread over us and bring to our hearts renewed devotion to God and Country. Amen.”

**Senior Patrol Leader:** Know ye that these flags have served well and honorably. Their stars and stripes have been loosed to the winds of freedom and have basked in the light of liberty." CALL ATTENTION/ALL RISE " Scout Salute, Please join me to recite the Pledge of Allegiance": (PAUSE) "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 al. Two, STAND AT EASE”

 (The detail marches down center to the fire. Turn over the flag to the adult leader next to the fire. The detail reforms behind the fire and upwind)

**Senior Patrol Leader:** Prepare to retire the flag which was prepared earlier. “I Am Your Gift Preparation - One Flag - worn, tattered and soiled. So that is why we are here tonight, to give our flag honor as so many have done before. As the box is passed around I would like everyone to take a piece of our flag. Hold it tight for its still our flag.” (let everyone take a piece)

**Scout1:** The U.S. flag should be treated with respect when it's flying, and it should be treated with respect when it's being retired.

**Scout 2**: The U.S. flag is more than just some brightly colored cloth, it is a symbol of our nation.

**Scout 3:** 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."

 **Scout 4:** Therefore, we retire flags with dignity and respect when they become worn, torn, faded, or badly soiled.

**Scout 5:** A flag ceases to be a flag when it is cut into pieces. We cut the flag into pieces: seven red and six white striped banners and the blue star field. We leave the blue field intact because no one should ever let the union be broken.

**Scout 6:** Seven red stripes and six white strips; together they represent the original 13 colonies that gained us liberty.

**Scout 7:** The red stripes remind us of the lifeblood of brave men and women who were ready to die for this, their country. Let us retire the Red Stripes--Salute! (Everyone holding red stripes steps up to burn the RED stripes) Two.

**Scout 8:** The white stripes remind us of purity and cleanliness of purpose, thought, word and deed. . Let us retire the White Stripes --Salute. (Everyone with white stripes steps up to burn the WHITE stripes) Two.

**Scout 9:** The blue is for truth and justice, like the eternal blue of the star-filled heavens. The stars represent the fifty sovereign states of our union. Let us retire the Blue Field with Stars.--Salute. (Step up to burn the BLUE Field with Stars) Two”

**Senior Patrol Leader:** Allow the flag flames to die down. Then with meaning, say, “OUR FLAG REST IN Peace. Gentlemen, this concludes the ceremony. God bless America. Dismissed”

Color Guard files out in silence.