

The Flag of the United States of America

Showing Respect



First things first

“Ladies and Gentlemen, please rise for the Presentation of Colors and remain standing for the singing [or playing] of the National Anthem followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.”

When the Color Guard brings the U.S. Flag into a meeting room

Whether you are seated in the audience or at the head table, you:

- Immediately stand and face the Colors.
- It shows respect to place your hand over your heart, but this is not mandatory.

Flag Protocol



The Color Guard posts the Colors, and then

The National Anthem is played (or sang).
You immediately place your hand over your heart (if it wasn't there before) and keep it there until the Anthem is completed, or ...

The Pledge of Allegiance is said [AFTER the Anthem]
You keep your hand over your heart until completion.

Next, an Inspiration is given.....

The speaker should give you permission to “be seated” and continue with the Inspiration.

Flag Protocol



An “Inspiration” is different than an “Invocation”

An “Invocation” is a prayer. If a prayer is said, follow the “God before Country” rule.

- The flag is posted, and then the prayer is said
- Then, the Anthem and/or Pledge is said

Where does the U.S. Flag go?

The U.S. Flag is always posted to the right of the speaker (as she faces the audience).

All other flags are posted to the left of the speaker. No flag is ever higher than the U.S. Flag.

Flag Protocol



If there is NOT a U.S. Flag in the room

Do NOT say the pledge.
This is very disrespectful.

What about those “table-top” flags?

The “table-top” flags are simply table decorations.

If using several different flags in one stand, you should have the U.S. Flag in the center, or higher than the others.

Flag Protocol



Can we use a table-top flag display for the Pledge?

No.

The Pledge is only said in front of a flag of the proper size.

What about State Flags?

It is very respectful to have the flag of the State in which you are holding your Conference (or meeting).

It is not necessary to have the flag of the home State of each attendee.

Flag Protocol



R-E-S-P-E-C-T

It's only a matter of respect.
Respect for the United
States Flag.
Respect for the Country for
which it stands.

U.S. Flag Protocol

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