



### Great Service Project Idea

**Contact your local elementary school and offer to do a simple presentation about the USA Flag.**

**Not sure what to do or say? Keep it simple. In this packet you will find information and suggestions. Or contact the Lion in your Club who has done this in the past. Take pictures! Post your service!**

Over 550 Lions Clubs in California, plus over 175 clubs from West Virginia, Hawaii, Oregon, Oklahoma, New Mexico, New York, Missouri and Wisconsin participate in the program.

The Lions have now presented over 2,500,000 flags and we hope more clubs will become involved in this patriotic program. The response to the Lions Flag Day Program shows that patriotism still stands high in our country.

The success of the program itself does not depend as much on the grandness of the event as it does on the sincerity of the givers and receivers. Presentations ranging from simple gift giving to elaborate ceremonies involving the entire student body, faculty, community civic leaders and bands can in their own way be appropriate and successful. American flags and a children's book for the school library are a great gift.

#### Best Price Found

Made in USA 4" x 6" no tip flags: **American Flags 4 Less**  
<https://www.americanflags4less.com/miniature-stick-flags/>  
100 flags \$23.00

#### Potential Library Book(s)

**I'm Your Flag So Treat Me Right**, by Julia Cook—\$9.95 on Amazon

**F Is For Flag**, by Julia Cook—\$5.39 on Amazon

"I believe our flag is more than just cloth and ink. It is a universally recognized symbol that stands for liberty, and freedom. It is the history of our nation, and it's marked by the blood of those who died defending it." *John Thune*



## The American Flag | Social Studies Shorts

### Discussion Questions

- The colors of the American Flag each symbolize certain values. Red represents hardiness and valor; blue symbolizes justice, vigilance, and perseverance; and white symbolizes purity and innocence. If you were asked to design a flag for a new country, what colors would you choose to use and what values would each color represent? The meanings of your colors are completely your choice so use your imagination! What values would you want to be represented in your new country's flag?
- American astronauts left U.S. flags on the moon. Due to the airless lunar environment, a flag normally would hang limp, so the astronauts planted flags that had a horizontal rod attached to the flagpole that made the flag appear to fly. But other than that modification, the flags on the moon were not especially made to withstand lunar conditions of extreme temperatures and UV radiation. They were just regular nylon flags. It is thought by some experts that these moon flags have since disintegrated or are in very bad condition. But congratulations - You have been asked to manufacture a flag for the new mission to Mars! It needs to be engineered to hold up to the U.V. radiation, dust, and the extreme cold of the Martian environment. What would you include in your design of the flag and its holder that would allow it to look like it is flying and protect it from the harsh Mars environment? Feel free to add a labeled drawing to the description of the design you create!
- As of 2022, there are 50 states in the U.S.A. The 50 stars representing the states on the American flag are easily arranged to fit within the blue rectangle on the flag known as the "union." However, the flag could one day change if the U.S. were to add a new state such as potential statehood candidates Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. (the District of Columbia). Explain, or show in a diagram, your design for the new arrangement if a 51st star is added. Remember to make your design balanced and pleasing to the eye.
- The U.S. Flag Code is a federal law which gives Americans guidelines for handling and displaying the flag. Some of the guidelines include: not wearing an actual flag as an item of clothing, not using the flag for advertising purposes, and rules for how to properly handle the flag. While the Flag Code is law, following its guidelines is voluntary and no punishments are enforced if someone doesn't follow them. What do you think about a law that isn't enforceable and do you think that people who don't follow the guidelines should be punished? Discuss possible negative and/or positive outcomes for American society if citizens were punished for not following a Flag Code guideline. Do the positives outweigh the negatives enough to start enforcing the law?
- Some of the guidelines for handling/displaying the flag are discussed in the previous question. Are there other guidelines you feel should be added to this list? If so, what are those guidelines and please explain why you think they are important.

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### Vocabulary

**American Flag** - The national flag of the United States is also called the U.S. flag as well as by some common nicknames such as Old Glory, the Star-Spangled Banner, and the Stars and Stripes. The official design of the flag is thirteen equal horizontal stripes of red (top and bottom) and white, with a blue rectangle in the upper inner corner. This rectangle, when referring to flags in general, is called a canton, but in the case of the U.S. flag it is referred to as “the Union.” Inside the Union are fifty white, five-pointed stars arranged in nine horizontal rows. The 50 stars stand for the 50 U.S. states, and the 13 stripes represent the thirteen British colonies that declared independence from Great Britain, to become the first U.S. states.

**Continental Colours Flag (aka, the Grand Union Flag, Congress Flag, Cambridge Flag, and the First Navy Ensign)** - This flag is thought to be the United States’ first national flag. Like the current U.S. flag, it had 13 alternating red and white stripes, representing the Thirteen Colonies. But instead of a canton (the rectangle in the upper left corner of many flags) with a blue background and white stars, its canton featured the flag of Great Britain. After the Second Continental Congress authorized the creation of its own military branches in 1775, a flag was needed to represent the new government and had to be different from what Great Britain and its military used.

**Flag Act** - The Flag Act is really a collection of three separate acts that try to define the evolving design of the American Flag. They are:

1. **The Flag Act of 1777** enacted by the 2nd Continental Congress, which says the flag of the thirteen United States would be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white and that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.
2. **The Flag Act of 1794**, signed into law by George Washington, changed the design to include the admission of two more states to the Union, Kentucky, and Vermont. The new design had fifteen stripes and fifteen stars and was the only official United States flag that did not have only thirteen stripes. The famous flag that inspired the “Star Spangle Banner” anthem was of this design.
3. **The Flag Act of 1818** reinforced the rule of having thirteen alternating red and white stripes on the flag and created the rule that the number of stars on the flag should match the current number of states. It also said that a change in the number of stars would officially be made on Independence Day, July 4th.

**Sons of Liberty Flag** - The Sons of Liberty was a loosely organized secret political organization, active in the thirteen American colonies to fight taxation actions by the British government. In 1767 the organization adopted the “Rebellious Stripes Flag” with nine vertical stripes, four white and five red. There were several alternate designs for this flag including one with 13 red and white stripes and even some with different color combinations such as green and white or yellow and white.

**The U.S. Flag Code** - This code provides guidelines for displaying and caring for the national flag of the United States of America. Although U.S. federal law, it uses language like “should” and “custom” and does not list penalties for failure to follow the rules. The list of guidelines is long, but some examples from these rules of etiquette are:

The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever.

The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. The flag should never be flown upside down, except to signal distress or great danger.

When a flag is so tattered it no longer fits to serve as a symbol of the United States, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

**U.S. Flag Color Symbolism** - In the 1780s, the secretary of the Continental Congress, Charles Thomson, provided an explanation of the flag's colors. (Edited for length here) According to Thomson, "While the colors of the American Flag were likely inspired by our mother country's flag, the Union Jack of England, they were also deliberately chosen to reflect the beliefs and values that our Founding Fathers deemed essential to building our nation."

**Red** - This color represents hardiness, valor, courage, and readiness to sacrifice. It is also sometimes said to stand for the blood shed by those who fought to protect our freedom and country.

**Blue** - This color signifies justice for all, as well as vigilance and perseverance. A reminder that we must remain watchful and strong.

**White** - This color stands for purity and innocence. Pure, because we are independent from other countries and hold true to our ideals.

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## **I'm Your Flag, So Please Treat Me Right: A Picture Book About the American Flag Paperback – Picture Book, June 20, 2014**

by [Julia Cook](#) (Author), [Michelle Hazelwood Hyde](#) (Illustrator)

[4.8 out of 5 stars](#) [237 ratings](#) \$9.95 on Amazon

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### **Teach Kids the Importance of Respecting the "Stars and Stripes"**

Although many kids say the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of the day, they sometimes don't show a lot of sincerity while doing it because they don't fully understand what the flag means to America.

*I'm Your Flag So Please Treat Me Right!* is a story told by the American flag. It explains through the eyes of our flag what the red, white and blue stand for, and what the flag means to all Americans.

*"I stand for freedom when I wave in the air,  
so proud of my stars and stripes.  
Whenever you see me, please show that you care.  
I'm your flag, so please treat me right!"*

*"I'm lucky to have you and you're lucky to have me.  
The things that I stand for are why you are free.  
Be proud when you see my red, white and blue.  
When I wave in the air...I'm waving for YOU!"*

**This delightful, historical, and colorful story will help people of all ages better understand the value of our beautiful flag.**

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1. Reading age

**5 - 12 years**

2. Print length

**32 pages**

3. Language

**English**

4. Grade level

**Kindergarten - 6**

**F Is for Flag (Reading Railroad) Paperback – Picture Book, April 15, 2002**

by [Wendy Cheyette Lewison](#) (Author), [Barbara Duke](#) (Illustrator)

[4.8 4.8 out of 5 stars](#)   [702 ratings](#)   \$5.39 Amazon

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June 14 is Flag Day, but with so many American flags proudly displayed, every day seems like Flag Day. Perfect for reading together with a young child, *F Is for Flag* shows in simple terms how one flag can mean many things: a symbol of unity, a sign of welcome, and a reminder that-in good times and in bad-everyone in our country is part of one great big family.

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1. Reading age

**2 - 6 years, from customers**

2. Part of series

**Reading Railroad Books**

3. Print length

**24 pages**

4. Language

**English**

5. Dimensions

**8 x 0.12 x 8 inches**