



Continental Congress—June 14, 1777

Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white: that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.

The Flag of the United States

July 4, 1776—U.S. declares independence from Great Britain

May 1776—Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross alleged to have sewn the first American flag

June 14, 1777—Continental Congress adopts an American flag with 13 stars and 13 stripes

May 1795—Flag is modified to include two additional stars and two additional stripes, acknowledging the admittance of Vermont and Kentucky to the Union

September 14, 1814—Francis Scott Key writes “The Star Spangled Banner” after the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812

April 1818—Flag reverts to 13 stripes with new stars to be added the July 4th following admittance of new states

1830s—William Driver, a Massachusetts sea captain, first nicknames the U.S. flag “Old Glory”

September, 1892—Francis Bellamy’s original “Pledge of Allegiance” published in *The Youth’s Companion* magazine

June 22, 1942—Congress officially incorporates “Pledge of Allegiance” into the United States Flag Code

July 4th, 1960—Flag takes on modern appearance as Hawaii is admitted to Union and 50th star is added to the flag

*“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.”*

—United States Code Title 4, Ch. 1, §4

Time & Occasions for Display of the U.S. Flag—United States Code Title 4, Ch. 1, §6

- (a) It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag-staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed for 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.
- (b) The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
- (c) The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all weather flag is displayed.
- (d) The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on New Year’s Day, January 1; Inauguration Day, January 20; Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday, third Monday in January; Lincoln’s Birthday, February 12; Washington’s Birthday, third Monday in February; Easter Sunday (variable); Mother’s Day, second Sunday in May; Flag Day, June 14; Father’s Day, third Sunday in June; Independence Day, July 4; National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27; Labor Day, first Monday in September; Constitution Day, September 17; Columbus Day, second Monday in October; Navy Day, October 27; Veterans Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November; Christmas Day, December 25; and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of States (date of admission); and on State holidays.
- (e) The flag should be displayed daily on or near the main administration building of every public institution.
- (f) The flag should be displayed in or near every polling place on election days.
- (g) The flag should be displayed during school days in or near every schoolhouse.



“The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing.”
—United States Code Title 4, Ch. 1, §8

DO:

- * Respect the flag
- * Maintain and clean the flag when necessary
- * Fly the flag only during daylight hours and in calm weather—flags flown at night must be illuminated
- * Always hang the flag with the blue field in the upper left hand corner
- * Salute the flag as it is being lowered or raised, as it passes by in a parade, during the pledge of allegiance, and during the national anthem
- * Fly the flag at half-staff upon the death of the President, a former President, Vice President, certain other high-ranking Federal officials, a Governor, or as otherwise directed by the President
- * Burn the flag in a dignified manner when it is worn and no longer fit to serve as an emblem for display

DO NOT:

- * Dip the flag for any person or thing
- * Use the flag as decoration or drapery
- * Allow the flag to touch the ground or other objects beneath it
- * Use the flag as a receptacle for carrying, holding, or delivering anything
- * Use the flag for advertising, embroidering, or printing purposes (e.g. on pillows, napkins, plates, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use)
- * Place on, or attach to, the flag any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind
- * Wear the flag as a part of a costume or athletic uniform (a flag patch may be used on uniforms of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations)

**Flag of the City of Worcester
City Seal on Kelly Green Background**

“Be it Ordained by the Mayor, Alderman, and Common Council of the City of Worcester, in City Council assembled as follows:

The Seal of the City shall be a circular form, having in the centre as a device, the figure of a Heart, and having in the margin, beginning at the centre of the left side, the words “Worcester a Town June 14, 1722; a City February 29, 1848,” according to the design hereunto annexed.

Passed March 30, 1849.”



For more information about the flag of the United States see the Encyclopedia Smithsonian at http://www.si.edu/encyclopedia_si/nmah/flag.htm and Government Printing Office at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2011-title4/html/USCODE-2011-title4-chap1.htm>. For more information about the flag of the City of Worcester see the City Clerk’s Office at www.worcesterma.gov or visit the Worcester Historical Museum at www.worcesterhistory.org.

Bureau Brief

Worcester Regional Research Bureau, Inc.
500 Salisbury Street
Worcester, MA 01609
508-799-7169
www.wrrb.org

