



Meeting Opening Ceremony

“The Gadsden Flag”

Historic Flag Presentation Ceremony

Historic flag presentations are an easy tool that Leaders can use to develop a sense of history and interest in the history of our Country amongst the Cub Scouts of their Den and Pack. Information regarding historic flags is available through many internet sources, and making replica flags can be a simple Den level Citizenship project.

This ceremony tells the story of one of the first flags used in our Country at the time of the American Revolution. In support of this presentation, a Gadsden flag, or a large replica image is needed and can be held by one of more Cub Scouts of the Den presenting this opening ceremony.

Cub Scout 1: In the earliest days of our country, there was no “official” flag. Many colonists chose to fly a yellow flag with the image of a coiled rattlesnake containing the motto “Don't Tread On Me”. The rattlesnake was very common in the North American Colonies, and was feared by the British Soldiers. The name of this flag is The Gadsden Flag.

Cub Scout 2: The Gadsden flag is often believed to have been created by Benjamin Franklin, but that is not the case. While Franklin created many images similar to this flag, many other people helped to create this flag. The Gadsden flag and similar flags were widely used during the American Revolution. Colonel Christopher Gadsden of South Carolina was the first to present this flag to the Continental Congress as a possible flag for the new Nation.

Cub Scout 3: There was even a Navy version of the Gadsden flag which had a snake on a red and white striped flag. That was replaced by the current Stars and Stripes (or Old Glory). Since the days of the War for Independence, the Gadsden flag has been viewed as a symbol of American patriotism.

All Cub Scouts: Please join with us to show our commitment to Patriotism by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to our current flag.



Historic Flag Information

This historic flag information is intended to serve only as a very basic introduction to the subject of the Gadsden flag. The images of the Gadsden flag are under public domain and may be reproduced for educational purposes.



This is the "classic" Gadsden flag. This is the basic design presented to the Continental Congress by Colonel Christopher Gadsden which he wanted to be adopted as the official flag of the Colonies at the time of the American War for Independence.



This is the version of the Gadsden flag adopted by the Continental Navy and flown as an ensign on many ships of the Colonial Navy. It is reported that this flag was flown on the ship commanded by John Paul Jones.



This is the sketch done by Benjamin Franklin in which he depicted the fragmented snake as the disjointed colonies, with the prophetic warning to join together or the dream of a free country would die. Many historians believe that this image contributed to the development of the Gadsden flag.