

Philip F. Haxel, Sr. Patriotism Award
2011 Essay Contest

Winner & Recipient of the Baton of Patriotism

Zoe Bonitatibus, Grade 4
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Principal: Mrs. Debbie Freels

The Flag

The Flag has been a very important symbol for the U.S.A. for a very long time. One of the reasons that makes the Flag important now and back then is when the British were bombing Fort McHenry in the War of 1812. Francis Scott Key saw in the morning the American Flag high. He was so happy, he wrote the National Anthem. It was called the "Star-Spangled Banner." He was so happy to see the Flag because Francis Scott Key was an American and the American Flag is a proud symbol of America.

The Flag came to be when America declared independence. We declared independence from the British so that we could be a free country. The only thing was that we Americans were sharing the British flag. We did not want to share the British flag anymore so we decided to have our own Flag sewn.

So it was said that the Americans would now have a new Flag. The Flag was to have 13 alternating red and white stripes, and a sea of blue with 13 white stars on the blue sea. The 13 stars and stripes were to represent the 13 colonies. Today, there are 50 stars to represent the 50 states. The colors red, white, and blue were not just there to look good but have a meaning. Red signifies valor and bravery, White signifies purity and innocence, and Blue signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

Today, we see the American Flag in schools, at sporting events, homes, and government buildings. Why are they there? At schools in the 1800s, James B. Upham wanted school children to know that school is a place to learn. The American Flag makes you proud to be an American. You feel patriotic and strong, so you learn to be proud of who you are at school. In sports, you have the American Flag to show you are a proud patriot and are excited to cheer on your team or friends. It makes you feel like a winner too! People display Flags at home because they want to show all the people that they are proud to call themselves patriots. You also want to show that you care for those who fight for our freedom.

As you can see, the American Flag is a very important symbol for America now and back then!

3rd & 5th Grade Finalists

Sydney Young, Grade 3
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The Flag

The American Flag was important back then and still is now because it symbolizes our country. It shows that our colonies joined up together and made a Flag they all agreed on.

But before they agreed to have a Flag together, they had their own flags. They had a pine tree and a snake on their flags, but not both of the symbols together.

It also shows that we won the wars like when people attacked Baltimore. After the war, our Flag was still there in the morning.

Back then, the Flag was 13 stripes and 13 stars. Today, our Flag is 50 stars for our 50 states that joined together. The stripes are still 13 to represent the original 13 colonies. Now, our Flag stands for our freedom and everything the people went through to get it.

Averee Radonovich, Grade 3
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USA Flag

On May of 1776, Betsy Ross reported that she made the U.S.A. Flag that we have today. But the Flag has lots of history. The first Flag had 13 stripes and a mini England flag in the corner. After the war, the Flag changed. Now the Flag has 15 stripes and stars. For the next change, they decided to stop adding stripes. So, next the Flag had 13 stripes and all the stars up to today. Now, we have 13 stripes and 50 stars. The Flag is a

symbol of our country. So is the bald eagle. To honor this symbol, it should always have light on it.

Never let the Flag touch the ground. If you do, you're not respecting our country.

Did you know the colors have meanings? Well, they do. Here are the meanings. Red = Bravery; Blue = Loyalty; White=Peace. These 3 colors are all around us.

The Flag has 2 of its own holidays: 1) Flag Day; and 2) Independence Day.

Our Flag stands for freedom. The Flag's nicknames are 1) Stars and Stripes, and 2) Star-Spangled Banner. We have a pledge and an anthem. Our anthem is called the Star-Spangled Banner. On the White House, a Flag is up if the president is there, and down if he isn't there.

The first Flag was made in Philadelphia, P.A. Each star on the Flag stands for 1 of the states. The stripes on the Flag are for the 13 colonies. The Flag was established in 1797, so we have had the Flag for 204 years! That is cool!

The Flag is different than all the others in the world. Our Flag has symbols. The stripes represent the original 13 colonies. The stars represent the 50 states. The Flag should always have light on it.

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Our Flag

Our Flag was born on June 14th, 1777. Ever since then, our Flag has played a significant role in our history. First of all, the stars on our Flag have meaning. Stars have been added to the Flag as new states have joined the union. Currently, the Flag has fifty stars for the fifty states. In the first war the United States took part in, our Flag gave everyone hope. So, if the Flag was still there, we were fighting for our country!

All the colors in the Flag represent something in our nation. White signifies purity and innocence. White reminds me the United States is a "young" country. Red

signifies valor and bravery. The bravery in our country is with our soldiers. Currently, they are defending our country in Afghanistan. Finally, blue signifies justice. Our country has justice in our government. Everyone over eighteen is allowed to vote.

Have you ever wondered why there are stripes on the Flag? The colonists put stripes on the Flag because it stands for a shining light of the sun. Today, that was a good choice because the United States is like a shining light on all the other countries. Also, our Flag gives us rays of hope in the wars for our freedom. We can conclude every stitch of the Flag mean something.

