

Philip F. Haxel, Sr. Patriotism Award  
2013 Essay Contest

**Winners & Recipients of the Baton of Patriotism**

Sean Engler, Grade 5  
Riderwood Elementary School  
1711 Landrake Road  
Towson, Maryland 21204  
Principal: Ms. Kathy Dehart



"The Banner of Pride"

Our Flag is the most important symbol in America. As our nation and Flag have been created, we have made many friends and enemies. Our Flag has changed frequently throughout the history of America. The American Flag needs to be respected. We dedicate our loyalty to the Flag by saying the Pledge every day. This was written by Francis Bellamy over 100 years ago. There are many things you might not know about the Flag.

What is the history of the U. S. Flag?

The American Flag has been a symbol of freedom and justice for over 225 years. The American Flag was not made by Betsy Ross; it is believed that the soldiers of the "Revolutionary War" made it by combining many different colonial flags. The first Flag was created with 13 stars and 13 stripes. Now, we have 13 stripes for the 13 colonies and a star for each state. That is why we now have 50 of them. Our two most recent states that have been given stars are Alaska and Hawaii. On June 14, 1777, Congress passed "The Flag Resolution" that said that the Flag had to have 13 alternating red and white stripes. This sparked the growth of our American Flag. That is why we now celebrate Flag Day every June 14. Also, when Francis Scott Key was captured on the ship, he looked up and saw the Flag and it reminded him of the bravery of our country.

How did our country's Flag evolve?

The Flag evolved with changes, both rapid and little. Did you know that the American Flag went through 26 changes? On the American Flag, the colors and the stripes have stayed the same. But the number of stars has dramatically increased over the years. We keep the 13 stripes because it represents the thirteen colonies. After the "Flag Resolution" in 1794, they provided the Flag with 15 stars. On June 24, 1912, President Taft ordered the Flag to have 6 horizontal rows of 8 stars. This stood until

Eisenhower came along and arranged the stars in a 7 by 7 formation. Now, there are 50 stars, but there will definitely be more changes in the future.

What does the Flag mean to me?

When I think of the Flag, I think of bravery, justice, and freedom. In return, I show my respect and loyalty to the Flag by saying the Pledge of Allegiance every day. When I was little, I was taught how to treat the Flag. First, you should never let the Flag touch the ground. Next, you should always raise the Flag quickly in the morning, and lower it slowly in the evening. Also, when you fold the Flag, you should fold it in a certain triangular formation. This is because our Founding Fathers wore three-cornered hats when they signed the "Declaration of Independence." When I look at the Flag, I always feel like someone has my back, and I get a sense of bravery and pride. It also reminds me of the soldiers who have served our country to fight for our freedom.

Our Flag is the most important symbol in our country. The American Flag has gone through 26 both big and small changes. It started out with having 13 stars and 13 stripes, and now it has 50 stars for each state and 13 stripes. When I think of the Flag, I think of bravery, justice, and freedom. Even in a catastrophic event, the Flag will always be standing.

Sources:

- The American Flag Movie, Safari Montage
- [www.americanhistory.com](http://www.americanhistory.com)
- American History, Safari Montage

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Grant Sparr, Grade 5  
Red Pump Elementary School  
600 Red Pump Road  
Bel Air; Harford County, MD  
Principal: Ms. A. Blaine Hawley



Grant - On Flag Patrol !!!

The American Flag

The American Flag is important to me because it reminds me of Freedom. It also reminds me of George Washington, and the Star-Spangled Banner. We need the Flag so bad guys don't attack. The Flag reminds me of the wars our country has fought to save the U. S. The Flag reminds me of Pearl Harbor. It is very important to never let the Flag touch the ground.

I'm part of Flag Patrol, so I put it up a lot. The Flag is important to a lot of people. At my old house, my neighbors had a Flag on a really tall pole. I had one on my garage. When I was in pre-school, I made the Flag out of paper. I drew two for the Patriot Program.

In conclusion, the Flag is a very important symbol of the United States.

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Kyle Ellette, Grade 4  
North East Elementary School  
301 Thomas Avenue  
North East; Cecil County, MD  
Principal: Ms. Nikole MacDowell



Kyle - A Flag Fact-Finder !!!

Why is the American Flag an Important Symbol?

Do you want to learn a lot about the American Flag? If you want to know a lot, then you should read my essay because it's filled with facts you'll love! All of the facts are from the past to the present.

There are a lot of things you should know about the Flag. One thing is that each stripe represents one of the 13 original colonies and the American Flag has been flown over a lot of important places like Fort McHenry and the World Trade Center. Each color represents something: red represents valor and zeal, white represents hope, purity and cleanliness of life, and blue represents the color of heaven, loyalty and sincerity. Also, on the day after September 11, 2001, a lot of Americans got together to make the human Flag. Those are some facts about the American Flag.

There are a lot of facts about how the Flag is an important symbol of our country. One of the facts is the gold trim is generally on ceremonial Flags indoors and was thought to have been used in a military setting. Another fact is it's worn backwards in the military. Another fact is it's also meant to be a seal that reflects the Founding Fathers beliefs and values. Those are some facts about the American Flag.

There are still a lot of facts about the Flag in the past and present. So, did you learn a lot?

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