

Salute for Flag Ceremony

Honor the Flag by Standing at Attention

The first thing the Scouts need to learn is how to stand at attention.

It's a little unreasonable to expect our Scouts (especially Lions) to stand at attention like members of the military do. But they should learn these basics to honor the flag.

1. Stand up straight
2. Stand still
3. Look at the flag, not at your friends
4. Be silent

Honor the Flag by Saluting Correctly

After they've learned to stand at attention, our Cub Scouts need to learn how to do the Cub Scout salute.

- Put the index and middle fingers of your right hand together and hold them out straight.
- Using your thumb, hold down the other fingers.
- Extend your right arm straight out to the side, then bend your arm at the elbow and bring your hand toward your face.
- If you are wearing a cap, touch the edge of your visor with the side of the index finger while keeping it and your middle finger together.
- If you aren't wearing a cap, touch the top of your right eyebrow.

Cub Scout Uniforms

The official uniform includes pants, belts, socks, etc., and many people say that a Scout isn't "in uniform" unless he's wearing the complete, official uniform.

However, BSA's Guide to Awards and Insignia says, "While wearing the uniform is not mandatory, it is highly encouraged."

You may have heard the terms "Class A uniform" or "Class B uniform." These aren't official BSA terms, but they're used by many of us in the Scouting community.

A **Class A** uniform is known as the field uniform. It is the official Cub Scout shirt that has "Boy Scouts of America" embroidered in gold above the right pocket.

A **Class B** uniform is known as an activity uniform, and it's typically a Scouting-related t-shirt. This can be a pack shirt, a day camp shirt, or something similar.

If a Cub Scout is wearing his or her uniform (either field uniform or activity uniform), they will use the Cub Scout salute.

So, even if a Cub Scout is wearing a scouting t-shirt (like that day camp t-shirt), they are considered to be wearing a uniform and should use the Cub Scout salute.

If they are not wearing a uniform, Cub Scouts will place their hands over their hearts to salute the flag.

What about Hats?

Official headgear may be worn while the unit or individual is participating in an indoor formal ceremony or service duty, except in religious institutions where custom forbids.

Typical indoor activities of this type are flag ceremonies, inspections, orderly duty, or ushering service.

This means that unless your religious institution forbids it, Cub Scouts may keep their Cub Scout hat on during the flag ceremony.

If you're wearing a hat from your favorite sports team, you should take it off during the flag ceremony. Remove your hat with your right hand and hold it at your left shoulder so that your right hand is over your heart.

How to Honor the Flag while Participating in a Color Guard

The flag bearer and the members of the Color Guard don't salute the flag or say the pledge?

The reason the color guards do not participate in saluting, singing, or saying the Pledge of Allegiance with the group is because their job is to guard the flag at all times. They should salute after the U.S. flag is posted.

Instead, the flag bearer and the members of the Color Guard stand silently at attention during the flag ceremony. They salute the flag after they've posted the colors.

Games to Practice Honoring the Flag

Go over standing at attention and saluting the flag before you start the games. After you've spent some time on these skills, the games can be played anytime.

The younger Cubs may need to be reminded, but soon, they'll know exactly how to honor the flag and can play the games without any reminders.

Baden-Powell Says Game

Baden-Powell is the founder of the Scouting movement.

Similar to Simon Says, this game will allow the Scouts to practice saluting the flag.

You can make this game as short or as long as you want.

A den chief, a denner, or a parent can be in charge of the game.

After the Scouts have learned how to honor the flag, this game is a great gathering activity!

Ask the Cub Scouts to stand up.

Give the following commands for the Scouts to do.

For some of them, add "Baden-Powell Says" at the beginning.

Just like Simon Says, the Scouts are out if they do the activity without hearing "Baden-Powell Says" first.

- Salute the flag while wearing your Cub Scout uniform
- Salute the flag while wearing your soccer uniform
- Salute the flag when you're the flag bearer
- Do what you should do when you're wearing your Cub Scout hat
- Do what you should do when you're wearing a non-Scouting hat

To make the game a little longer, add in some of the typical Simon Says commands such as these:

- Jump on one foot
- Touch your head
- Swing your arms
- Touch your shoulders
- Touch your toes
- Raise your arms

- Put your hands on your hips
- Touch your knees
- Turn around
- Wiggle your fingers
- Stomp your feet
- Jump up and down
- Waddle like a penguin
- Stand on one foot
- Wave hello
- Hug yourself
- Wiggle your nose
- Rub your tummy
- Blink your eyes really fast
- Squat down