

POSTING THE COLORS

Scouts are lined up facing the SPL with the American Flag on the right and the Troop Flag on the left. The American flag always moves in the location of honor which is always on the right when it is just two flags. In larger flag presentations the flag can be moved to the center of the multiple flags.

Color guard Attention – Troop Attention – Will the audience please rise and remove all non-scouting hats

Forward march, Troop Salute 1 (whenever the flag is moving, everyone except the color guard and caller salute - Scout calling flags remains at attention and color guard walking, no salute) Preparatory command of Forward is adequate.

Color guard halt, prepare to post the colors (American Flag now crosses in front followed by Troop Flag), American Flag is now at the flag stand, and Troop Flag at the flag stand – but not in or “posted.” Color guard and caller are at attention and not saluting. The color guard only salutes when instructed by the caller. Color Guard is used as the preparatory command to prepare for halt. Prepare to post the colors does not need a preparatory command, as they automatically approach the flag stand in the ready position.

Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance – Color guard and caller remain at attention during the pledge, in the Army the American flag is raised in the air higher by flag bearer and the other flag is dipped lower by the flag bearer during the pledge. Not necessary but a cool touch.

Post the colors – Color guard posts the colors. No preparatory command needed. Standing at the flag stand.

Color guard, honor the colors – Color guard salutes and the Scout calling flags stays at attention. Preparatory command needed as the rest of the Troop is already saluting.

Two – everyone was saluting as a group and now everyone drops their salute.

About face – Preparatory command is “about”

Color guard retreat – Color guard departs in two patrols next to each other. No need to change order as there are no flags moving. Preparatory Command is “Color Guard”

Color guard halt – Preparatory Command is “Color Guard”. Needed or you have abrupt and uneven halt.

About face – Preparatory command is “about”

Color guard at ease, Troop at ease.

RETIRING THE COLORS

Scouts are lined up facing the SPL in two ranks.

Color guard Attention – Troop Attention – Will the audience please rise and remove all non-scouting hats

Forward march – Preparatory command of Forward is adequate

Color guard halt – Preparatory command of “Color Guard” used to prevent abrupt and uneven halt.

Prepare to retrieve the colors – Color guard walks forward and stays on their side. No need to cross anything there are no flags moving! They approach the flags with their hands at their side (attention) preparing to salute.

Color Guard Honor the colors – this is color guards’ chance to salute the colors while retiring them. Caller typically remains at attention. Preparatory command is Color Guard because only they salute.

Two

Retrieve the colors – Color guard pulls out the flags.

About face

Color guard, forward march, Troop Salute 1 – Now everyone that is not in the color guard is saluting the moving flag. The color guard has already honored the flag with a salute and now tend to the business of cleanly moving the flag. The flag bearer moves in front of the patrol line and the others stay still until the flag is in the front and then they follow. The American Flag always stays slightly in front of the Troop flag when moving.

Color guard, halt – Preparatory command of “Color Guard” used to prevent abrupt and uneven halt.

About face

Color guard dismissed, Troop at ease. (The color guard is now dismissed for the activity in contrast to the “at ease” in the posting of the flag. The flags are now retired and the color guard will no longer be needed. However, the SPL usually has a comment or Troop cheer and still wants the attention of the Troop, so the Troop is put at ease. If there is nothing further the caller can dismiss the Troop, but that seems to normally be done by the SPL.)