

TROOP 608
Katy, Texas
Redeemer Community Church

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Committee Chair
Scoutmaster

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Flags Across America Troop 608 Program

General Info:

Scouts sell subscriptions to neighbors / friends in order to fly American Flags in their front yard on the “flag days” (see listing on flyer). The Scout will display the flag on the night before or morning of the “flag day”. That evening, the Scout will return to pick up the flag and store it until the next “flag day”. The subscriber does not have to do anything. There are seven “flag days” per year. They include: President’s Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, 9-11 and Veteran’s Day.

The subscription is \$35 per year. The \$35 is put into the Scout’s account. If you need to secure a new flag for a new subscriber, the Flag Quartermaster will charge your Scout Account \$12 for all materials. If you only need to replace a worn flag, the cost will be \$5. These funds go into the Troop general fund to cover the cost of materials. The flag belongs to the Troop / Charter Organization. **Any flags that the Scout does not have a subscription for, should be returned to the Troop.**

Sales Flyer:

Use the Troop 608 Flag Flyer to help in selling subscriptions. This flyer has all of the information the homeowner will need along with a subscription form to be filled out.

Customize the flyer with the Scout’s name and contact information. You might also create a renewal letter and add a photo of your Scout to help the Homeowner’s know who provides their flag.

Flying the Flags:

Upon receiving a new subscription, the Scout will need to pick up a flag, EMT pole, mounting hardware, and a 12” PVC sleeve. The scout is likely best served by investing in an auger to drill the hole into the ground and a sleeve hammer to install the sleeve.

The scout will need to provide a cordless drill or a corded drill and extension cord. Manual drills will work as well. The Flag Quartermaster is available for a lesson on how to install the PVC for a new flag.

The flag is usually placed 18” behind the curb near the center of the yard. Check with the Homeowner for any underground sprinkler locations (run a “test” of that zone) and look up and around to see if there are any trees, light poles, signs, etc. that could damage the flag. With the auger, drill a hole about 12” deep (use the PVC sleeve to judge depth). Make sure the auger is straight up and down, or the flag will be leaning. Once the hole has been drilled, insert the PVC sleeve into the hole. The sleeve should go down just below the grass line (1/2” above soil) so that lawn mowers will not hit the sleeve. If the sleeve needs some help getting into the ground, put the sleeve hammer on a flag pole, slide the pole into the sleeve, and then run the hammer along the pole and drive the sleeve to its proper depth.

Once the sleeve is installed and you have verified that the flag is plumb to the ground, paint a small dot or mark on the curb where it aligns with the flag. This will make it easier to find the sleeve in coming months. Also note the non-standard distance from the curb.

Display the flags on the night before or morning of the flag day. Retrieve the flags the night of the flag day. When the flag days fall around weekends (i.e. Memorial Day, Labor Day) you may want to put the

flags out on Friday evening and retrieve on Sunday evening. This adds to the holiday spirit and also helps sell additional flags to neighbors!

If inclement weather is expected that could damage the flag or pole, it would be acceptable not to display the flag. Bad weather should be the only reason for NOT displaying the flags. Do not store flags when they are wet. You can postpone retrieving the flags for a maximum of 24 hours. Otherwise, pick up the flags and hang them in your garage or back yard until they are dry, then store them normally. The flags should withstand several years of flying if stored dry and properly.

Accounting:

All subscriptions need to be paid in advance. Payments from the Homeowner are collected by the scout and the scout submits to the Troop. Renewals should be sent out in plenty time for the Homeowner to return payment. **Do not fly a flag beyond a subscription end date unless you know the Homeowner is going to renew.**

The scout is responsible for keeping his flag accounts current - this includes subscription renewals. If a scout is moving or not continuing, he should find another scout that is willing to take over the subscriptions. This scout should receive any subscriber payments for the flag days they will be responsible for and clear information on when each subscriber renews. They should also be taught how to locate all PVC holes for subscribers. Any extra flags should be returned to the Troop.

All subscription fees should be turned in to the Troop Treasurer along with the Deposit Form that can be downloaded from the Troop Website. This will ensure that the proper scout account is credited, and will help the scout determine when renewals are due.

Once payment has been made to the Troop, the scout should arrange with the Troop's Quartermaster in charge of Flags to coordinate flag and supply pickup. The scout should contact the Quartermaster to determine availability of supplies and equipment. Extra flags or materials should be returned to the Quartermaster.

If for some reason, you are not able to display and retrieve the flag on a holiday, it is your responsibility to find another scout to do the job for you. The "stand in" scout should get the \$5 per flag for completing your duty.

If you have any questions, contact the Quartermaster of Flags.

A SCOUT IS...

Trustworthy – live up to your responsibility...

Loyal – remember the flag represents your Country...

Helpful – this is a service for your community...

Friendly – people sometimes have different understanding of what you propose...

Courteous – remember to say "thank you" even if they do not subscribe...

Kind- the old saying, "you catch more flies with honey than vinegar"...

Obedient – do what you say you will do...

Cheerful – do what you say you will do with a smile...

Thrifty – protect the Troop's property...

Brave – keep selling no matter what kind of response you get...

Clean – wear your uniform and be presentable...

Reverent – show respect.