

# U.S. flag: flight patterns

## Code governs proper display

Many people preparing to fly the flag this holiday weekend might need a crash course or refresher in proper American flag etiquette.

The Flag Code provides rules and guidelines for flying the flag. It was adapted by the National Flag Conference in June 1923 and has gone through revisions and adaptations over the years. The Flag Code was adopted by Congress in June 1942.

According to the code, the flag should be up only from sunrise to sunset. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated.

The flag should not be displayed in inclement weather, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.

Here are some examples of flag displays around Central Kentucky.

HERALD-LEADER WIRE REPORTS

## Half-staff etiquette



Hoist flag to top of staff before lowering to half mast; raise to top again before lowering at sunset. How long flag flies at half staff:

### 30 days

Death of president or former president

### 10 days

Death of current or former vice president, chief justice or speaker of the House

### 1 day

Death of a governor, U.S. senator or representative

### Special days

On Memorial Day, fly the flag at half staff until noon, then raise to top of flagpole. On Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15), Patriot Day (Sept. 11) and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (Dec. 7), fly half staff from sunrise until sunset.

### Fallen soldier

Lower flag to half staff on the day of interment for a Kentucky native or resident, Kentucky National Guard member who died in line of duty, or military member who served at a Kentucky base.

### Governor's discretion

The governor may proclaim that the flag be flown at half staff after the death of a present or former official in the government. To find today's flag status or to receive e-mail updates, go to [www.governor.ky.gov/flagstatus.htm](http://www.governor.ky.gov/flagstatus.htm).

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CHARLES BERTRAM | STAFF FILE PHOTO

In remembrance of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, University of Kentucky ROTC members placed more than 3,000 flags in front of the UK's Main Building on Sept. 11, 2008.



SUSAN SMITH-DURISEK

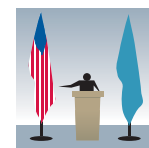
A flag in a pot of petunias and salvia decorated a horse farm on Ky. 1678 south of Clintonville.

## How to fly the flag



### Wall

Flag can be displayed vertically or horizontally; stars should be at the top of flag's right and observer's left.



### Podium

Flag is placed to right of speaker or staging area; other flags placed to left.



### Street

When flag is suspended across a street, it should hang vertically with stars to north or east.



### State

U.S. flag flies at center and at highest point of group when flags of states, localities or societies are grouped.

Source: [www.ctssar.org](http://www.ctssar.org)

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Betty Best already had decked out her house on Lexington's Old Georgetown Street with American flags and patriotic decorations on June 22. She decorates her house for most major holidays. She even puts out red, white, and blue lights to illuminate the yard at night. She has more than 20 flags in her yard.

American flags graced headstones in the national cemetery section of the Lexington Cemetery.



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This helmet, owned by Lexington firefighter Tim Marshall, has an American flag sticker on its crown. Marshall is stationed at Fire Station No. 5., at Woodland Avenue and Maxwell Street.