

FLAGS

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Having completed this badge members will be able to:

- discover the significance of the Australian Flag and display proper respect for the Flag;
- demonstrate knowledge of the components of the sectional flag and the Salvation Army flag;
- participate in at least two flag parades and demonstrate how to correctly raise, lower and fold the National Flag.

BADGE REQUIREMENTS

1. Investigate the history and symbolism of the Australian Flag.
2. Explain the components of the Guard or Ranger flag.
3. Explain the components of the Salvation Army flag and its importance to SAGALA.
4. Demonstrate proper handling and respect for the National Flag:
 - raising and lowering the National Flag;
 - correctly folding the National Flag.
5. Participate in at least two flag parades, e.g. church parade or weekly parade.

The flags identified in this badge are those normally used in SAGALA parades.





Teaching ideas



1. Investigate the history and symbolism of the Australian Flag.

Use an appropriate teaching method, e.g. PowerPoint, OHP, chart to present this information to your group.

On 1st January, 1901, the Commonwealth of Australia was established. Australia became a nation.

The word “commonwealth” means that the whole Australian nation would work for the well-being of all citizens.

The desire to have a flag was expressed so a competition to design a National Flag was held and a prize offered for the best design. 30,000 entries were received. In September, 1901 it was announced that five similar designs shared the prize.

The new flag embodied the major components from the five designs:

- British heritage – the Union Jack.
- Statehood – the Commonwealth Star (initially six points, seven points after 1908).
- Southern Cross constellation – denoting Australia’s position in the world.

The Australian Flag has a blue background with the Union Jack in the upper hoist canton or top left corner. The Union Jack is the National Flag of Great Britain. It reminds us that a great deal of the pioneering work in the early settlement of our country was done by people from Britain.

The Union Jack, or Union Flag, has a much longer history than ours. It is the union of the banners of England, Scotland and Ireland.



Composition of the Union Jack:

- England – a red vertical cross on a white background.
- Scotland – a white diagonal cross on a blue background.
- Ireland – a red diagonal cross on a white background.

The Commonwealth or Federal Star is directly under the Union Jack. Six points represent the six states and the seventh point represents the two territories which together make the Commonwealth of Australia. One point of this star points directly to the centre of the Union Jack.

The Southern Cross constellation is represented by the five stars on the fly of the flag (the part of the flag that flies in the breeze). The Southern Cross can always be seen from points in the southern hemisphere, and can be seen over Australia the whole year, which is why it was chosen. The names of the stars, commencing at the bottom and going in a clockwise direction, are: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta and Epsilon. These stars (except for Epsilon which has five points) have seven points and one point of each star is always directed towards the top of the flag.

Teaching ideas



Flag Relay Game

Print copies of **Handout 1** (the National Flag) – one copy for each team/member. Colour and cut up into ten individual parts. Place the pile of flag parts at one end of the room and line teams up at the other end.

Each team races to their pile of flag parts and collects one piece at a time. When all pieces have been collected the team works together to assemble the flag on the royal blue background. The first team or member to complete the flag correctly is the winner.

Variation: Add obstacles for teams to overcome as they race to their pile and/or include simple challenges, e.g. repeat motto, eat biscuit.

Craft activity

Complete a poster, model, project or other presentation on the Australian Flag, including information about its history and origin.

Further resources about the Australian Flag may be downloaded from sites such as:

http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/flying_flag.html

<http://www.australianflag.org.au/protocol.php>



2. Explain the components of the Guard or Ranger flag.

All SAGALA sectional flags have a blue background with a maroon border, representing The Salvation Army and its sponsorship of SAGALA. The logo on each flag represents the section's enrolment badge.

The Guard Logo

In the centre of the Guard logo are the letters LSG which mean Life Saving Guards. It reminds members of the LSG Organisation that all their actions should be life saving, both for themselves and others. This is depicted on the logo by the lifebuoy.

There are four emblems around the life-buoy which stand for the purpose of Guarding:

- The **open Bible** represents guarding of the soul. (2 Timothy 3:16 GNB – 'All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living.')
- The **eye** represents guarding of the mind.
- The **exercise equipment (clubs)** represents guarding of the body.
- The **lighted lantern** represents serving others.

The scroll below the logo states the motto: 'To save and to serve'.





Teaching ideas

The Boys' Legion Logo

The Legion logo is made up of five parts:

- The **white cross** represents the cross where Jesus Christ died for us.
- The **red shield** tells us that the Boys' Legion was established by The Salvation Army.
- The **gold kangaroo** shows that the Boys' Legion is Australian.
- The **gold stars** represent the SAGALA award system and the skills we can learn.
- The **white ribbon** identifies that the group is for boys and the motto is: *'Purpose with honour'.*



3. Explain the components of The salvation Army flag and its importance to SAGALA.

The Salvation Army flag reminds us of God and what He has done for us.

- The **blue** border reminds us of God who is pure, holy and good.
- The **red** background reminds us that Jesus shed His blood to save us from sin.
- The **yellow** star reminds us that the Holy Spirit gives us the power to live right.

On the star is the **Army's motto** – blood and fire.

The **blood** is another reminder that Jesus died for us.

The **fire** again reminds us of the Holy Spirit and his work in our lives.

The Army flag is important to SAGALA because we are a part of The Salvation Army.

Optional – Use **Handout 2** so members can make their own Salvation Army flag.

j. Why should we never let the flag touch the ground?



Teaching ideas



4. Demonstrate proper handling and respect for the National Flag:

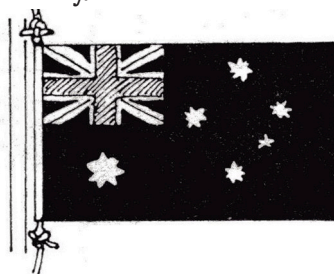
- raising and lowering the National Flag;
- correctly folding the National Flag.

The following information may be copied and distributed to members.

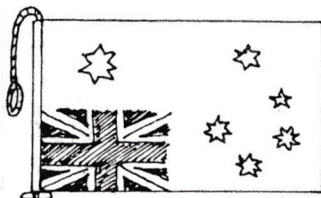
Folding and hoisting the Australian Flag

Hoisting colours includes folding the flag correctly.

- a. On the upper end of the rope on most flags is a wooden toggle. At the lower end is a spliced loop or eye. Fly the flag the correct way up.



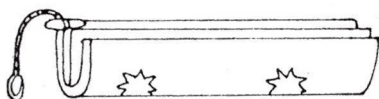
- b. Start like this...



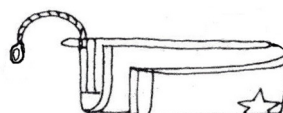
- c. Fold it lengthwise bottomside to topside once.



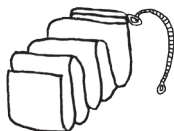
- d. Then again.



- e. Bring the ends together.



- f. Now concertina by folding backwards and forwards towards the hoist edge.



Until it is neatly bundled.

- g. Keep the flag bundled by winding the halyard around and under itself.



Attach the toggle to the upper end of the rope carefully.

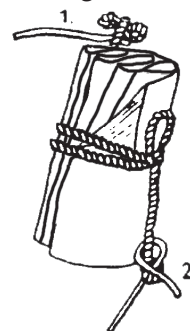




Teaching ideas

This view shows the position of the two knots on the flag.

1. The clove hitch is tied to the toggle.
2. The sheet bend is tied to the loop on the end of the rope.



When both knots are tied, raise the furled flag slowly so that the rope attached to the toggle reaches the top of the flagpole. (If you rush or pull the rope attached to point 2 the flag could unroll before it reaches the top – and then you will be in distress!!)

Anchor the part of the rope which you have been pulling to the cross piece. Let the other part of the rope hang free, ready to pull for the breaking of the colours.

This rope will be longer when the flag is broken. It is then wrapped neatly round the cross piece.

The flag is 'broken' by giving the lower rope a tug.

At parades the 'breaker' then ties the rope to the flag pole, steps back and salutes.

The parade salutes as the flag 'breaks' taking the lead from the person in charge of the parade.

The flag should not be flown out of doors after sunset. At flag-down, it should be lowered steadily. The flag should never be allowed to drag on the ground, but should be caught as it nears the ground and draped over the left shoulder.



The flag is rolled up neatly and put away safely.

A flag flown at half mast is a sign of respect acknowledging that somebody has died, e.g. the death of premiers, prime ministers and when natural disasters occur where Australians die. Flags are flown at half-mast on ANZAC Day to remember all those who died defending our country during times of war. To raise the flag to half-mast it is always taken to the top of the pole first and then lowered to the half-way position so that it can be clearly seen that there was no error in just putting it half way up!

The National Flag should never touch the ground because it means the country has been defeated or disgraced. An enemy always made a point of rubbing a conquered nation's flag into the dust.

Teaching ideas

Game

Australian Flag quiz

Create your own quiz about the Australian Flag. Work in teams/patrols with a sheet of paper and a scribe to write down the answers. Questions may include:

- Name one of the countries whose banner is part of the Union Jack.
- What is the name of the large star under the Union Jack?
- Name the stars of the Southern Cross.
- What is special about the star Epsilon?
- What do the seven points of the Commonwealth Star represent?
- What does it mean if a flag is flying at half mast?
- Why was the Southern Cross chosen to be on the Australian Flag?
- Why should we never let the National Flag touch the ground?



5. Participate in at least two flag parades, e.g. church parade or weekly parade.

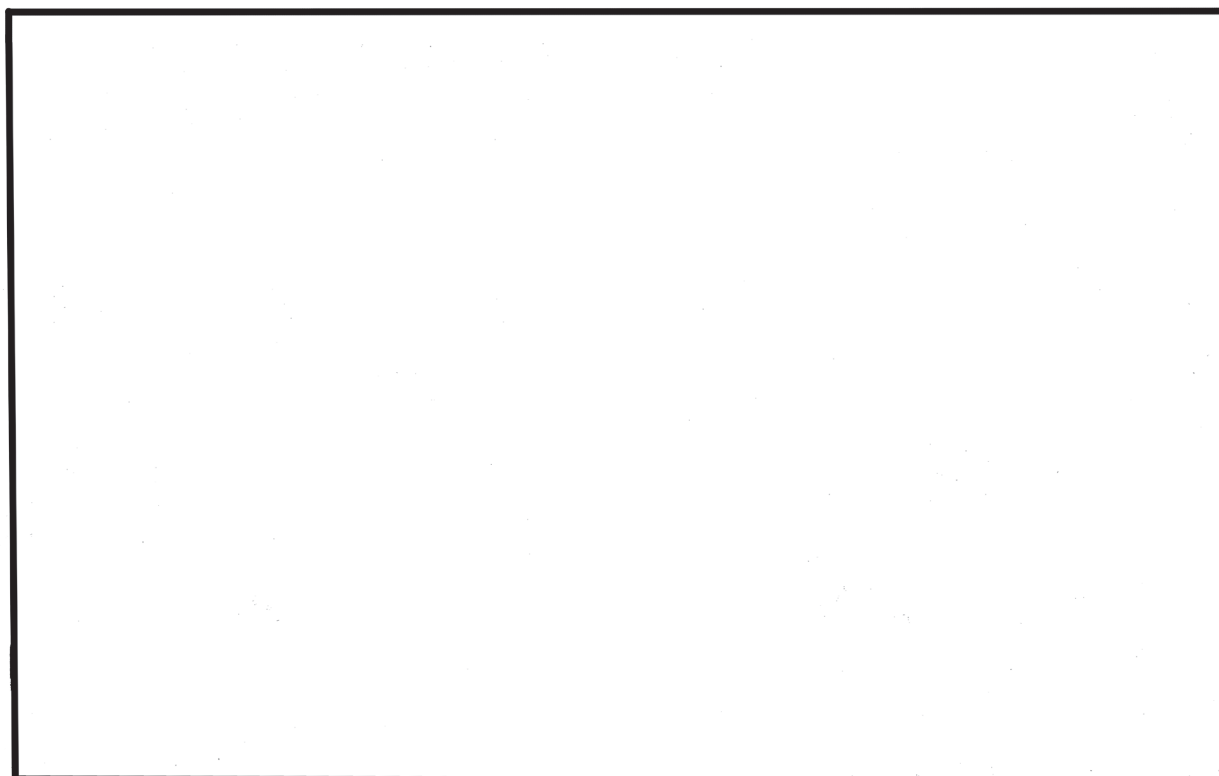
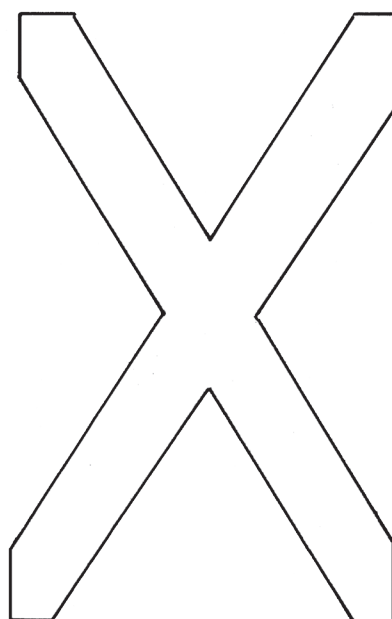
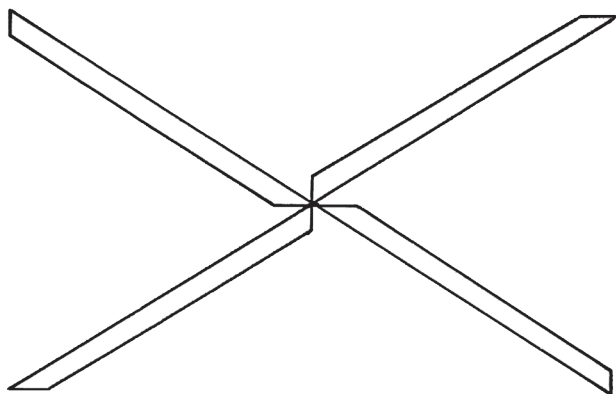
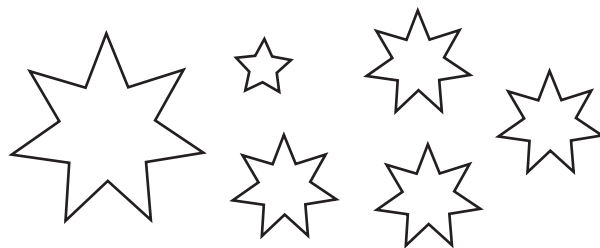
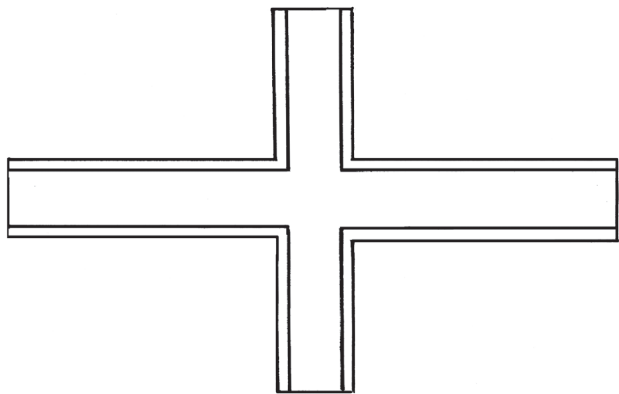
Information regarding parades is set out very clearly in the Guidelines beginning at page 38. Make sure that your group is using the correct procedures. It would be good for each member to have a turn at being the flag bearer at actual ceremonies. However you may need to conduct several 'mock' parades during the badge time frame. Every member should be a participant not only an onlooker. This could be as the colour party leader (flag bearer) on one occasion or a colour party member (escort) on another.

Always emphasise the need to respect our flag, to carry it proudly if chosen to be the bearer and that the flag is never allowed to touch the ground.



Handout 1 - Guards/Rangers

Cut out the ten flag components to make your own Australian Flag. Colour each part correctly then paste all the parts together.

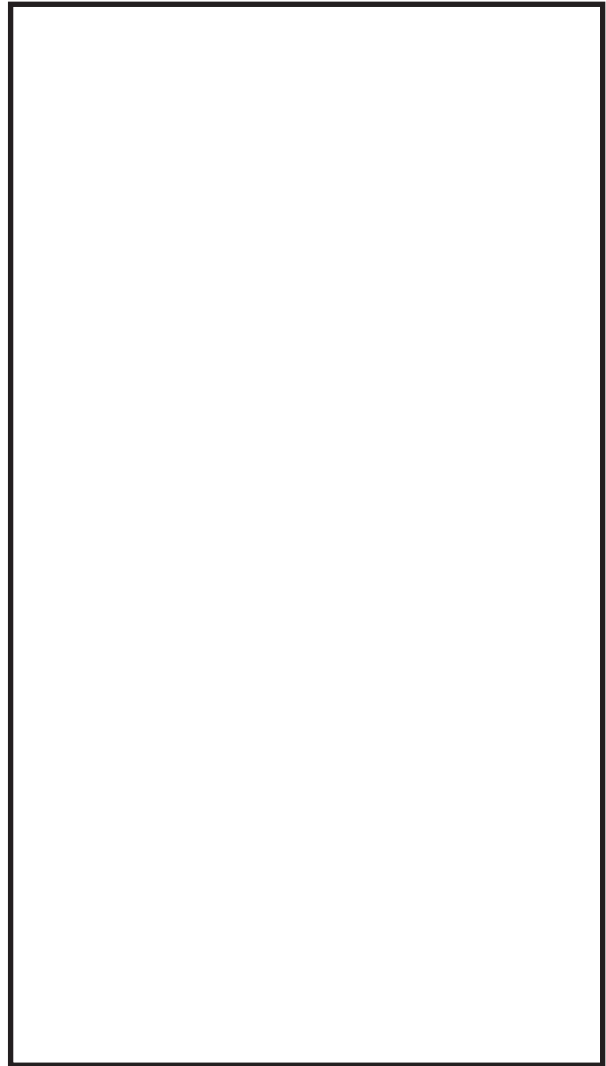
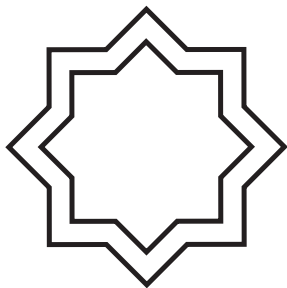


Handout 2 - Guards/Rangers

Cut out and colour these three flag components to make a Salvation army flag.



Write the words 'The Salvation Army' and 'Blood and Fire' in the correct places.





Devotional ideas



1. Title

Australian Flag

Bible:

Galatians 5:1

Thought:

As Australians we identify with the Australian Flag in the same way Christians identify with the cross

Supplies:

Australian Flag and /or Australian Flags for everyone, e.g. Australian Flag toothpicks

Introduction – Distribute the Australian Flags (e.g. toothpick flags) or display the Australian Flag.

Ask members to think of occasions when they have seen the Australian Flag (e.g. on public buildings, at sporting events, ANZAC Day.) How did you feel when you saw the flag?

Most Australians love their country and are proud to be Australians. This pride is especially evident when Australians see their National Flag, e.g. at the Olympic Games, and particularly when Australians win! Our National Flag rallies Australians together, it unites us, we identify with it.

It's interesting that the Australian Flag includes many crosses. Ask the members to identify these crosses (i.e. Southern Cross, the crosses of England, Scotland and Ireland on the Union Jack).

In the same way Christians identify with the cross of Jesus and rally to it. Christians don't wave the cross about like we do the Australian Flag, but it means a lot to us.

Read Galatians 5:1.

The cross represents God's great love for us. The cross removes every barrier between God and us so that we can know God for ourselves.

Thank God for the cross and Jesus through whom we can know God.

Devotional ideas



2. Title: Follow the leader

Bible: No Scripture verse required

Thought: Jesus is the leader to follow

Supplies: Display of flags and banners, e.g. from other countries, your state, sporting clubs, schools, Salvation Army, SAGALA sections

Discuss with your group times when flags and banners are paraded. Allow time for members to suggest events when flags and banners are used. Examples of these could include:

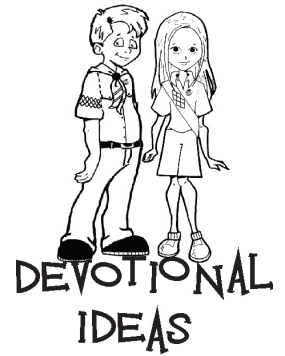
- The Olympic and Commonwealth Games
- ANZAC Day marches
- Protest marches and demonstrations
- Church parades
- Salvation Army band outreach in the community

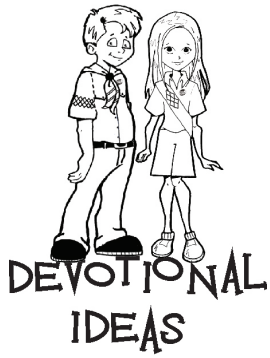
When we follow a flag we are saying that we belong to or agree with what that flag represents.

When we become a Christian we put Jesus first in our lives and follow Him. We do this by living our lives in a way that would please Him. Discuss with your group ways that we can please Jesus.

One of the Guard/Ranger laws ties in with this thought. Which law is it? (*'I will put God first in my life and seek to please Him.'*)

Ask the group to think about ways they do or could put Jesus first and please Him. The members do not need to share this out loud but can think about this while the leader closes in prayer.





Devotional ideas



3. Title: Put God first

Bible: Mark 12:30

Thought: Just as we show love and respect for our National Flag we can love and honour God

Supplies: Australian Flag, Bible

Display the Australian flag.

Ask your group the following questions:

- Why do we salute the National Flag?
- Why do we have to be so particular when we handle the National Flag?
- Why is the Australian Flag in front when we march into our hall for Church Parade?
- Why are there rules for positioning the National Flag when placing the flags in stands or on flagpoles/masts?

To salute the flag and by using the correct handling procedures we respect the patriotic ideals for which the Australian Flag stands. We honour the Australian Flag by placing it first in a line of flags (e.g. at the weekly SAGALA parade or Church Parades) and at the top or the highest point of a flagpole/mast when outdoors.

Just as the National Flag is put in the place of greatest importance, we should put God first, loving Him with all our heart and honouring Him before all things.

Read Mark 12:30.

In what ways can we honour God? Allow the group to make suggestions. These could include loving others, being kind, doing things for others, joining mission teams, showing reverence to God, attending worship activities and services. (At this point the leader may like to encourage the group members to attend Christian worship activities which would help fulfil the worship component of the award levels. These may include Christian groups at school, youth group, church and/or Bible study.)

Pray together that we will always put God first in our lives and that we will love and honour Him with our whole being wherever we are and in whatever we do.