

It's Just a Piece of Cloth

It's just a piece of cloth, that's all it is.

Just a piece of cloth.

But when a little breeze comes along, it stirs and comes to life
it flutters and snaps in the wind, all red and white and blue.

Then you realize that no other piece of cloth could be like it.

It has your whole life wrapped up in it...

The meals you eat, the time you spend with your family.

The things you learn at school.

The strange and wonderful thoughts you get at church.

Those stars on it: They make you feel just as free as the stars
in the wide, deep night.

And the stripes; they are the bars of blood to any dictator
that would try to change this way of life.

Just a piece of cloth, that's all it is.

Until you put your soul into it, and give it meaning.

Then it is the symbol of liberty and decency and fair dealing
for everyone.

It is just a piece of cloth, until we breathe life into it.

Until we make it stand for everything we believe in, and
refuse to live without it.

Opening for November

Post a United States flag in the front of the room. Dim the lights and place a spotlight on the flag. If possible, have a fan blowing on it, causing it to flutter. Then ask one or several Cub Scouts to solemnly read aloud the poem.

Closing for November

13 Scouts: read a saying

2 Scouts: folding the U.S. Flag

1: U.S. Flag

The Scouts reading the cards should wait for the fold to be completed before reading. The Scouts folding the flag should wait until the reading for the previous fold has been completed before making the next fold.

1. In honor of the 13 original colonies and our forefathers who founded this great nation, we salute you.
2. To the men who died in the War for Independence, we salute you.
3. To those men who fell in the War of 1812, to preserve our freedom, we salute you.
4. To the brave soldiers on both sides, the North and the South, in the Civil War, we salute you.

5. To those who shed their blood in the name of hope and freedom in World War1, The Great War, we salute you.
6. For our fathers and grandfathers who died in the terrible battles of World War II-Pearl Harbor, Anzio, Midway, The Bulge, Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal, Normandy, and Berlin- we salute you.
7. To the men of the First Marine Division, who, in a rear guard action at the Chosin Reservoir in Korea, saved their battalion and the lives of their brother Marines, we salute you.
8. For the brave men and women of our armed forces who died on the fields of fire in Vietnam and whose names will live on forever on that hallowed wall, we salute you.
9. For the brave men and women of today's armed forces who sacrifice their time, talents, and sometimes their lives to protect us and to prevent terrorism, we salute you.
10. For the Boy Scouts of America and all the Scouts who have gone before us, we salute you.
11. To God, our parents, and our families who we love and respect, we salute you.
12. To the men and women of our armed forces, the Arsenal of Democracy and the Hammer of Freedom, we salute you.
13. And last, to freedom, because without freedom there is no honor, and without honor we are not Americans. On this we vow that as long as this flag flies, we salute you.