

## Section I: FLAGS

- BY MING BERKA

### FLAG TERMINOLOGY

**The colours** = the flags

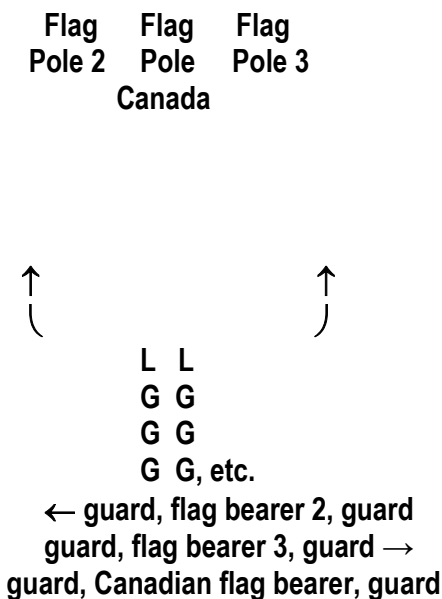
**The colour party** = a collective word to include one flag bearer (in the middle) and 2 guards per flag, one on each side of the flag bearer

**Halyard** = the rope on the flag pole used to raise and lower the flag

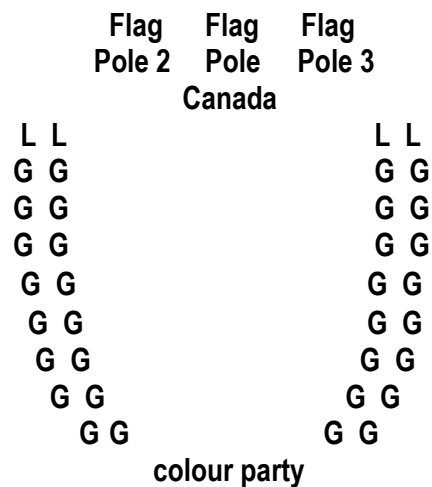
### HOW TO FORM A HORSESHOE

1. Have campers line up in pairs behind 2 leaders (or senior girls). At the end of the line is the colour party - the colour party for flag 2, then flag 3, and then the Canadian flag. (At some camps it may be necessary to line up in one area, and then walk to the flag pole.
2. The campers can march into horseshoe with or without a marching song – e.g. **Guiding Law Song** or the **Guide Marching Song**. Keep singing the first verse until everyone is in horseshoe formation. (However if they are not singing, they should quiet and respectful.)
3. At the appropriate place, the 2 leaders split and lead her line to either side of the flag poles. The colour party will be at the closed end of the horseshoe.
4. For a large group, form a double layered (or triple layered) horse-shoe so that the campers at the far end can hear the announcements and readings better. Have campers line up 4 across (6 across), with the shorter (shortest) campers in the middle. 2 (3) girls will follow the leaders.

#### A Basic Horseshoe



#### A Double Horseshoe



## ***Way to Camp! This is the way we do it in Lions Area***

### **ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**

1. The Canadian flag
  2. Flags of other sovereign nations in alphabetical order
  3. Flags of Canadian provinces, (precedence is determined by **date of entry**<sup>1</sup> into Confederation), followed by the Territories (see footnote below)
  4. World flag (WAGGGS)
  5. Guides Canada flag
  6. Brownie flag
  7. Spark flag
- When any of the above flags is not present, continue with the next flag in order.
  - If 2 flags are flown, the Canadian flag is on the left facing the group.
  - If 3 flags are flown, the Canadian flag is placed in the middle. Facing the group, the second flag in the order of precedence is on the left of the Canadian flag, and the third flag is on the right of the Canadian flag.
  - As a sign of respect, a flag must not touch the ground. The most dangerous time for a flag to slip out of the flag bearer's hands and touch the ground is when the flag is being hoisted up or brought down. Therefore the flag bearer should concentrate on the flag as it is leaving her hands or as it is coming down.

### **FLAGS AT CAMP**

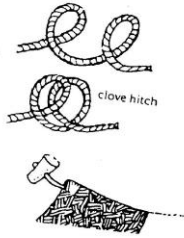
1. Flags can be displayed at camp in numerous ways.
  - Flags can be hoisted on permanent flag pole(s).
  - Flags can be hoisted from a free-standing flag pole erected for this purpose.
  - Flags can be placed in flag stands like those used indoors.
  - Flags can be hung from a rope draped over a tree or high beam.
2. If a flag is to be hoisted, it should be folded properly with the toggle on the top (see "Folding the Flag" below).
3. The other campers may simply gather around the flag pole in a horseshoe shape or march into horseshoe formation.
4. The flag bearer should hold the flag in her open palms but should use her thumbs to keep the flag in place, as nylon is very slippery.
5. When is cold, it is OK for the flag bearer to wear gloves when carrying the flag, but it is better for the guards who need to tie the knots not to wear gloves.

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<sup>1</sup> **Order of Precedence by entry of the Provinces and then the Territories into Confederation:** Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick (1967); Manitoba (1870); British Columbia (1871); Prince Edward Island (1873); Saskatchewan (1905); Alberta (1905); Newfoundland (1949); Northwest Territories (1870); Yukon (1898); Nunavut (1999).

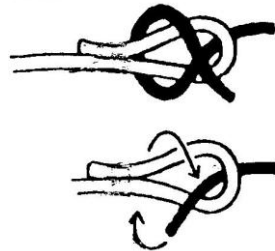
## **KNOTS FOR FLAGS**

In order to reduce the pressure and improve performance, teach the girls in the colour party how to make these knots as early as possible until they can do their knots without coaching. Then give the girls time to go over the knots again just before the flag ceremony. (A leader who knows how to tie the knots should stand near the flags so that she can step in if someone looks like she has forgotten how to tie a knot.)



**Clove Hitch (Method A)**

The girl on the left puts the toggle through the loop on the halyard. If there is no loop, she needs to make a **Clove Hitch**.

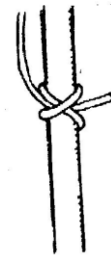


**Sheet Bend**

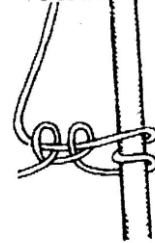
Then the girl on the right ties the **Sheet Bend**. This is the knot that many people have a problem with, so practice it well.



**Cleat**



**Clove Hitch**



**Round Turn  
& 2 ½ Hitches**

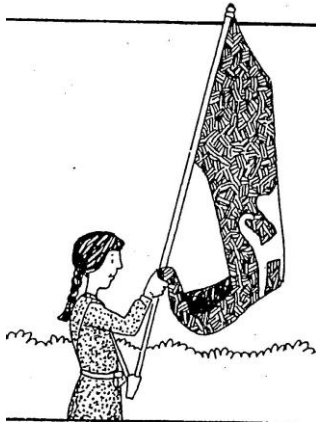
After the flag reaches the top, the girl on the right ties the halyard to the flag pole using one of these methods. If there is a cleat, tie the halyard to the flag pole using a figure 8. If there is no cleat, use either the **Clove Hitch** or the **Round Turn and 2 Half Hitches**.

## **HOISTING THE FLAGS**

1. On a signal from a Guider, the flag bearer of the Canadian flag gives these commands:
  - **Colour party: Forward march.** (The Canadian colour party leads, followed by flag 2 and flag 3.)
  - Each flag bearer and their guards stop in front of their respective flag pole. **Colour party: Halt.**
  - The guard on the left unties the halyard from the flag pole, and attaches the toggle with a clove hitch (and tightens it) or if there's a permanent loop, she puts the toggle through the loop.
  - Then the guard on the right attaches the short rope on the bottom of the flag to the halyard with a sheet bend. She raises the flag while the flag bearer guides the flag to prevent it from tangling or touching the ground. (Colour party stands facing their flag.)
2. A Guider gives the command: **Campers attention.**
3. Everyone, except the colour party, sings "O Canada".
4. The flag bearer ties the halyard to the cleat on the pole or to the pole with a **Round Turn and TwoHalf Hitches**.
5. Flag bearer of the Canadian flag gives these commands:
  - **Colour party: About turn** (turn to the right until facing everyone in the horseshoe)
  - **Forward march.** The Canadian colour party leads, followed by flag 2 and flag 3).
  - The colour party spreads out to their place in the horseshoe – **Colour party: Halt. About turn.**
6. A Guider gives command. **Campers at ease.**
7. Reflections: one or two readings and / or thoughtful songs that set the tone for the day.
8. Guider gives the command: **Campers dismissed.**

## ***Way to Camp! This is the way we do it in Lions Area***

### **USING FLAG STANDS**



If the flag is to be carried on a pole, the flag bearer picks up the bottom corner of the flag with her right hand, and holds it against the pole at face height with her thumb up and her elbow close to her body. This is to ensure that the flag doesn't touch the ground even if the flag pole needs to be lowered, for example, to go under a doorway.

A long time ago, the flag carrier used to carry the corner of the flag with her thumb down and elbow out. Girl Guides no longer need to do that.

When using flag stands, use the same commands as for flag poles until the colour party reaches the stands.

1. The flag bearer of the Canadian flag gives the command: ***Colour party: Halt.***
2. The flag bearer takes a step forward and puts the flag in the flag stand. She takes a step back (aligned with the guards). If more flags are used, one flag bearer at a time puts her flag in the flag stand and steps back.
3. When all the flags are in the flag stands, the colour party remain facing the flags and a Guider gives the command: ***Campers attention.***
4. Everyone, except the colour party, sings "O Canada".
5. The rest is the same: the colour party (with the appropriate commands) returns to their place in the horse-shoe.

### **LOWERING THE FLAGS**

- A. At dusk at a sub-camp** (usually only the Canadian flag is flown):
- i. The colour party goes to the flag pole.
  - ii. A Guider blows one long blast of the whistle, so everyone stops what they are doing and stands at attention.
  - iii. The flag bearer unties the halyard from the flag pole, and lowers the flag.
  - iv. The leader blows the whistle again, and everyone resumes what they were doing before.
  - v. The 2 guards untie their knots.
  - vi. The flag bearer and a guard fold the flag properly and put it away for the next day.

## Way to Camp! This is the way we do it in Lions Area

### B. At dusk at a group camp (e.g. at the Friendship Circle at Camp Olave):

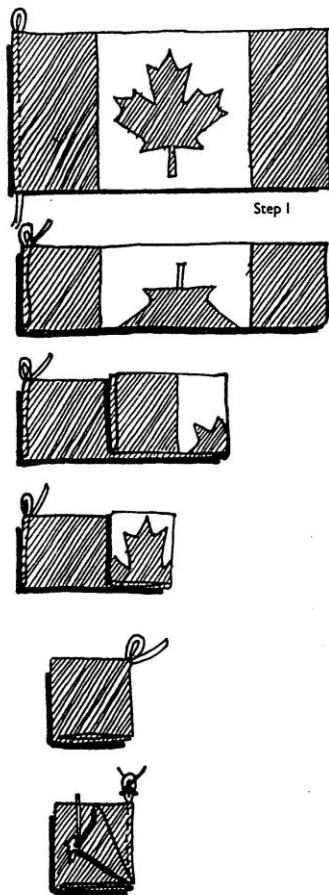
You can use just 4 girls to lower all 3 flags:

- i. Lower the flags in reverse order, that is, when facing the flags, the flag on the right of the Canadian flag is lowered first, then the one on the left, and the Canadian flag is the last.
- ii. The flag bearer unties the halyard and lowers the flag. She makes sure that the flag doesn't touch the ground, as each guard unties her knot. One person will hold the flags to prevent them from touching the ground.
- iii. Lower the other 2 flags using the same procedure.
- iv. Fold the flags properly. (Use a picnic table or a bench so that the flags don't touch the ground.)
- v. Take the flags to the next sub-camp that will be responsible for hoisting the flags the next day.

### C. At the end of a camp, the flags are lowered at the very end after the leaders have said their closing remarks, Thank You's, and have presented everything.

- Guider says: **Campers, Stand at attention.**
- The colour party, 3 girls per flag, march to the flag pole(s) with the commands (like above) and lower the flags and return to their place in the horseshoe.
- Guider says: **Campers dismissed.**

## FOLDING THE CANADIAN FLAG



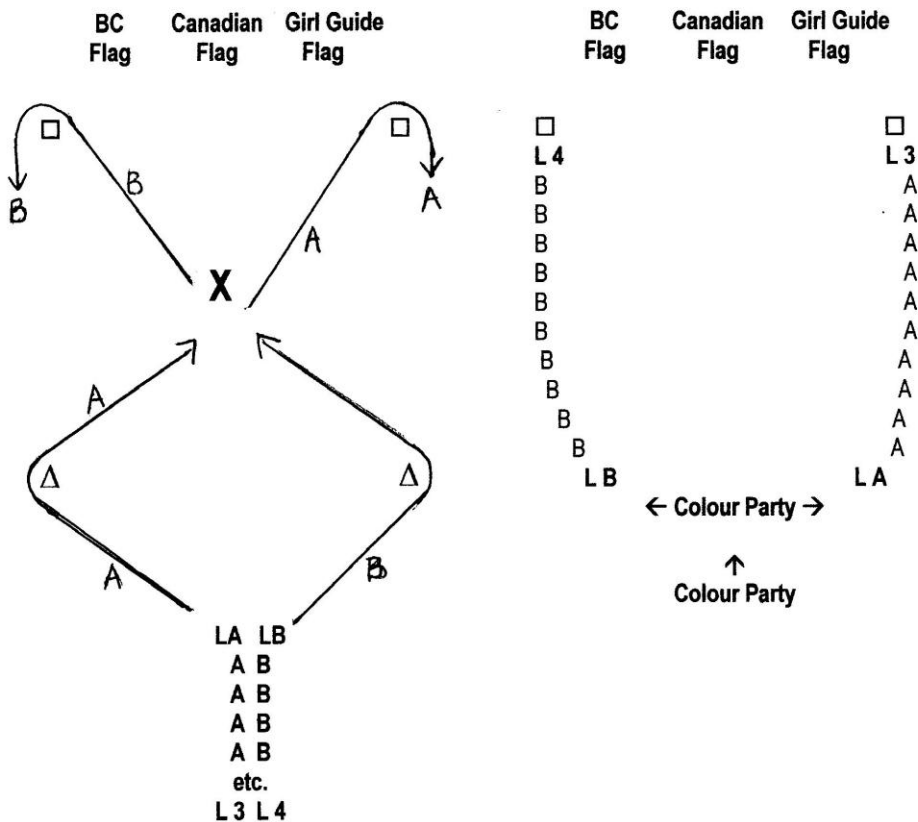
1. Place the flag on a flat surface (not on the ground) or have 2 people hold the long ends.
2. Fold the bottom edge up to the top. (The toggle is on the bottom.)
3. Fold the fly edge to the red stripe closer to the toggle (or the hoisting end).
4. Fold the flag again to meet the same red stripe.
5. Bring the toggle end over the folded flag.
6. Leave the toggle on the top, and tuck the short rope under a layer of the flag.

## **Way to Camp! This is the way we do it in Lions Area**

### **THREAD THE NEEDLE** (a type of horseshoe formation)

#### **Preparation:**

- Set out 4 markers as shown by  $\Delta$  and  $\square$  in the diagram.
- Have one person standing at X.
- All the campers are lined up in two's about an arms length apart. Each line (A and B) has a leader (L A and L B) at the front and a leader at the end (L 3 and L 4).
- The colour party waits at the foot of the horseshoe until the 2 leaders L A and L B approach them, and then they march forward to close the horseshoe.



1. As the 2 columns advance, each leader line will split up, and go around the  $\Delta$ . The leaders should watch that they are marching at a similar pace.
2. Each person alternates with another from the other line and marches to the other side of the horseshoe.
3. Leaders (L A and L B) each take her line around the  $\square$  and marches to the foot of the horseshoe.
4. L A and L B march until the end leaders (L 3 and L 4) are at  $\square$ .
5. As L A and L B stop marching forward, the colour party march forward and close the horseshoe.

### **OTHER RESOURCES**

1. Flag ceremony for Brownies: <http://browniesmeet.wordpress.com/tag/flag-ceremonies/>