

OPENING CEREMONIES MAY DIFFER AMONGST TROOPS AND LEADERS

OPENING CEREMONY: (each week a different patrol is on "Duty". Duty Patrol Leader does all flag duties with a Scout he/she appoints Scout Leader Manual notes that either Duty Patrol Leader alone, or with an appointed Duty patrol Scout can carry out the flag duties In most cases, both will do this at 1st Lexington ceremonies.)

HORSHOE: Duty Patrol Leader goes to horseshoe top position and calls "**Horseshoe!**"

BREAK FLAG: **Duty Patrol Scout** and Duty Patrol Leader stand by the halyards (the ropes holding the flag up) break the flag .

The **Duty Patrol Scout** reaches as high as possible hand to hold the halyard

and then the **Duty Patrol Scout** brings down his/her right hand, breaking out the flag.

The **Duty Patrol Scout and/or Patrol Leader** then fasten the halyard, walk into the Horseshoe, faces the flag and salute. As they do this...

ALERT: SCOUTER calls "***TROOP ALERT! ...TROOP SALUTE!***" The Troop then salutes.

AT EASE: SCOUTER call "***AT EASE***"

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Proceed with **announcements**, etc. If there is a lot to cover, allow the Troop to sit or squat.

CHECK HALYARDS: While the Scouter covers announcements, the **Duty Scout** and Duty Patrol Leader check the halyard to be sure the rope and flag are secure. **Duty Scout and Patrol Leader** then return to Horseshoe.

CLOSING CEREMONY

HORSESHOE: Duty Patrol Leader goes to horseshoe top position and calls "**Horseshoe**" then calls Scouts "***TROOP ALERT!***" Then he/she returns to Horseshoe.

AT EASE: SCOUTER: "***AT EASE***" Make or repeat any announcements. Troop may sit or squat if there is a lot to cover. (Optional: "*Scouters Five*", or "*Scouter's Minute*" is a short story, lesson or metaphor read at the end of each meeting, meant to be inspirational and usually having to do with some of the principles of Scouting.

ALERT: SCOUTER: "***TROOP ALERT!***"

Call Duty Patrol Leader and Patrol Scout for "**flag down**".

Duty Patrol Scout and Patrol Leader move across Horseshoe and lower the flag, gathering it to keep it off the ground. Scouts do not salute. **Duty Patrol Scout and Patrol Leader** stay with flag.

DISMISSAL: SCOUTER: "***TROOP ALERT! TROOP DISMISS***"

As soon as the Troop is dismissed the Duty Patrol Leader removes the flag and, with help from someone else from the Duty Patrol, folds it for the next meeting.