

Historic American Flag Presentation

(Members of the program patrol may present the Ecology Flag or another historic flag of their choosing.)

Ecology Flag

The Ecology Flag has been selected as the historic flag for Day Five in recognition of the conservation project we will be carrying out later today.

The Ecology Flag appeared in 1970 during the first Earth Day. Some 20 million people took part that year in efforts on behalf of the environment, and Earth Day continues to be an important acknowledgment of the importance of Americans rolling up their sleeves and doing something good for their land. Earth Day is still celebrated around the world as a time for people to refocus their energies on behalf of the environment.

The same year the Ecology Flag appeared, Congress created the Environmental Protection Agency to set and enforce pollution standards. Congress also passed a number of laws to protect the environment including the Clean Air Act of 1970, which limited the amount of pollution caused by automobiles, utilities, and industries.

Designed by cartoonist Ron Cobb, the symbol on the flag is a combination of the letters *e* and *o*, which stand for *environment* and *organism*. In conjunction with the first Earth Day, *Look* magazine added the green and white stripes to form a flag.

Let us honor America and our land, waters, and sky with the song "America."

"America"

My country! 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From ev'ry mountainside
Let freedom ring.

My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above.

Our father's God to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright,
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might,
Great God, our King.

