

FLAG DAY. June 14th.

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The Pledge of Allegiance2. Directions. Print out. Keep as a reference.

p.1.

http://www.flagday.com/history/original_pledge_of_allegiance.shtml

The Original Pledge Of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands- one nation indivisible-with liberty and justice for all."

On September 8, 1892, the Boston based "The Youth's Companion" magazine published a few words for students to repeat on Columbus Day that year. Written by Francis Bellamy, the circulation manager and native of Rome, New York, and reprinted on thousands of leaflets, was sent out to public schools across the country. On October 12, 1892, the quadricentennial of Columbus' arrival, more than 12 million children recited the Pledge of Allegiance, thus beginning a required school-day ritual.

At the first National Flag Conference in Washington D.C., on June 14, 1923, a change was made. For clarity, the words "the Flag of the United States" replaced "my flag". In the following years various other changes were suggested but were never formally adopted. ("I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States and the Republic for which it stands- one nation indivisible-with liberty and justice for all.")

It was not until 1942 that Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance. One year later, in June 1943, the Supreme Court ruled that school children could not be forced to recite it. In fact, today only half of our fifty states have laws that encourage the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the classroom!

In June of 1954 an amendment was made to add the words "under God". Then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower said "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage

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and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."

The wording of the Pledge has been modified several times:

I pledge allegiance to **my Flag,
and the Republic for which it stands:
one Nation indivisible,
With Liberty and Justice for all.**

**I pledge allegiance to my Flag,
and **to** the Republic for which it stands:
one Nation indivisible,
With Liberty and Justice for all.**

October 11, 1892

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On June 14, 1923, at the First National Flag Conference held in Washington, D.C., under the leadership of the American Legion and the Daughters of the American Revolution, changed the Pledge's words. The latter words were added on the ground that some foreign-born children and adults when giving the Pledge might have in mind the flag of their native land. In 1923, the words "the flag of the United States" were substituted for "my flag."

**I pledge allegiance to the Flag
of the United States,
and to the Republic for which it stands:
one Nation indivisible,
With Liberty and Justice for all.**

In 1924, "of America" was added:

**I pledge allegiance to the Flag
of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands:
one Nation indivisible,
With Liberty and Justice for all.**

June 14, 1924

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[On Flag Day June 14, 1954, the words "under God" were added:](#)

The last change in the Pledge of Allegiance occurred on June 14 (Flag Day), 1954 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved adding the words "under God". As he authorized this change he said: "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."

This was the last change made to the Pledge of Allegiance. The 23 words that had been initially penned for a Columbus Day celebration now comprised a Thirty-one profession of loyalty and devotion to not only a flag, but to a way of life...the American ideal. Those words now read:

**"I pledge allegiance to the Flag
of the United States of America
and to the Republic for which it stands,
one nation **under God**, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all."**

The Pledge of Allegiance continued to be recited daily by children in schools across America, and gained heightened popularity among adults during the patriotic fervor created by World War II. It still was an "unofficial" pledge until June 22, 1942 when the United States Congress included the Pledge to the Flag in the United States Flag Code (Title 36). In 1945 the Pledge to the Flag received its official title as: The Pledge of Allegiance.