

## U. S. FLAG

I am the flag of the United States of America. I am whatever you make me, nothing more. I am your belief in yourself, your dream of what people may become. I live a challenging life, a life of moods and passions, of heartbreaks and tired muscles. Sometimes I droop, for then purpose has gone from me and cynically I play the coward. But always, I am all that you hope to be and have the courage to try for. I am strong and fear, struggle and panic, and ennobling hope. I am the days work of the weakest man, and the largest dream of the most daring. I am the farmer, lawyer, doctor, cook, counselor, and clerk. I am the battle of yesterday and the mistake of tomorrow. I am the mystery of the men who do, without knowing why. I am the clutch of an idea, and the reasoned purpose of resolution. I am no more than what you believe me to be and all that you believe I can be. I am what you make me, nothing more. I wave before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself, the pictured suggestion of that big thing which makes this nation. My stars and stripes are your dreams and labors. They are bright with color, brilliant with courage, and firm with faith, because you have made them so out of your hearts. And as long as men cherish liberty more than life itself, I shall continue to be the enduring banner of the United States of America.

## **LONE STAR FLAG**

I am the flag of the great Lone Star State of Texas. When Texans look upon me, names such as Austin, Houston, Travis, Fannin, Bowie, and Crockett flash through memories. They think of the landmarks of Texas liberty – Goliad, San Jacinto, and the Alamo. I represent grazing cattle, fruit laden orchards, green fields of grain, and brightly painted barns. It was me that colonel Fannin was speaking of when he said, “Give us a flag for which we can fight, and hoist up in defiance of Santa Anna”. My vertical line of blue stand for loyalty in the hearts of all Texans. My horizontal stripe of white stands for the purity in the hearts of all Texans. My horizontal stripe of red represents the blood that has been shed by Texans everywhere in the name of freedom and liberty. A star has always been a symbol of domination and sovereignty and it is only proper that I should bear a star as a symbol of the Lone Star State of Texas. I represent many things to many people. I can be all that you make me, but nothing more. And as long as men cherish liberty and freedom, I shall continue to fly proudly over the free State of Texas.

## **FLAG OF FFA**

I am the flag of the FFA. I represent the fulfillment of your impossible dream. I represent almost one-half million FFA members all over this great nation. I stand for the young people of America who are willing to meet the challenges of agriculture in the future, and the young people who are developing themselves for more responsible citizenship and better leadership. I am the blue and gold of the FFA. My Blue background represents the solid foundation that you have in this great organization. My sprinklings of gold stand for the golden opportunities that are offered to you and the responsibility that goes with each, as well as the opportunity and responsibility that helps you to develop yourself. As long as young people strive for agriculture leadership, cooperation, and citizenship, I shall continue to represent the greatest agriculture youth organization in the world. But always, I will be what you make me, nothing more. Fellow FFA members, you are the makers of the flags which represent you. May you always glory in their making.