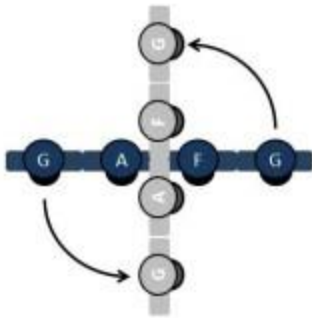
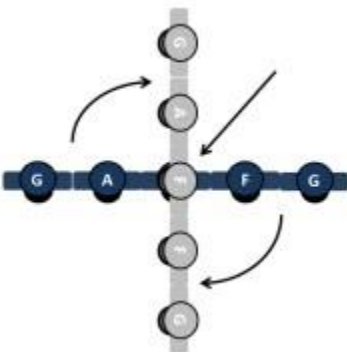


# Parades



**Left Wheel, Right Wheel and About Wheel.** These are terms that honor guards use to describe turns accomplished by the color team most often outside. Right/Left Wheels use the center of the team as the rotation point which means half the team marches forward and the other half marches backward to rotate the team 90-degrees in an average of eight steps for teams with four to six members. The team executes the About Wheel in the same direction as the Right Wheel rotating the team 180-degrees in 16 steps.



# Posting/Presenting

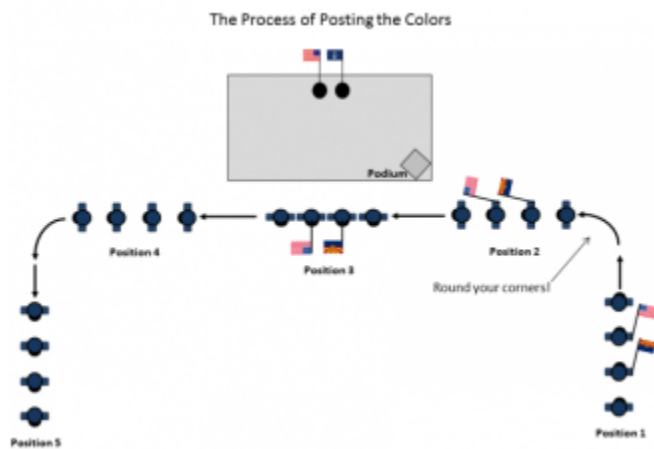
While colors can be and sometimes are posted outdoors, my experience leads me to recommend that you present and not post. The wind just never plays well with other others. We, in the military try to avoid this as much as possible with the alternative being a color team that posts near the podium for the event. The members present and then stage the team for everyone to see. Sometimes this may not be a viable solution and you will have to have the event and location dictate how the color team handles the colors. See also, [How to Present the Colors at an Event](#), [What is Authorized when Presenting the](#)

[Colors](#), and [How to Plan and Coordinate a Color Guard Event](#). This article, [How to Present the Colors at an Event](#), has great information.

Note: As a rule of thumb, colors enter at Right Shoulder (Carry) and depart at Port Arms. Entering at Port is fine if necessary.

1. Enter
2. Halt in front of and facing audience
3. Present Arms for National Anthem or Pledge (never both)
4. Port Arms
5. (Color bearers move to post colors and rejoin guards)
6. Depart

**Standard entrance and departure.**



# To Present or Post, that is the Question!

Posting the colors is for special occasions. How special? That is up to the organization. Graduations are a special time, that would call for posting the colors. Weekly events would probably warrant pre-posted colors at the least or presenting the colors only.

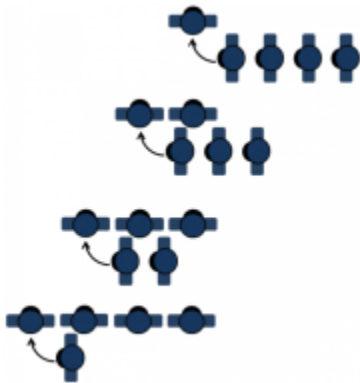
**The Show-n-Go.** This is the honor guard term for presenting the colors for an informal/semi-formal event. The colors are pre-posted on the stage/front of the room and the color team enters, presents (Anthem), and then departs. No posting.

With the Show-n-Go, the colors do not matter. As long as the American flag pre-posted, the color team can present whatever they carry as their standard colors (American, State, etc.).

## How to Enter

The **standard entrance** is to enter from the viewer's right, present to the audience (then post) and depart. See the image above.

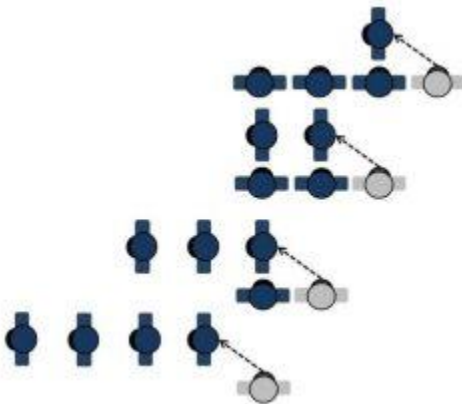
To enter from the viewer's left, use **Every Left On**. [Also, read this article.](#)



## How to Exit

The **standard exit** is to the viewer's left. See the standard entrance/departure image above.

To exit to the viewer's right, use **Every Left Off**. The commander calls, "Step!" and the left rifle guard steps across, as close as possible to the team member on their left. Step any further away and the departure for the team looks terrible.



# Presenting with the Pledge

The color team moves into position as normal, but the team does not execute Present Arms. The audience recites the Pledge at the prompting of the master of ceremonies. A member of the color guard does not being or recite the Pledge. You are at Attention and that requires silence except for commands.

**NOTE:** The Pledge and National Anthem DO NOT go together. It's one or the other. DO not use both. If you do not have the ability to sing or play the Star Spangled Banner, then reciting the pledge is appropriate (except for military organizations- military in uniform do not recite the Pledge, they remain at Attention).

# Entering and Departing to Music

Music is not mandatory. If you are going to have music, it is best that it be live. If not, a recording can sound quite unprofessional. The standard entrance and exit music for presenting/posting the colors is the Trio section of the National Emblem march by Edwin Eugene Bagley. Here is the YouTube video of the USAF Heritage Band playing the march. [The link begins the video at the Trio section.](#) This tempo is about 120 SPM (steps per minute). For the colors, you want a tempo of about 90 SPM.

# When to Retire/Retrieve the Colors

Retrieving the colors is reserved for the extra, extra formal occasions. Do not retire the colors for weekly or even monthly meetings. Retirement is for very formal galas or balls. Use the posting sequence in reverse.

1. Enter
2. Halt in front of and facing audience
3. Color bearers retrieve colors and rejoin guards
4. Present Arms for a few seconds (flags do not dip)
5. Port Arms
6. Depart