



The colours ceremony at the start of meetings and events, and the sunset ceremony at the end, are conducted using a red ensign rather than a Union Jack. You never break an ensign, you simply hoist it with dignity, and not to the masthead, but to a gaff (which may not always be completely practicable in the small Scout headquarters building).

There are slight variations in the details of proceedings, but this is typical, and good practice.

When the Duty Patrol Leader is ready the hoist the ensign, the still is sounded on a bosun's call, and the Troop salutes. When the ensign is secured, the PL salutes, the carry on is piped, and the salute is ended.

Sea Scout Salute

By convention, most Sea Scout groups adjust the Scout salute just a little, to make it more consistent with naval tradition. The hand is kept horizontal, shortest way up, shortest way down.



If you want the *full works*, as suggested to the RN Recognised Groups, see below.

The Full Works

RN Recognised Sea Scouts – A Generic Format for Colours for Sunset

In harbour the RN use Colours and Sunset to mark the start and end of the day. Within Scouts a form of Flag break and down is also used to mark the start and end of the meeting. RN Recognised Sea Scouts are expected to have a formal ceremony of Colours and Sunset which is suitable for their own particular circumstances. Whilst following the RN procedure in full is neither practical or appropriate (you are not on a warship) it is preferred that the procedure follows the spirit of the RN ceremony.

The generic procedure that follows has been developed as a guide for Sea Scout Leaders in response to a perceived need. It is not fixed and should be adapted as necessary to meet individual circumstances.

Colours (to open the meeting)

- The Troop/Unit are formally fallen in and standing at ease.
- The person leading the ceremony brings the troop to the alert ('Troop Troop Ho' or 'Troop Troop Alert').
- 'Colour Party Fall In' on this order the designated colour party (necessary number to hoist the flag(s) and the piper) smartly form up and proceed to fall in front of the flag. If required the Troop are turned to face the flag.
- When ready to raise the flag the Colour Party leader salutes and reports 'Colours' to the Leader.
- Leader responds with 'Pipe the Still'.
- The person with the boatswain's call then pipes the still.
- At the end of the still ALL salute and the colour party raise the Flag.
- When the flag is fully hoisted the leader orders 'Pipe the carry on'.
- The carry on is piped at the end of which the hand is brought down to end the salute.
- Without further orders the colour party secure the flag, fall in and walk smartly to resume their places within their patrols.
- Troop are then fallen out ('turning right fall out') and the meeting continues as planned.

Sunset (to close the meeting)

- At the end of the meeting the Troop are fallen in. Any announcements, presentations, awards and prayers should be completed now.
- When ready the Leader orders 'Sunset party fall in'
- The designated Sunset party (necessary number to lower the flag(s) and the piper) smartly form up and proceed to fall in front of the flag. If required the Troop are turned to face the flag.
- When ready to lower the flag the Sunset Party leader salutes and reports 'Sunset' to the Leader.
- Leader responds with 'Pipe the Still'.
- The person with the boatswain's call then pipes the still.
- At the end of the still ALL salute and the Sunset party lower the Flag.
- When the flag is fully lowered the leader orders 'Pipe the carry on'.
- The carry on is piped at the end of which the hand is brought down to end the salute.
- Without further orders the Sunset party secure the flag, fall in and walk smartly to resume their places within their patrols.
- Troop are then fallen out ('turning right fall out') and all go home for tea and medals.