

Description

Choose a date and occasion which inspires you to bring people together such as: International Day of Peace (September 21st), Earth Day, United Nations Day, Solstices, sacred holidays or any celebration or anniversary of a school or organization in your community.

The Location

You may plan a simple Ceremony at your home with friends and family. For a more formal Ceremony, involving community members, you may choose to organize your gathering at a local park, school, club, church or public facility.

Country List

Our country lists includes 193 nations. You may choose to present your ceremony using the Alphabetical Country List (list of countries in alphabetical order) or Region Country List (list of countries categorized by regions in the world). Please refer to the worldpeace.org to view and download the various country lists.

Flags

The use of hand held flags with the participation of attendees as Flag Bearers during the Ceremony offers the most visually moving and heartfelt experience for the audience. Their colorful presentation adds depth and meaning to the Ceremony. Unfortunately, we can only provide the flags for events in which a staff member of The World Peace Prayer Society is invited to present a flag Ceremony.

Flag Cards with the participation from attendees as Flag "Card" bearers are a wonderful alternative to using flags. The Cards each measure 8"x11". They can be held up (as with a flag) as the country name is announced.

You can purchase flag cards from ShopPeace.

The Presentation

Whichever presentation version you choose, please include the following opening and closing words:

Open with the invocation, *May Peace Prevail On Earth*, repeated by all in attendance.

Close with the following 3 verses repeated by the audience:

May Peace be in all the Indigenous Nations,
May Peace be in all the other Regions of the World,
May Peace Prevail On Earth!

Formal Presentation

The formal version of the Ceremony accompanied by a flag presentation takes approximately 45 minutes to perform. Blessings of peace are sent to each country in unison as the national flag is presented. You may use either the Alphabetical Country List or the Region Country List.



Voice Leader: Announces name of country
Audience: May Peace be in (name of country)
May Peace Prevail On Earth

Presentation using Alphabetical List

Shorter version:

Say the name of the country and have the audience repeat just the country name with a refrain of *May Peace Prevail On Earth* after each 10 countries. Ring a bell for the refrain.

Longer version:

Say the name of the country, with audience participation by saying,

May Peace be in (country name), May Peace Prevail On Earth
and so on for each country.

Presentation using Region Country List

Shorter version:

Announce the Region name.

Say the name of the country and have the audience repeat just the country name.

End each region, with audience participation by saying,

May Peace in (region name), May Peace Prevail On Earth!

Longer version:

Announce the Region name.

Begin each region, with audience participation by saying,

May Peace be in (region name), May Peace Prevail On Earth!

Say the name of the country, with audience participation by saying,

May Peace be in (country name), May Peace Prevail On Earth

and so on for each country.

End each region, with audience participation by saying,

May Peace in (region name), May Peace Prevail On Earth!



Customizing your Ceremony

Over the years, there have been so many innovative ways that were implemented to highlight the World Peace Flag Ceremony. Here are some suggestions to assist you in designing and customizing your presentation:

- *WPFC can be an adjunct to any peace movement, declaration or curriculum.
- *Have several Voice Leaders take turns reading the name of each country.
- *Hand out flags to the audience and have each person read the names of the countries.
- *Create a flag Mandala around a Peace Pole with your flag cards.
- *Have students choose and research the country they will represent.
- *Have flag bearers say a few words about the country they will represent.
- *Have flag bearers say the Peace Message in the native tongue of that nation.
- *Present a WPFC in honor of a Peace Pole dedication or annual rededication
- *Add music, poetry, dance and song to enhance your program.
- *Close with a moment of silence.

