

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF STATE HISTORIC SITES AND PROPERTIES  
FLAG POLICY<sup>1</sup>**

- I. Current or Modern Flags: The current or modern flags of both the United States and the State of North Carolina will be displayed on a permanent pole or poles in a prominent location at all state historic sites.
  - A. Outdoor display in front of the visitor center or at the front entrance to the site is preferred. When this is impractical, the flags may be displayed inside the visitor center in a place of honor.
  - B. Outdoor flags should be replaced as often as necessary, but at least once a year, to ensure that they present an appropriate appearance to the public.
- II. Historical Flags: Flags that represent the history of a particular site may also be displayed at that site.
  - A. The purpose of historical flag displays is to promote and encourage public knowledge of and appreciation for North Carolina history and heritage, as required by G.S. § 121-4(13).
  - B. Historical flags must always be displayed in a subservient position to that of the current flags of the nation and state, even when the latter are at half staff.
  - C. Portions of the State Capitol, as specified in G.S. § 121-9(h), are operated by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources as a state historic site. Historical flags may be displayed subject to the following conditions:
    - 1. The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources shall have exclusive control over the display of historical flags. These areas shall not be a public forum for private speech.
    - 2. Displays of historical flags above the State Capitol, whether temporary or permanent, require the written approval of the deputy secretary for Archives and History.
    - 3. The display of historical flags is to be handled by state employees acting in their official capacity. No permits are to be issued for the display of flags by third parties.
  - D. Except as provided in subsection (C), all permanent displays of historical flags require the written approval of the division director.
  - E. Historical flags should be displayed on one or more permanent poles in an appropriate historical context accompanied by interpretation.

- F. In order to ensure a balanced interpretation, all of the primary historical flags associated with the period of interpretation should be included when possible.
- III. Anniversary and Celebration Flags: Flags that commemorate a local, state, national, or similar anniversary or celebration may be appropriate for use at state historic sites.
- A. The use of all such flags requires the approval of the site manager. If the requested display is for longer than 72 hours, written approval must be obtained from the division director.
  - B. Such flags may be displayed on either permanent or nonpermanent poles but must be displayed subservient to the current national and state flags.
- IV. Program Usage: Current, historical, and other appropriate flags or banners may be carried, displayed or otherwise utilized by staff and volunteers as part of an approved educational program, ceremony, or other special event.
- A. Such flags and banners may not be attached to any permanent pole used for display of the current flags of either the United States or the State of North Carolina.
  - B. Banners may include event promotional materials, including banners recognizing official sponsors or donors, and seasonal, festive, and decorative banners, as deemed appropriate for the specific event.
  - C. All such flags and banners are subject to approval by the site manager.
- V. Other Usage: The display or use of any flag or banner that does not meet the above criteria is prohibited without the written consent of the division director.
- VI. Flag Code: The display, care, and disposal of flags at state historic sites shall be governed by the “Flag Code” as contained in the United States Code Title 4, Chapter 1.

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<sup>i</sup> Approved by the North Carolina Historical Commission during the meeting held on October 22, 2015.