



A Cool Kind Kid Is Patriotic

By Barbara Gilmour

Hello again. Tanner, Rudy, Stephen, Nicole, Carmen and Truman the dragon are here today. Carmen brought her friend Paul with her. All the kids greeted Paul. He said, "Thanks for the welcome. You can call me Paul or Pauly." Some laughed and said, "Hi, Pauly Paul!"

"Let's start with a few questions. Who knows what national holiday we celebrate in July?"

Rudy said, "The 4th of July!" The kids all said, "We all knew that."

"What national holiday do we celebrate in May?"

Tanner jumped in with, "That's Memorial Day. I know that because we always have a picnic."

"I love going to parades with my family on those holidays," shared Nicole.

"What do we celebrate in June?"

"I know," yelled Stephen, "School is over!"

"Yes, that is true, but what day is a special day for our country?"

Paul raised his hand, "I know. It's Flag Day."

"Why do you think we celebrate Flag Day?"

"It's the symbol of our country," said Rudy. Carmen added, "It says we are Americans."

"When we fly it, it shows we love our country," Tanner shared.

Truman stood up, put his hand over his heart and proudly said, "When I see the flag, I'm grateful that I live in a place where dragons, and anyone else, are welcome and accepted." All the kids stood and cheered Truman. Then they marched around the room pretending they were in a parade, waving flags.

"Did you know that just as there are rules for how to play a sport or how to act in school, there are rules for how to treat and display our flag? Who knows a US Flag Code rule?"

"I know when we put our flag out at my house, we put it up in the morning and take it down at night or in bad weather," offered Tanner. "That's right," Pauly added, "Or, you can put a light on it at night."

"When I go to parades with my family, people stand when the flag goes by. I see some people put their hand over their heart. It would be cool if everyone did that," said Nicole. Stephen added, "I see military people salute the flag. It would be cool to thank them for our freedom."

"Is it true that when a flag is old or worn out we should burn it?" asked Carmen. "Yes, that's true," added Pauly, "And, it should never touch the ground, water, or be stepped on." "Wow!" said Truman. "All these things show respect for our flag. I love to sing patriotic songs, so I always join in when I hear the National Anthem."

"Our flag is a symbol of our freedom. What does freedom mean to you?"

Rudy said, "It means being able to go where we want." Nicole added, "It means being able to say and do what we please." Truman raised his hand, "Freedom means being free!" "Cool Kind Kids" respect our flag, our country and all those who made our freedom possible.

Barbara Gilmour, Tanner's grandma, is the creator and developer of the Tanner's Manners: Be a "Cool Kind Kid" Social Skills, Character Values and Anti-Bullying educational materials and the award-winning "Cool Kind Kid" Audio CD. She also writes the Children's Manners Blog, offering tips for teaching your children manners. <http://childrensmanners.blogspot.com>. © Cool Kind Kid. 866-KID-KIND. www.CoolKindKid.com.

