

Memorial Day Flag Placement 2026

This page contains information and resources for the annual Memorial Day Flag Placement at Marietta National Cemetery on Saturday, May 23, 2026.

Event Overview and Purpose



In prior years, Scouting organizations in our community place flags at over 18,000 graves of U. S. Military veterans in Marietta National Cemetery. This service project is carried out on the Saturday before Memorial Day. The purpose is help prepare the cemetery for the Memorial Day ceremony that takes place on Monday. In addition to community service, it is an opportunity for youth and adults to learn about and appreciate the service and sacrifice of those who have given their lives in service to their Country. One is also exposed to the rich history of the Marietta area.

The event originated in the former Cobb District of the Atlanta Area Council Boy Scouts of America in cooperation with the National Memorial Day Association of Georgia. Since the 1990's all Scouting organizations are welcome to participate. The Marietta National Cemetery is in Foothills District of the Atlanta Area Council. Volunteers from Foothills District work with the National Memorial Day Association of Georgia in organizing and hosting the event.



Directions, Parking and Arrival Time

*****DO NOT PARK IN SPACES RESERVED FOR LIBRARY EMPLOYEES*****

Marietta National Cemetery is located at 500 Washington Avenue, NE, Marietta, GA 30060. The cemetery borders Roswell Road and is a few blocks east of the Marietta Square. Here is the Google Maps link - <https://goo.gl/maps/zTgUzmWS6xGwRBzX8>. Parking is available at the Charles D. Switzer Public Library at 266 Roswell Street, Marietta, GA 30060. Here is the Google Maps link - <https://goo.gl/maps/S3xg9RjWgmRJwhYj7>. Please use caution crossing the street.

What happens the day of the event?

Scouts and Leaders in uniform gather at the cemetery between 8:00 AM and 8:30 AM. Each Scout receives a commemorative patch upon arrival. There is a short opening ceremony that includes presentation of Colors, rifle salute, and the playing of Taps. Members of the Sons of the American Revolution in uniform and working muskets are featured in the program.



Instructions for properly

placing the flags are given. Scouts are then dismissed to spread throughout the cemetery and place the flags. Flag stations are strategically located throughout the property and are distributed to each Scout in small quantity to all everyone the opportunity to place flags.

Once flag placement is complete, you are free to depart. There is no closing ceremony.



Patches

Each Scout will be given a patch as they enter the cemetery. There will be no need for adult members to sign in or pick up patches for their group. Upon arrival, only Scouts will be given patches. Adults who would like a patch may pick one up on the way out of the cemetery. We want to make sure that all Scouts are able to get a patch before making them available to adults.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

How do I get to the cemetery?

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What should I bring?

Come dressed in proper uniform for your Scouting organization. Everyone should bring a full water bottle as there is not a source of public drinking water in the cemetery. Some groups

bring large hand-held signs with their Unit number to raise up so others in the group can locate them in the crowd. There will be a staffed First Aid Station.

Do I need to bring my own flags?

No. Please do not bring flags. Only those flags provided by the National Memorial Day Association of Georgia are to be used. Any flags left over should be returned to the distribution point. Please do allow anyone in your group to take flags home with them.

Do I need to preregister?

No. There is no registration or check-in required. Just be on time and you will be able to participate.

How long does the ceremony last?

The amount of time the flag placement takes is dependent on the number of participants. With robust attendance, it is surprising how quickly flags are placed at over 18,000 graves. Completion time is around 10:00 AM is typical. Should you need to leave prior to completion time, please do so. Families have many activities competing for your time. The short duration of this event makes it easy to fit into busy schedules.

Will I need to pay to participate?

No. There is not fee to participate in the program, The cost of flags and patches is covered by the National Memorial Day Association of Georgia.

Can adults also place flags?

If there are adults that have family members interred in the Marietta National Cemetery, we can arrange for them to place flags on those graves. Otherwise, we ask that all flags be placed by youth members simply because there are so many youth participating that we want them to have the opportunity to place flags.

How will my Scouts know what to do?

During the opening program, instructions and a demonstration will be given that Scouts will know the proper procedure and etiquette for placing the flags.

What is the proper uniform for this event?

Every Scout and adult leader should be dressed in proper dress uniform for their organization. For Scouts BSA and Cub Scouts this is the Field Uniform ("Class A"). For Girl Scouts, the Girl Scout vest should be worn.

What if it rains?

If there is inclement weather, the event will be cancelled. If that were to happen, flags would be placed by cemetery staff and other volunteers prior to Monday's Memorial Day ceremony.

Unfortunately, there is no way to reschedule due to other activities taking place at the cemetery throughout the weekend.

Resources

We encourage all leaders to include information about Memorial Day, the significance of this service project, and the history of the Marietta area in your Scouting program. Check out the historical information and notable persons sections. Perhaps reviewing this information prior to the event will help the Scouts connect and make the experience more meaningful.

Here are some resources to get you started. An online search should reveal much more content of interest to you and your Scouts.

[Marietta National Cemetery - National Cemetery Administration \(va.gov\)](#)

[Marietta National Cemetery - Wikipedia](#)

[The Marietta Military Cemetery \(n-georgia.com\)](#)

[Marietta National Cemetery--Civil War Era National Cemeteries: A Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itinerary \(nps.gov\)](#)

[Marietta History Center – Where History Loves Company!](#)

[NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA - Home \(nmdaga.org\)](#)

[Civil War Cemeteries - New Georgia Encyclopedia](#)