

# CHAPMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Newsletter

### America the Beautiful

A Song of Hope and Opportunity

Written in 1893 by Katharine Lee Bates, America the Beautiful is more than a song about majestic mountains and amber waves of grain. It celebrates the natural beauty of our nation while expressing a hope that America will continue to grow in wisdom, justice, and unity.

Inspired by her travel cross country to teach in Colorado, Bates stood at the summit of Pike's Peak. The breathtaking landscape lent itself to the words, 'O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain...'

Initially a poem that talks about the triumphs, falls, and a moral dimension of a nation, Bates would team up with Samuel A. Ward in 1882, creating the beloved patriotic song.

The song honors the courage of those who came before us, the pioneers who sought new opportunities, and the dream of a nation where people could shape their own futures. At the same time, it reminds us that America is not perfect and should always strive to improve. Bates' words call on citizens to pursue self-control, generosity, and a commitment to the common good.

As we celebrate America's 250th anniversary, America the Beautiful remains a powerful reminder that the American Dream is still alive. Each generation has the opportunity to build a better future, strengthen their communities, and contribute to the ongoing story of our nation.



# Old Glory Facts

The American flag has distinct parts, each with its own name and symbolism:

- **The Union/Canton:** the blue rectangle in the upper left corner. It symbolizes unity and the strength of this country.
- **The Stars:** located within the Union, there are 50 white, five-pointed stars, representing the 50 U.S. states.
- **The Stripes:** There are 13 horizontal stripes—seven red and six white—that honor the original colonies that declared independence. Red stripes signify hardiness and valor; white stripes symbolize purity and innocence.
- **The Hoist:** the edge of the flag that is attached to the flagpole of halyard.
- **They Fly:** The free-hanging, fluttering edge of the flag opposite to the hoist.
- **The Canton Edges:** the parts of the flag bordering the Union include the Chief (the top edge) and the Base (the bottom edge).
- **The Header and Grommets:** The heavy fabric band at the hoist, reinforced with metal rings called grommets, used to securely attach the flag to the rope on a flagpole.



## July Events

- **CLOSED July 4th!**
- **July 9<sup>th</sup>: Silent Book Club: Chapman Chapter 6 pm**
- **July 15<sup>th</sup>: Summer Reading Ends!**
- **July 16<sup>th</sup> K-State Extension Office S.T.E.M. @ 2 PM**
- **July 18<sup>th</sup>: Swim Party 6 PM-8 PM**
- **July 29<sup>th</sup> @ 2 PM Movie at the library**

