

CARRYING YOUR BANNER

You are presenting the banner to the King of kings, the Lord of lords, to your Creator, to the One who saved you. You have been granted the honor of carrying the banner into your worship space to exalt God. The way in which you carry the banner demonstrates Who this Lord is: THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY. So carry the banner with a sense of reverence, majesty, and gladness to be in His presence.

CARRYING POSITIONS

Traditionally, a banner is carried so that it hangs in front of the banner bearer. Hold the banner pole as high as you can comfortably so everyone can see the banner. Stand tall, no slouching here! Place one hand about a foot

below the midpoint of the banner pole. Place the other hand about two feet below that. The lower hand should be near or at waist level. Experiment with the placement of your hands to find ones that allow you to carry the banner with majesty and with ease for your body strength.

When the banner is hanging in front of you, it can be difficult to see where you are going. You will have to judge the width and path of the aisle with your peripheral vision. Carry the pole so it leans slightly forward, just far enough to keep the banner from bumping against the pole as you walk and distorting the picture on the banner. Walk at a moderate pace. Hold the pole in line with your nose, keeping your arms forward and your elbows slightly bent. Do not let the pole lean to either side or wobble as you shift your weight from one leg to the other. NEVER let the banner drag along the floor. The front of the banner must hang smoothly so viewers can easily see it. With practice, you will eventually experience the wondrous joy of carrying a banner in the presence of God and His people.



You can also carry the banner so it hangs behind you. The hands are positioned on the pole in the same way as mentioned before, with adjustments made for ease.



Carrying the banner behind you makes it much easier to see where you are walking. Hold the banner pole as high as you can comfortably, so people can see the banner. As before, remember to stand tall and straight. Do not rest the banner pole on your shoulder, because the banner may drag along the floor, obscuring people's view of it. Carry the pole so it leans just slightly behind you, but leaning far enough so the banner does not bump against your backside as you walk. When the banner is behind you, walking will be a bit faster because you can see clearly in front of you, but remember always to walk with reverence and majesty.

Sometimes, you will have to carry the banner a few inches from your hip: when entering the worship space from the side, when mounting stairs on the side of the platform, or when turning a corner. Experiment

with carrying the banner in this side position to make sure the congregation can see the banner picture at all times. Your path may be straight ahead or turning a corner, but you will need to carry the banner positioned by the side of your body nearest the congregation. Use both hands for stability. The banner must not bump against your side, nor should it tilt forward of your shoulder or backward. By holding the banner pole a few inches from your hip, you can maintain a smooth hang of the banner so the congregation can see the banner picture clearly while you navigate this side position.

PLACING THE BANNER IN THE STAND

In either carrying position (be it in front of you or behind), as you approach the banner stand in which the banner will be displayed, walk to the back of the stand, keeping the banner picture facing the congregation. This is a tricky maneuver that requires holding the pole vertically in your hands while rotating it slowly with your fingers, and, at the same time, turning your body to arrive at the rear of the stand. At this point, you will be facing the congregation with the back side of the banner hanging about 12 inches from your face, and the pole exactly vertical. This turn takes practice but is magnificent when you master it.

Next, position the pole directly above the 12-inch black pipe. Keep the banner straight and vertical. Do not let it wobble or tilt at all. Slowly lower the pole into the black pipe until it comes to a full rest. Do not merely position the pole a little ways into the pipe and then let the pole drop the rest of the way. If you do, the banner will jerk and sway in a startling and sloppy manner.

When you have guided the pole all the way into the pipe, kneel down and make the thumbscrew snug to hold the banner at the angle you desire. You can judge the angle by looking at the crossbar, because the angle of the crossbar will be the angle of the banner. Do not tighten the thumbscrew, just make it snug, because you or someone else will have to release it when the time comes to remove the banner from the stand.

When two or more banner bearers present banners, they should practice so their movements are coordinated. Bearers walking up stairs onto a platform from opposite sides should watch each other so that they mount the stairs and arrive on the platform at the same time. They should stay in tandem with each other as they walk to the rear of their respective banner stands. They should lower their banners together, kneel simultaneously, stand up together, and exit at the same time. Make your entire teamwork precise and beautiful.

Whether you are a single banner bearer or are part of a team, practice until the banner feels like an extension of your own arms, and heart! Now you are ready to worship the Lord with banners! THE END

Using PVC for banner standard

Using conduit pipe for banner standard

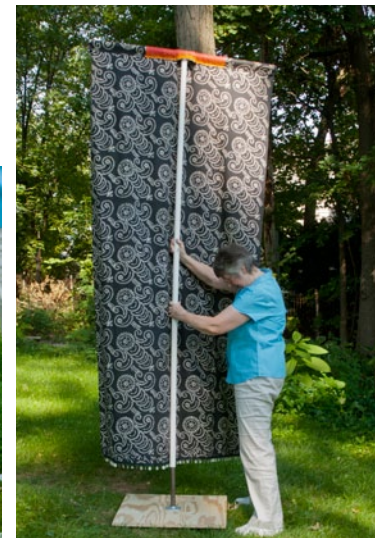


The banner bearer stands close to the stand, and slowly positions the pole above the black pipe. Then gradually and smoothly lower the pole all the way into the black pipe. Do so smoothly, without jerking or sudden releasing, for a beautiful presentation.

The banner bearer then kneels, turns the pole so that the banner faces front, and then screws the thumbscrew snug to the pole. When more than one banner is used, it is splendid when all the banner bearers do these actions simultaneously.



The banner bearer positions the PVC banner pole **over** the 12-inch tall black pipe.



Next, ease the PVC banner pole onto the black pipe.



Lower the PVC banner pole all the way to the flange. Do so smoothly, without jerking, for a beautiful presentation.