

Scout Neckerchief Slide

Sheriff's Star v1.0

In years past neckerchief slides, or woggles, as they were often known, were an important part of the scouting experience. At nearly every meeting someone had a new slide that was the envy of every boy in the troop.

Boy's Life, a scouting magazine, carried ideas every month in its 'Slide of the Month' column. Almost all of the slides then, were made of wood and were constructed by whittling away for hours or days with the attendant cuts and slices on fingers. Wounds that boys wore as badges of honor. The price you paid for making a really neat 'woggle'.

Times have changed and the value placed on working with ones own hands has been slowly slipping away, even from character building organizations like the scouts. As first a Webelos leader and now as a Scoutmaster, I have found that the boys still have in them that creative spark that I find so familiar from my own days as a scout. I have tried to fan that spark with activities that they find interesting but that teach craftsmanship, determination, concentration as well as other character traits that will make them successful in their lives.

Why Paper?

I like paper as a construction material for two reasons. First, paper presents the modeler with a different set of problems than does wood or other craft materials. Secondly, paper is, in many ways more forgiving than is wood. The smaller boys can easily fold paper even when they are too small to use a knife.

The Kit

The Sheriff's Star Neckerchief slide is an easy introduction to the art and hobby of constructing 'woggles'. You will need a hobby knife or small scissors, a ruler, and some school glue such as *Elmer's* or *Aleene's Tacky Glue*. Use the glue sparingly! With a little patience the end result is quite nice and very sturdy.

We used this slide as a nametag at our Blue and Gold banquet during a month that had a western theme.

Start the kit by printing the page on a good quality card stock of at least 110lbs. You can use an inkjet printer but if you do be sure that you use a sealer to seal the ink in case it rains you don't want the color running all over a scouts shirt! I suggest Future floor polish. Future can be applied by spraying very light coats and allowed to dry without running your ink. This also makes the slides water proof!



Figure 1 – Sheriff's Star

General Directions

Cut the entire kit out with a hobby knife or scissors. Once you do this, use a blunt stylus such as an embossing tool or a ballpoint ink pen that is empty to 'score' the dotted lines on the loop (Piece 2). Next, pre-fold any scored lines so that you get the basic shape of the loop without gluing it. Don't try to glue all the parts at once. Take your time and be patient.

Detailed Directions

Start assembling the kit by cutting out all the stars. Once you get them cut, decide which one you want to use (Sheriff, Deputy or make your own) and put that one on the front of the slide when you glue it up. Take the two stars that you aren't going to use and glue them together. Put enough glue between them so that they are glued well but not so much so that the paper is saturated. Let these dry and then glue the star you want to use as the front of the slide to the other two so that you have a glued 'stack' of stars that combine to create a three layer thick star.

Next, take a black marker and write the name of your scout on the front of the star. Even up the edges of the star by trimming off any excess paper and then use your black marker to color the edges so that there is no white showing.

Part 2, the loop, allows you to wear the slide. Fold it along the long dotted line so that the colored sides are on the outside. Let the glue dry a bit and then fold the piece along the shorter dotted line. Now, use your finger, a pen, or the handle of your hobby knife to bend the curved part of the loop so that you can glue the tab to the other end of piece 2. This forms the loop as pictured in Figure 2. If the loop is too big then cut some of the end off to make it smaller.



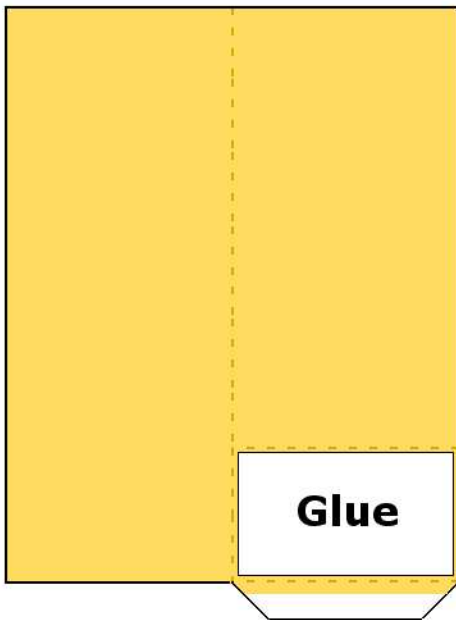
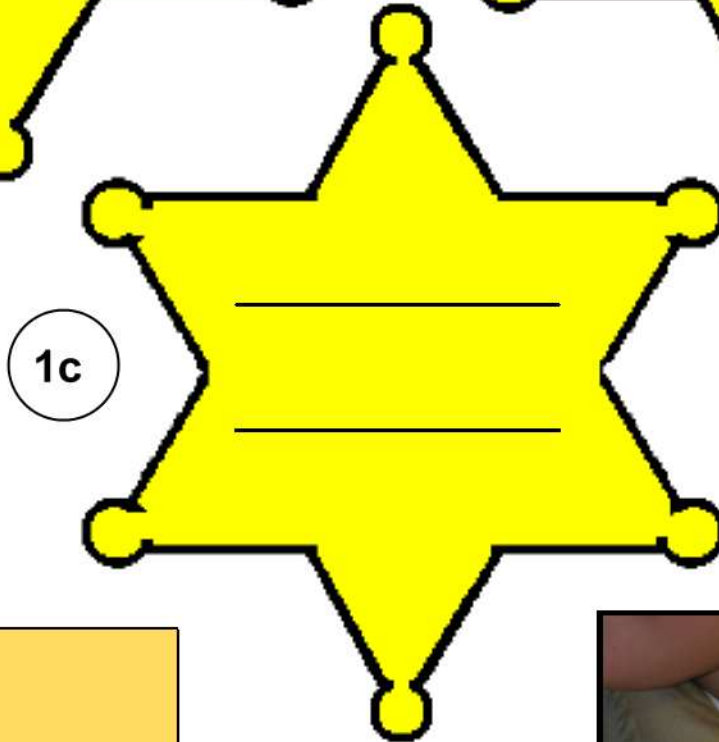
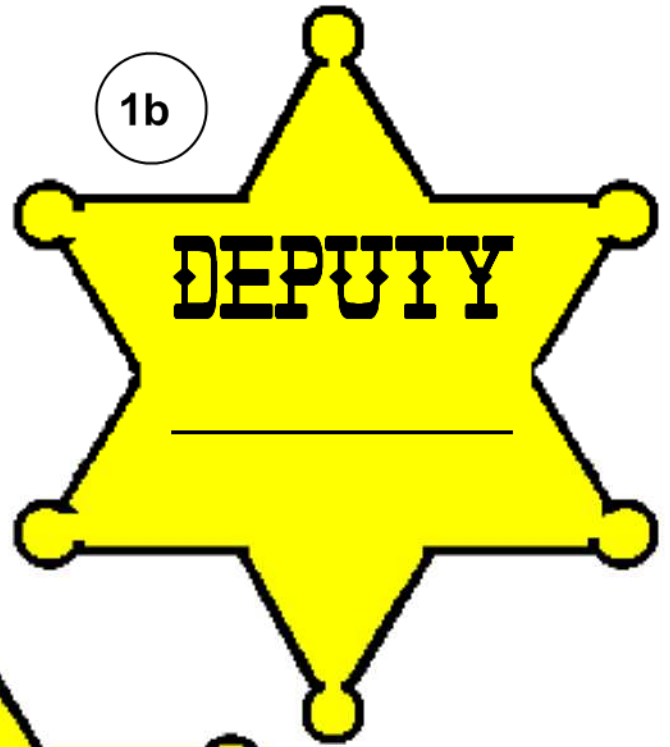
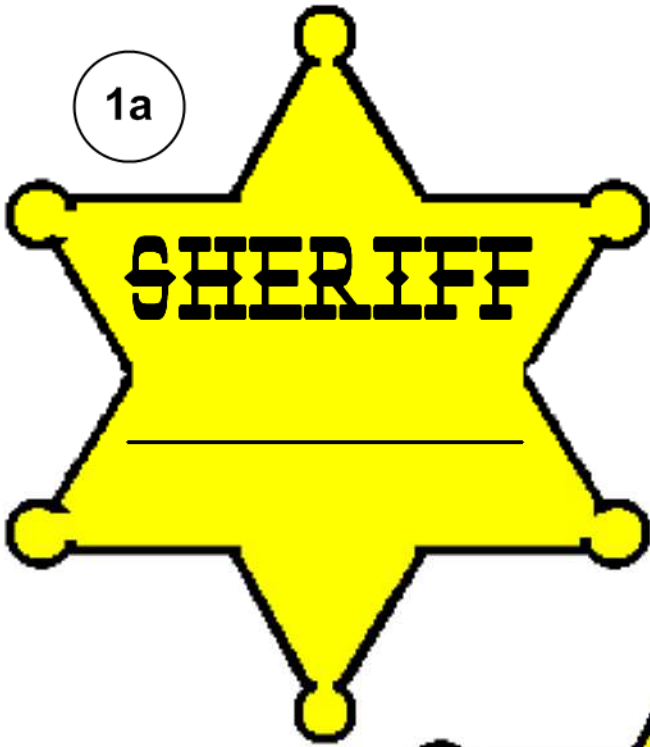
Figure 2 - Loop

At this point, you are almost finished! Just glue the slide to the back of the star. You can glue it on at any angle you choose the only requirement is that it look good to you!

Once you get to this point allow the slide to 'cure' for an hour or so. It is amazing to me how much stiffer a model is a few hours after you put it together!

I would love to hear of your experiences with this kit. Did the boys like it? Was it easy enough for the smaller ones to do? You may also have suggestions for other slides and I would love to hear all about them. You can email me at steve@stamm.com.

Good luck and happy scouting!



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