

# Shooting Star Firefighting Decoration

In the 18th century, private associations of volunteers worked together to prevent fires. One volunteer company in Alexandria was Star Company. Make a Shooting Star decoration to remember our city's early volunteer fire companies, and celebrate today's first responders.

## What you will need:

### Materials Provided in the Kit

- Cardstock Stars (2)
- 10-inch pieces of curling ribbon (5)
- 12-inch piece of curling ribbon (1)

### Materials from Home

- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Clear adhesive tape
- Glue stick



## Make your shooting star!

1. Cut out the two stars.
2. Use tape to attach five 10-inch strands of ribbon to the center of one star, hanging downward in the same direction. This is the “tail” of your shooting star.
3. Glue the other star on top of the first, matching up the points and covering the taped ends of the ribbon.
4. When the glue has dried, punch a hole in the top of the star and attach the 12-inch piece of ribbon to make a hanger.

## Learn more about Firefighting in Early Alexandria

Fires were a concern for Alexandria's citizens as the town grew throughout the 18th century and residents built timber-framed houses and business structures. Open flames were used for heat, light, and cooking, and Alexandria's early buildings typically had wooden chimneys. Although by law every household or business brought their own buckets and formed bucket brigades when fires occurred, Alexandrians recognized more needed to be done.

By the 1770s citizens came together to form fire companies, private associations of volunteers who worked together to prevent fires from spreading throughout the town. By 1827, five stations fought the town's fires using hand-drawn and man-powered equipment: Friendship, Sun, Relief, Star, and Hydraulion. Today, ten fire stations serve our City, operated by city Public Safety professionals.

