

Investigator

Junior Investigator Badge



What The Badge Means

This badge is carried by investigators who notice the things most people walk past.

Maplewood has always depended on careful eyes, kind hearts, and people willing to slow down long enough to truly see the world around them.

Captain Harlene believes the best detectives are not the loudest people in the room. They are the ones still paying attention after everyone else stops looking.

Sometimes people think detectives are the ones who solve impossible mysteries or chase clues through dark alleyways.

But my Grandfather once told me something different. He said the best detectives are usually the quietest people in the room.

They notice when someone feels left out.

They notice the porch light that stays on longer than usual.

The missing poster nobody stopped to read.

The nervous look on someone's face when they say they're "fine."

The strange sound coming from an alley everyone else walks past.

Most people hurry through the world too fast to notice things. Real investigators slow down. That's what this badge means.

Not perfection. Not being the smartest person in the room. Not always having the answers. It means you were willing to pay attention.

Maplewood has always depended on people like that.

So write your name in your notebook.

Write the date you joined the investigation.

And write down the first thing you noticed today — something someone else might have missed.

Because every mystery begins there. And sometimes... the smallest clue in the world can make someone feel seen again.

— Captain Harlene and Bud
Maplewood, Colorado

Observer

Observer Badge



What The Badge Means

Observers are the people who notice what the rest of the world rushes past.

They pay attention to small changes, quiet moments, and clues that do not always look important at first.

Sometimes the biggest mysteries begin with something tiny — a missing poster, a porch light left on too long, or a feeling that something simply does not seem quite right.

Maplewood has always depended on people willing to slow down, look carefully, and wonder if there might be more to the story than others first believed.

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Gazette

Gazette Badge



What The Badge Means

Field investigators understand that every town has stories hidden beneath the surface — small mysteries, quiet acts of kindness, forgotten places, and clues most people never stop long enough to notice.

The Maplewood Gazette has always depended on careful observers willing to ask one more question, follow one more lead, and keep searching even when the trail grows faint.

Some mysteries are solved with answers.

Others are solved simply because someone cared enough to

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Maplewood, Colorado

Badges



MAPLEWOOD JUNIOR INVESTIGATOR

Official Field Identification

Issued by the Maplewood Gazette

Field Identification Card



Name: _____

Specialty: _____

Investigator Number: _____

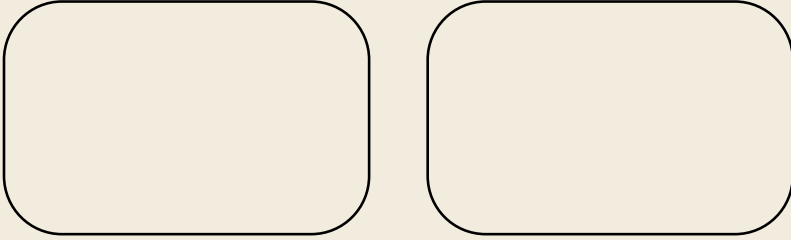
- Notice what others miss
- Ask the quiet questions
- Be kind, even in silence
- Leave the world better than you found it

Cut out, fold and keep safe. (Ask an adult for a few drops drop of glue to hold it in place)

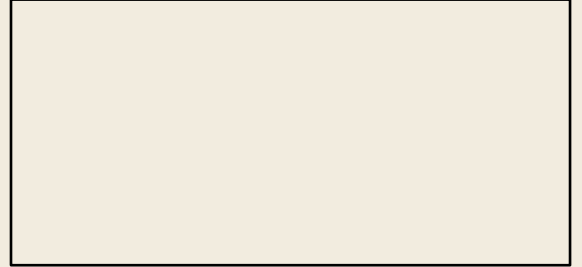
CLUE & EVIDENCE PAGE

For observations, sketches, prints, and discovered clues

Thumb Prints



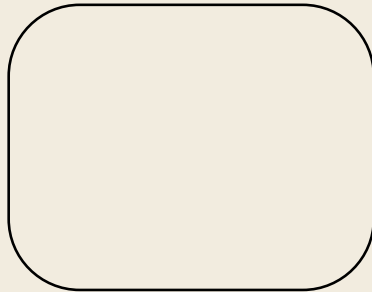
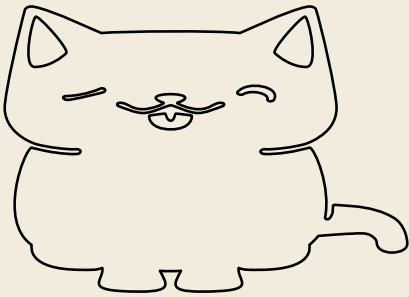
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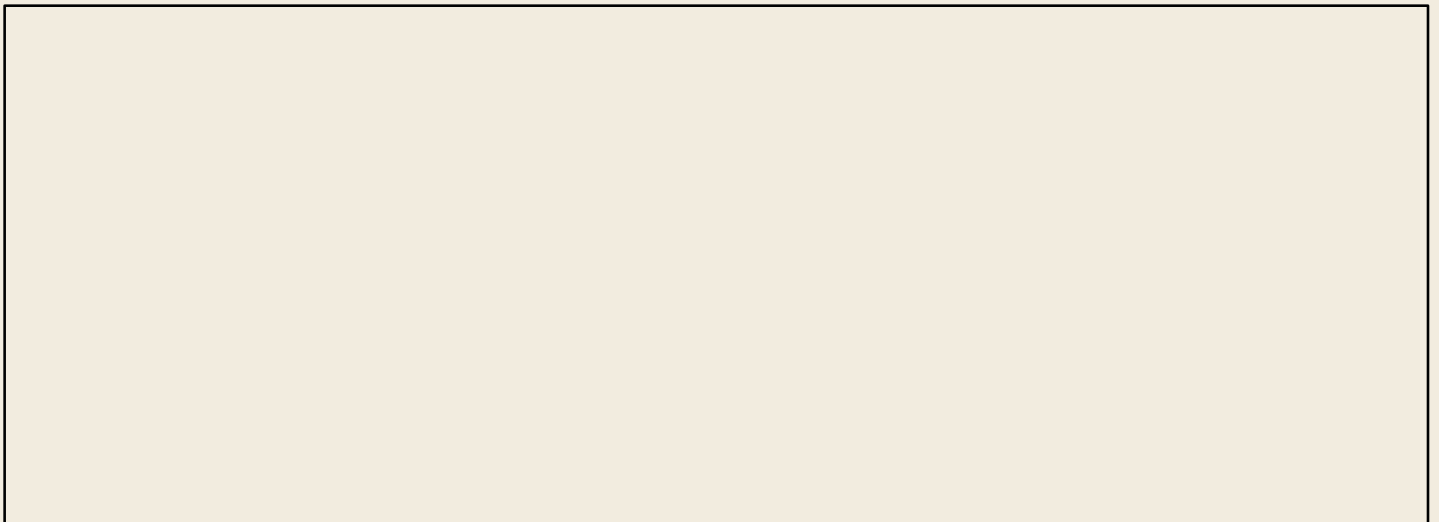
Finger Prints



Unknown Prints



Sketch / Clue Notes



Decoder A – Maplewood Standard Cipher

Use Decoder A whenever a case file contains a Decoder A Message.

Most clues in Maplewood are written using the Standard Cipher.
A careful detective keeps this decoder nearby and never ignores a strange note, a hidden message, or a suspicious scrap of paper.

Every mystery begins with a clue.



Gazette Field Cipher

Some clues are too important to be written in plain sight.

Decoder B is used by reporters, investigators, and trusted Gazette correspondents to protect sensitive information. Messages using this cipher are often more challenging and may contain important case details.

Look closely. The truth is rarely obvious.



Captain Harlene Cipher

Only the most determined detectives should attempt Decoder C.

This cipher protects Maplewood's most difficult messages and secret communications. Patience, observation, and careful thinking will be needed to uncover what is hidden.

The best detectives never stop looking for the truth.

