Stitchscape

'THANKS NHS' BANNER TEMPLATES

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Let's get creatively grateful

The story behind the patterns

I made a very quick banner to thank the NHS for all they do for us in very difficult situations. I was inspired by the clap for the carers idea held on March 26th. I made the banner in less than a couple of hours. No pattern, no plan. I just HAD to make it. The photo shows my effort. Claire from Rubyseppings was inspired by my effort but then went on to make a very smart, colourful patchwork pieced version. I love it and how quickly her creativity took over. She suggested others may want to do one too, so pattern making we did. The patterns are being released 3 days later. That is very fast, as it means trialling everything out and putting it in a computer generated format and then finding out how to share with with the world on my website. My letters were all hand drawn and that 'S' caused me much grief. I don't make a habit of creating my own fonts. I couldn't be a nurse but my daughter is about to become an early registered nurse especially to help with the pandemic, so surely I can be fussy with letters. Note to self....I'm not a wimp, I'm a creative!..

Rubyseppings patchwork pieced pattern is available separately to download either from www.rubyseppings.com or from www.stitchscape.uk

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Make one of your own

This pattern provides you with the letter templates to print off and use to make your own banner. Get creative with it - maybe even get competitive and make one you think is way better than mine. Have fun. Play about with it. Here are some ideas but you'll have others I hope. Display it for all the world to see. I made the letters 8.5inches/22cm high - your photocopier will let you change that or you can use my letters to motivate you to go large. Only you know the answer to that.
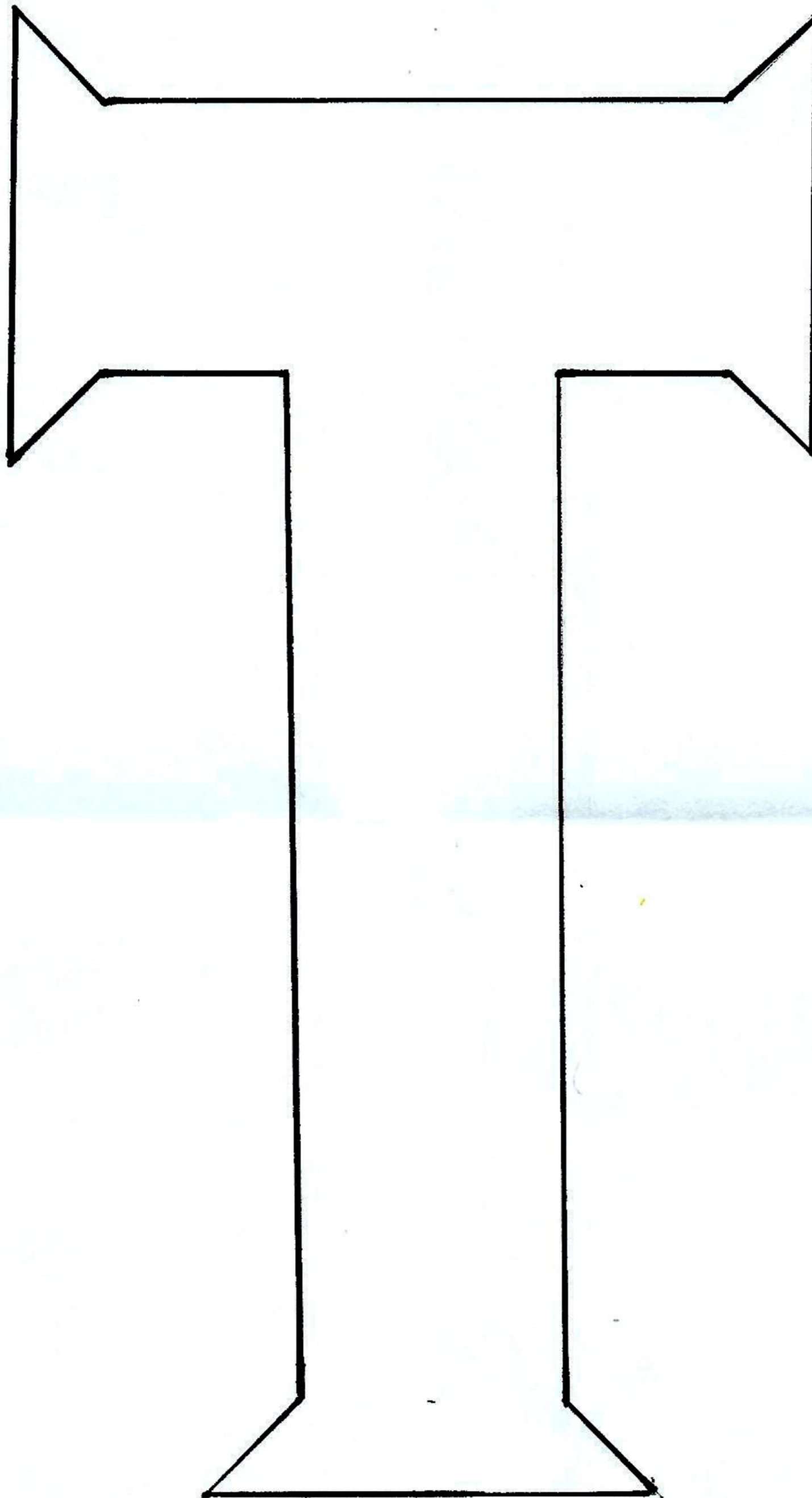
1. Print off each letter and cut them out.

2. Put each template on top of a piece of cotton - use old cotton pillowcases or t-shirts or dresses if needs be, although many fabric shops are open for online orders only. You don't need much for this though, other than the backing and I used an old fitted sheet cut in half for my banner.

3. Draw around the templates, cut them out.

4. You will now be able to work out how big to cut your backing. Before cutting, decide on how you'll hang it up, as you may need to have more fabric to allow for your hanging method. I created channels on the top and bottom of my half single sheet.I used some willow screening rods I found at the back of the garage and slid them into each channel. If you can, start off with a piece of fabric too big, secure your letters on to it and only then cut out the final shape. To create the holes to put the string through (allowing me to tie it to the wall) I just cut a tiny slit with scissors - like I keep saying - nothing fancy here- resourceful and to fit what I had available and what I thought of at the time.

5. I used a zig zag stitch to secure my letters down, after glueing them on with a sewing machine friendly glue (you don't want normal glue gumming up your needle and machine). Use pins if you haven't got glue. If you haven't got glue, use sellotape (although that doesn't stick to fabric well). Get resourceful. You'll work something out. If you haven't got a sewing machine or the youngsters want to do it, maybe you'll just use glue. Fine and dandy.

6. Give yourselves a pat on the back and a happy dance too - you made that! You! Yes, you! Now whenever an NHS worker passes your street, you'll make them smile and give them the pride in their work and knowing we all notice and that we care.

Fabric isn't my thing

No worries. Print the templates off and colour them with paints, food colouring, crayons, pens - whatever you have. Make this banner yours. You're not a wimp.... Believe it or not, you're a creative who cares. Get your thinking hat on. Your resilience. Your cheerfulness. Your courage. Your resourcefulness. You staying at home as much as possible is needed. So much so.
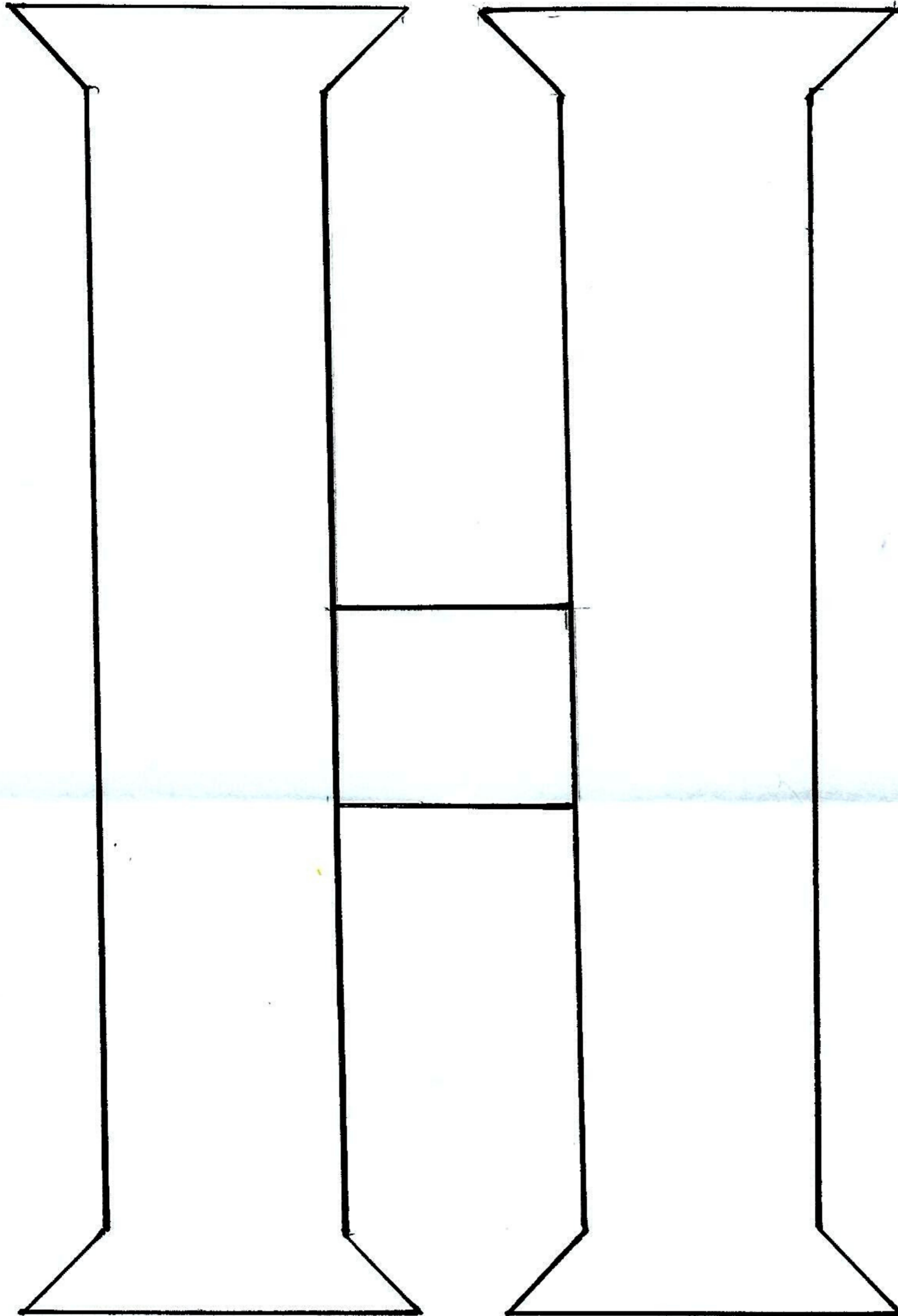Go create!

Create your own banner to thank the
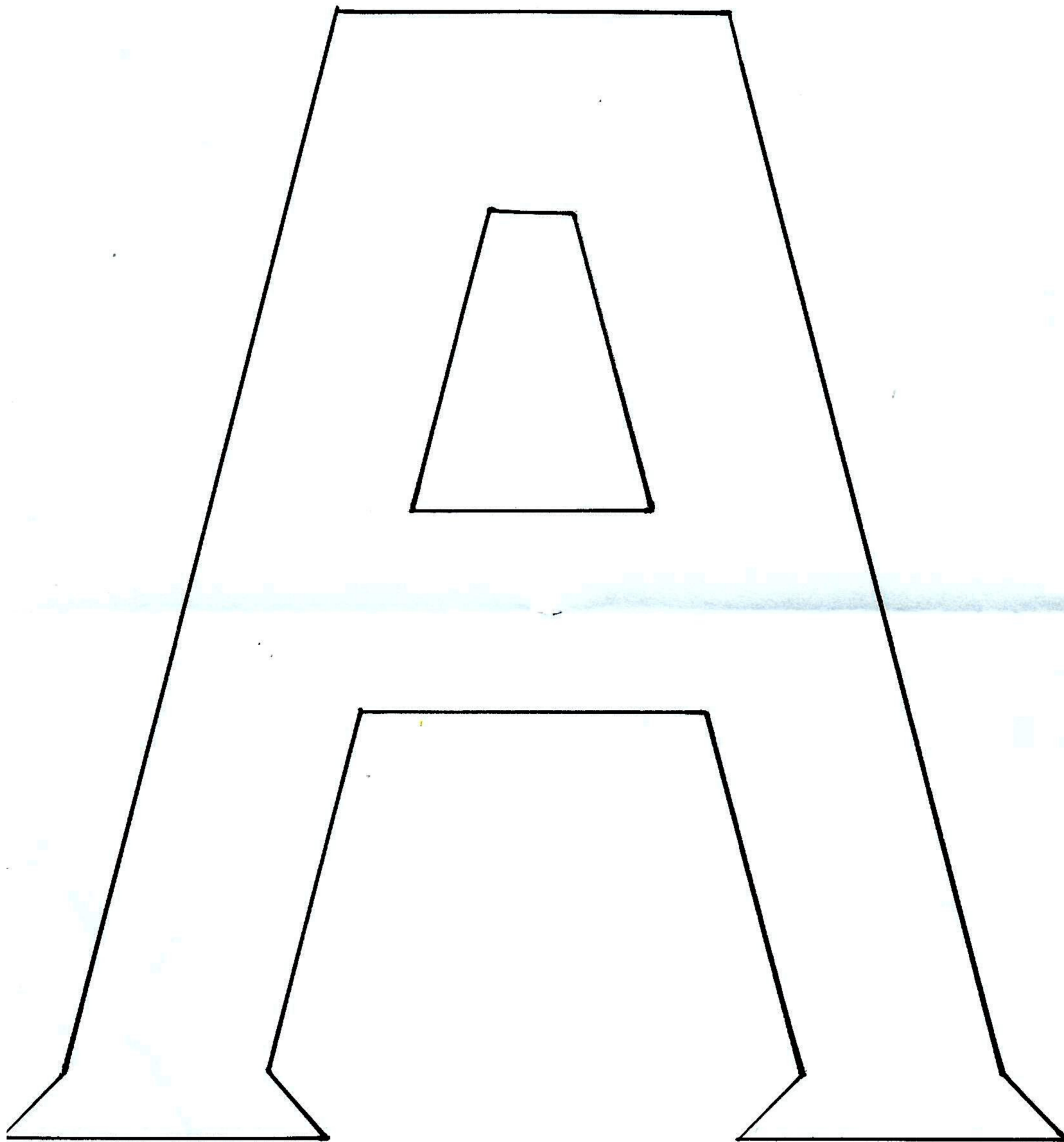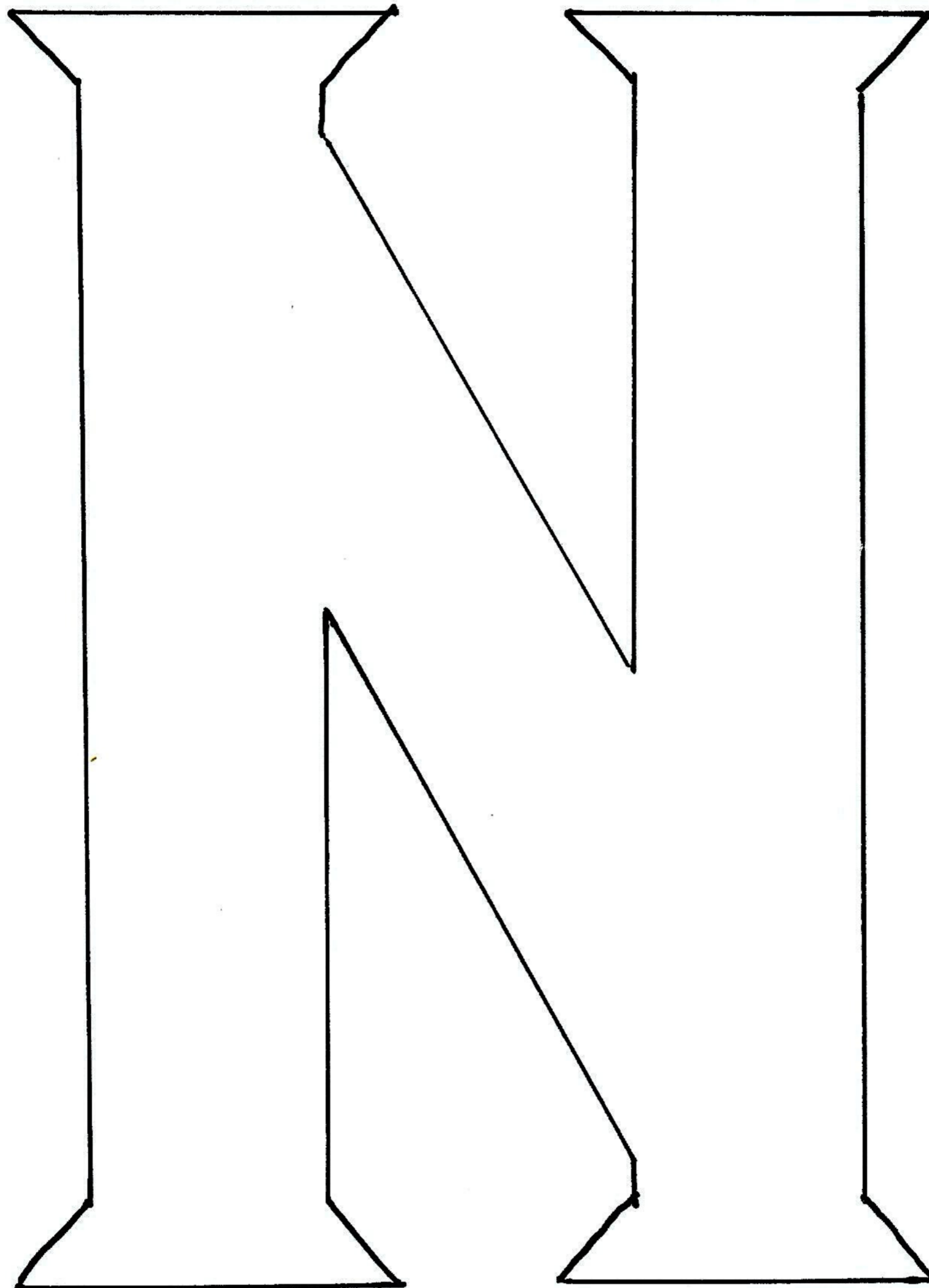NHS for all their hard work, especially
during the Corona virus time.

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use #betterthanstitchscape
and #brilliantnhs when
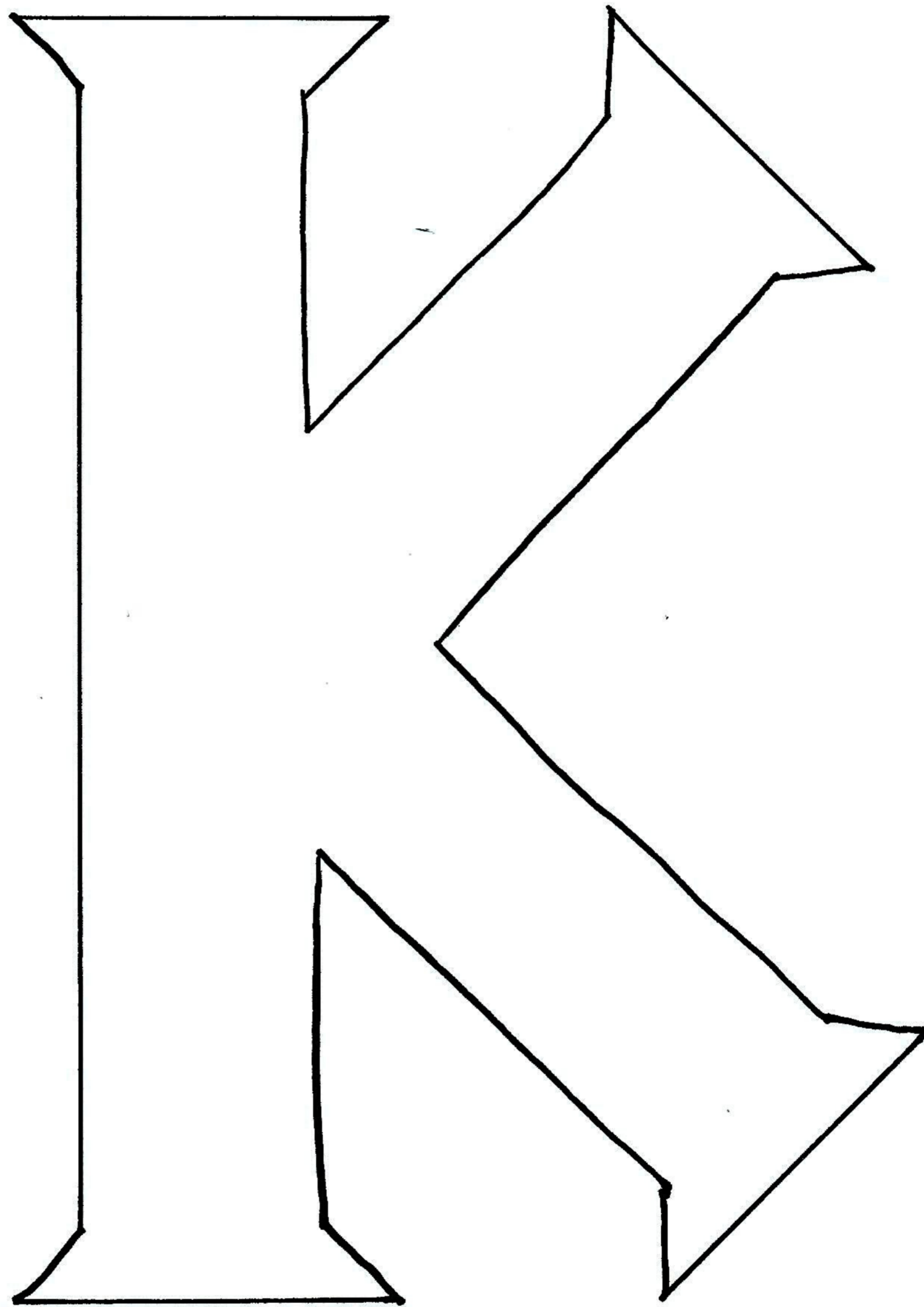sharing photos of your
banner on Instagram

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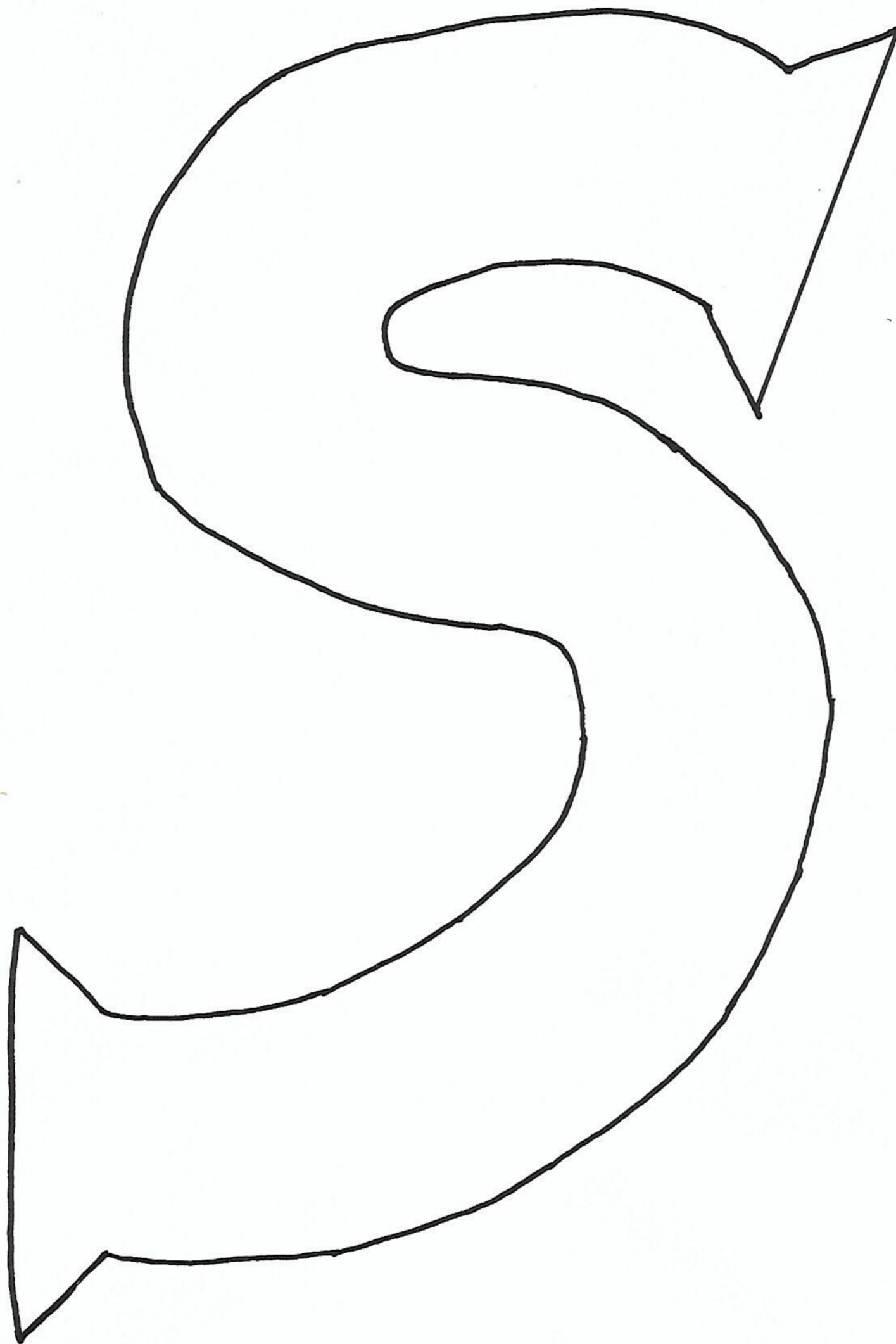sharing photos of your
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