101 (or so) Uses for a Bandana

The possibilities are unlimited...

Cowboys originally wore bandanas because they could be used for a bunch of different purposes. You can see the possibilities from the list we’ve made. Aside from just helping you LOOK like you belong on the ranch, there’s got to be at least one in this list that you can use.

On the cattle drive or trail:

- A wind/dust mask
- Hobble (tie the front feet together to prevent walking off) a pack animal
- Makeshift bridle
- Soak in water and use as a neckband to keep cool
- Whisk away pestering insects
- Tuck under back of hat to keep sun off
- A backpacking strainer for pasta
- Pre-filter water
- Gather wild blueberries in it
- Mark territory by tying to a tree in the woods
- As a blindfold to sleep past dawn
- Pad shoulders when carrying a load
- To tie extra stuff to a backpack
- Trail marker by tying to trees or fence posts
- Cover your face for a daytime nap
- Tie together and twist for a rope
- Clean your boots after stepping in manure
- Emergency repair for a strap on a pack
- Dry feet after going through a stream
- Plug nose after encountering a skunk
- Occupied sign on an outhouse by hanging on the door
- As toilet paper
- To check wind direction by holding up loosely and allowing the wind to blow it
- Sending smoke signals by covering and releasing smoke from a small fire.
- Distract a charging animal by waving it
- Shine your boots or shoes
Around town:

- Flag a passing motorist
- Flag down a taxi
- Cheer at a parade or sporting event
- Tie to the car antenna for easy spotting
- Tie to luggage for easy spotting

Apparel and Accessories:

- Scarf or neckerchief
- Handkerchief
- Headband
- Tie together for a belt
- Makeshift hat (knot at each corner)
- Mask for robbing stagecoaches
- Earmuffs
- Hatband
- Key chain
- Pocket protector
- Hobo pack
- Apron
- A patch for holey pants

Sports and Games Uses:

- To lead a line dance
- Blindfold for Pin the Tail on the Donkey
- Tie skis together to carry
- Kite tail
- For magic tricks
- A flag for capture the flag
- To wipe a muddy Frisbee after a day of “mud ultimate”
- A net to gather minnows for bait
- Mark home base line
- Relay baton
- To wipe sweaty hands when the chalk bag is empty
- Parachute for Barbie or Ken
In the kitchen:

- Plug sink drain
- Bib or napkin
- Placemat or tablecloth
- Open a stuck jar
- Coffee filter or tea strainer
- Salad spinner
- Potholder
- Scrub dishes
- Polish fruit

Around the House:

- Wipe a tear
- Blow a nose
- Muffle a sneeze or cover a cough
- Clean eyeglasses
- Bookmark
- Book Cover
- Dog collar
- Muzzle a dog
- Blanket for the Chihuahua
- Cat Cape
- Fill with catnip
- Disguise your voice on the phone
- Wrap a gift
- Give as a gift
- Doll blanket
- Make into a doll
- Fly swatter
- Garden hose repair
- Decorate the Christmas tree
- Stuff to make a pillow
- Polish the car
- Car window shade
- Emergency diaper
- To distinguish twins

Emergency and Self Defense:

- As a sling
- Wrap a sprained ankle or wrist
- To secure a splint
- Surrender flag (make sure it’s white)
- Wrap around snow or ice for an ice pack
- As handcuffs to tie up the “bad guys”