

Required For



Preparation for:

Scout Rank 1a-1e, 2(all), 3(all), 4(all) & 5



Scouting Adventure

4 Den Meetings to complete

Takeaways

- Demonstrating the patrol method
- Helping ease the transition from Webelos Scouting to Boy Scouting
- Getting excited about the Boy Scout experience
- A Scout is loyal, obedient

1. Prepare yourself to become a Boy Scout by completing all of the items below:
 - a. Repeat from memory the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan. In your own words, explain the meaning of each to your den leader, parent, or guardian.
 - b. Explain what Scout spirit is. Describe for your den leader, parent, or guardian some ways you have shown Scout spirit by practicing the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan.
 - c. Give the Boy Scout sign, salute, and handshake. Explain when they should be used.
 - d. Describe the First Class Scout badge, and tell what each part stands for. Explain the significance of the First Class Scout badge.
 - e. Repeat from memory the Outdoor Code. In your own words, explain what the Outdoor Code means to you.
2. Visit a Boy Scout troop meeting with your den members, leaders, and parent or guardian. After the meeting, do the following:
 - a. Describe how the Scouts in the troop provide its leadership.
 - b. Describe the four steps of Boy Scout advancement.
 - c. Describe ranks in Boy Scouting and how they are earned.
 - d. Describe what merit badges are and how they are earned.
3. Practice the patrol method in your den for one month by doing the following:
 - a. Explain the patrol method. Describe the types of patrols that might be part of a Boy Scout troop.
 - b. Hold an election to choose the patrol leader.
 - c. Develop a patrol name and emblem (if your den does not already have one), as well as a patrol flag and yell. Explain how a patrol name, emblem, flag, and yell create patrol spirit.
 - d. As a patrol, make plans with a troop to participate in a Boy Scout troop's campout or other outdoor activity.
4. With your Webelos den leader, parent, or guardian, participate in a Boy Scout troop's campout or other outdoor activity. Use the patrol method while on the outing.
5. Do the following:
 - a. Show how to tie a square knot, two half hitches, and a taut-line hitch. Explain how each knot is used.
 - b. Show the proper care of a rope by learning how to whip and fuse the ends of different kinds of rope.
6. Demonstrate your knowledge of the pocketknife safety rules and the pocketknife pledge. Earn your Whittling Chip card if you have not already done so.

Recommendations

The Patrol Method should be introduced at the beginning of the Arrow of Light Year and used as the structure for the den, with the Patrol Leader taking on the Denner responsibilities. As elections are held for new Patrol Leaders/Denners throughout the year (frequency is dependent upon the size of your den), reintroduce the patrol method for both the existing boys and any new boys joining your den. Feel free to let them revise the patrol name, symbol, yell, and flag if necessary.

Patrol Leaders should be encouraged to do more planning for Den activities than they may have previously done as Denners. They should also take more charge of the regular meetings. Your Den Chief can act as Troop Guide for this new Patrol, and help the Patrol Leader run things as appropriate.

The focus of the BSA is to have the boys run this “game with a purpose” as Boy Scouts. This adventure is designed to help them understand and practice that, which may require you to step back into a more passive role as the Den Leader.



1. Prepare Yourself to Become a Boy Scout

A. Repeat from memory:

Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my Country, and to obey the Scout Law. To help other people at all times. To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

Scout motto

Be Prepared.

Scout slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily.

HINT: Open each den meeting by leading the boys in the Scout Oath and Law as well as flag ceremony and a religious observation. They may not know the Oath and Law at first, but like when they learned the Pledge of Allegiance, they will learn it through repetition if you are consistent in every den meeting. By the time they are ready to pass this off, they will have very little memorization left to do.

B. Explain Scout Spirit

Scout spirit is an ideal attitude that Scouts around the world are supposed to show, based on adherence to the Scout Oath and Law.

C. Give the Boy Scout sign, salute, and handshake.

Give your boys permission to start using the Boy Scout sign, salute, and handshake during your den meetings. Remind them that they are examples to the younger Cub Scouts, so they should continue with the Cub Scout sign, salute, and handshake at Pack Meetings.



D. Describe the First Class Scout badge, and tell what each part stands for.

Shape - The three-point design of the top half is like the north point of an old sailor's compass. This shows that a Scout is able to point the right way in life as truly as the compass points it in the field.

Three Points - The three points of the trefoil are like the three fingers used in the Scout sign. They stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: duty to God & country; duty to others; duty to yourself.

Eagle and Shield - The eagle and shield, national emblem of the US, stand for freedom and a Scouter's readiness to defend that freedom.

Two Stars - The two stars stand for truth and knowledge of the Scouting movement. They guide you by night and suggest a Scout's outdoor life.

Scroll - The scroll is turned up at the ends to remind us of the corners of a Scout's mouth raised in a smile as he does his duty. The Scout motto is printed across the scroll.

Knot - The knot attached to the bottom of the scroll represents the Scout slogan, Do a Good Turn Daily.



E. Repeat from Memory The Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to –

- **Be clean in my outdoor manners,**
 - I will treat the outdoors as a heritage.
 - I will take care of it for myself and others.
 - I will keep my trash and garbage out of lakes, streams, fields, woods, and roadways.
- **Be careful with fire,**
 - I will prevent wildfire.
 - I will build my fires only where they are appropriate.
 - When I have finished using a fire, I will make sure it is “cold out.”
 - I will leave a clean fire ring, or remove all evidence of my fire.
- **Be considerate in the outdoors, and**
 - I will treat public and private property with respect.
 - I will use low-impact methods of hiking and camping.
- **Be conservation minded.**
 - I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy.
 - I will urge others to do the same.

2. Visit a Boy Scout troop meeting with your den members, leaders, and parent or guardian.

Plan more than one of these meetings during your year to ensure everyone in the Den has an opportunity to attend the meeting. You may wish to visit different troops, to show the boys differences in organization, or more advanced families, like Varsity, Venture, and/or Sea Scouts.

After the meeting, do the following:

A. Describe how the Scouts in the troop provide its leadership.

Are the Boy Scouts leading the meeting, or listening to adults? Do they have specific jobs to do, or are they relying on the adults to do it?

B. Describe the four steps of Boy Scout advancement.

1. The Scout Learns

He learns by doing, and as he learns, he grows in his ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others; and in this way he learns and develops leadership.

2. The Scout Is Tested

The unit leader authorizes those who may test and pass the Scout on rank requirements. They might include his patrol leader, senior patrol leader, an assistant unit leader, another Scout, or the unit leader himself. Merit badge counselors teach and test him on requirements for merit badges.

3. The Scout Is Reviewed

After he has completed all requirements for a rank, the Scout meets with a board of review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life ranks, and Eagle Palms, members of the unit committee conduct it. See "Particulars for Tenderfoot Through Life Ranks (or Palms)," 8.0.2.0. The Eagle Scout board of review is held in accordance with National Council and local council procedures.

4. The Scout Is Recognized

When the board of review has approved his advancement, the Scout deserves recognition as soon as possible. This should be done at a ceremony at the next unit meeting. His achievement may be recognized again later, during a formal court of honor.

C. Describe ranks in Boy Scouting and how they are earned.



The ranks in Boy Scouting must be earned sequentially, no matter what age a boy joins the program.

The Scout rank determines if you've learned about Scouting. You will pass off the same requirements for this adventure to get your Scout rank.

Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks are oriented toward learning and practicing skills that will help the Scout develop confidence and fitness, challenge his thought processes, introduce him to his responsibilities as a citizen, and prepare him for an exciting and successful Scouting experience.

Requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class may be passed at any time after the Scout badge has been earned. For example, a Scout working toward Tenderfoot may fulfill and be signed off on all the first aid-related requirements for all three of the ranks.

must do. Just telling about it isn't enough. The same thing holds true for such words as "make," "list," "in the field," and "collect," "identify," and "label."

Merit Badges are to be worn on a BSA Merit Badge Sash. This sash is worn on formal occasions, such as public ceremonies and Court of Honor.



Required merit badges can alternatively be worn on the right sleeve of a long-sleeved uniform.

3. Practice the patrol method in your den for one month by doing the following:

A. Explain the patrol method. Describe the types of patrols that might be part of a Boy Scout troop.

The patrol is a group of Scouts who belong to a troop and who are probably similar in age, development, and interests. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in a small group outside the larger troop context, working together as a team and sharing the responsibility of making their patrol a success. A patrol takes pride in its identity, and the members strive to make their patrol the best it can be. Patrols will sometimes join with other patrols to learn skills and complete advancement requirements. At other times they will compete against those same patrols in Scout skills and athletic competitions.

The members of each patrol elect one of their own to serve as patrol leader. The troop determines the requirements for patrol leaders, such as rank and age. To give more youths the opportunity to lead, most troops elect patrol leaders twice a year. Some may have elections more often.

Patrol size depends upon a troop's enrollment and the needs of its members, though an ideal patrol size is eight Scouts. Patrols with fewer than eight Scouts should try to recruit new members to get their patrol size up to the ideal number.

Types of Patrols

There are three kinds of patrols: new-Scout patrols, regular patrols, and Venture patrols.

- 1 New-Scout patrols are for 11-year-old Scouts who have recently joined the troop and are together for the first year in the troop. An older, experienced Scout often is assigned as a troop guide to help the new-Scout patrol through the challenges of troop membership. An assistant Scoutmaster should also

assist the new-Scout patrol to ensure that each Scout has every opportunity to succeed right from the start.

- 2 Regular patrols are made up of Scouts who have completed their First Class requirements. They have been around Scouting long enough to be comfortable with the patrol and troop operation and are well-versed in camping, cooking, and Scouting's other basic skills.
- 3 A Venture patrol is an optional patrol within the troop made up of Scouts age 13 and older. These troop members have the maturity and experience to take part in more challenging high-adventure outings. The Venture patrol elects a patrol leader, who works with an assistant Scoutmaster to put the patrol's plans into action.

B. Hold an election to choose the patrol leader.

When you accept the position of patrol leader, you agreed to provide service and leadership to your patrol and troop. As a patrol leader, you are expected to do the following:

- Plan and lead patrol meetings and activities.
- Keep patrol members informed.
- Assign each patrol member a specific duty.
- Represent your patrol at all patrol leaders' council meetings and the annual program planning conference.
- Prepare the patrol to participate in all troop activities.
- Work with other troop leaders to make the troop run well.
- Know the abilities of each patrol member.
- Set a good example.
- Wear the Scout uniform correctly.
- Live by the Scout Oath and Law.
- Show and develop patrol spirit.



TIP: Purchase a Patrol Leader emblem, Assistant Patrol Leader emblem, and emblems for any other position you would like to fill in the den, and pair each one with a temporary patch sleeve. Have the boys wear these to show their position in their Patrol.

C. Develop a patrol name and emblem (if your den does not already have one), as well as a patrol flag and yell. Explain how a patrol name, emblem, flag, and yell create patrol spirit.

Patrol spirit is the glue that holds the patrol together and keeps it going. Building patrol spirit takes time, because it is shaped by a patrol's experiences—good and bad. Often misadventures such as enduring a thunderstorm or getting lost in the woods will contribute much in pulling a patrol together. Many other

elements also will help build patrol spirit. Creating a patrol identity and traditions will help build each patrol member's sense of belonging.

Every patrol needs a good name. Usually, the patrol chooses its name from nature, a plant or animal, or something that makes the patrol unique. A patrol might choose an object for its outstanding quality. For example, sharks are strong swimmers and buffaloes love to roam. The patrol may want to add an adjective to spice up the patrol name, such as the Soaring Hawks or the Rambunctious Raccoons.



A patrol flag is the patrol's trademark, and it should be a good one. Have a competition to see who comes up with the best design and who is the best artist. Make the flag out of a heavy canvas and use permanent markers to decorate it. In addition to the patrol name, the patrol flag should have the troop number on it as well as the names of all the patrol members. Mount the flag on a pole, which also can be decorated. Remember, the patrol flag should go wherever the patrol goes.

Every patrol has a patrol yell, which should be short and snappy. Choose words that fit the patrol's goals. Use the yell to announce to other patrols that your patrol is ready to eat or has won a patrol competition. Some patrols also have a patrol song.

Other patrol traditions include printing the patrol logo on the chuck box and other patrol property. Many troops designate patrol corners somewhere in the troop meeting room; patrols may decorate their corner in their own special way. Some patrols like to specialize in doing something extremely well, such as cooking peach cobbler or hobo stew.

D. As a patrol, make plans with a troop to participate in a Boy Scout troop's campout or other outdoor activity.



4. Use the patrol method while on the outing.

5. Do the following:

A. Show how to tie a square knot, two half hitches, and a taut-line hitch. Explain how each knot is used.

Use the EDGE method to teach the boys how to tie these knots by standing next to them with your own rope and perform the knot with them until they understand how to tie it and can tie it on their own.

Tie the Square Knot



Two Half Hitches



Use two half-hitches to tie a rope around a post. Pass the end of the rope around the post. Bring the end over and under the body of the rope (known as the standing part), then back through the loop thus formed. That makes a half hitch. Take the end around the standing part a second time and tie another half hitch. Pull it snug.

Taut-line Hitch



The taut-line hitch is tied to a line that is tight, or taut. Use it to tighten or loosen a tent guyline by pushing the hitch up or down. Here's how:

Pass the line around the tent stake. Bring the end under and over the standing part and twice through the loop you have formed.

Again bring the rope end under, over, and through the loop, but this time farther up the standing part. Work any slack out of the knot, then slide the hitch to adjust the tension on the line.

Easy setup of a Dining Fly or Tent

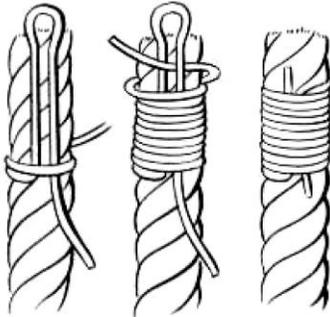
Between two trees, roughly the width of your tarp, tie one end of a rope to one tree using two half hitches. Wrap the rope around the second tree and tie that line with a taut-line hitch and pull it tight. Throw the tarp over it to create a tent or dining fly.

B. Show the proper care of a rope by learning how to whip and fuse the ends of different kinds of rope.

Use the EDGE to teach the boys how to whip and fuse a rope. Stand next to them and perform the task with them until they understand it and can perform it on their own.

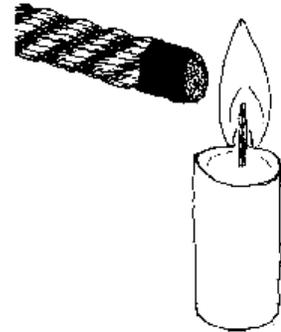
Whipping:

If the cut end is left un-whipped, the rope will fray or untwist, and lose strength. Whip the ends of ropes to prevent fraying and prolongs the life of the rope.



Instructions

Lay twine (or dental floss) on rope to form a loop. Wrap the twine around with neat, tight bindings until the length of whipping is two to three times the diameter of the rope. Pull the working end of twine through the loop. Pull hard on the other end of the twine to draw tight under the wraps. Cut off loose ends and roll the whipping under foot.



Fusing:

Tape the nylon, polyester, polypropylene rope around the area to be cut. Cut in middle of the tape leaving tape intact on each side. When cutting these fibers with a pocket knife or scissors, the cut ends should be fused with a match or candle flame to prevent untwisting. Natural fiber ropes do not fuse.

6. Demonstrate your knowledge of the pocket knife safety rules and the pocket knife pledge.

Safety Rules

A pocket knife is an important tool. You can do many things with its blades. The cutting blade is the one you will use most of the time. With it you can make shavings and chips and carve all kinds of things.

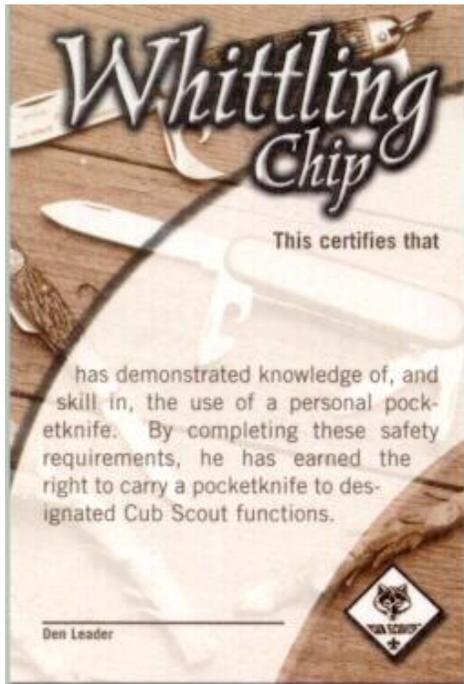
- Take good care of your knife.
- Always remember that a knife is a tool, not a toy.
- Use care to protect yourself and others.
- Think when you whittle or carve.

Pocket knife Pledge

In return for the privilege of carrying a pocketknife to designated Cub Scout functions, I agree to the following:

1. I will treat my pocketknife with the respect due a useful tool.
2. I will always close my pocketknife and put it away when not in use.
3. I will not use my pocketknife when it might injure someone near me.
4. I promise never to throw my pocketknife for any reason.
5. I will use my pocketknife in a safe manner at all times.

Earn your Whittling Chip card if you have not already done so.



The Whittling Chip card certifies that a Cub Scout has earned the right to carry a pocketknife to designated Cub Scout functions. Cub Scouts are encouraged to learn safety rules and the proper use of a pocketknife. Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts may earn the right to carry a pocketknife to designated Scouting functions by completing requirements for the Whittling Chip card during a Whittling Chip Course. Cub Scout-age boys may not use sheath knives.

When a Cub Scout completes the requirements they will be awarded a Cub Scout Whittling Chip Wallet Card and/or Patch. The Whittling Chip patch may be worn on the uniform shirt, centered on the right pocket as a temporary patch, or on the boy's patch vest. **The patch is not worn as a pocket flap.**

If they earned this as a Bear, and the card hasn't been taken away by a leader or their parent(s), the boys may continue to use this card.

For boys who haven't earned their Whittling Chip card, they will need to complete the following:

1. Know the safety rules for handling a knife.
2. Show that you know how to take care of and use a pocketknife.
3. Make a carving with a pocketknife. Work with your den leader or other adult when doing this.
4. Demonstrate knowledge and skill in the use of a pocketknife.
 - Close the blade with the palm of your hand.
 - Never use a knife on something that will dull or break it.
 - Be careful that you do not cut yourself or any person nearby.
 - Never use a knife to strip the bark from a tree.
 - Do not carve your initials into anything that does not belong to you.
5. Take the Pocketknife Pledge:
 - I will treat my pocketknife with the respect due a useful tool.
 - I will always close my pocketknife and put it away when not in use.
 - I will not use my pocketknife when it might injure someone near me.
 - I promise never to throw my pocketknife for any reason.
 - I will use my pocketknife in a safe manner at all times.



Whittling Chip Course

This Whittling Chip course is designed to be taught over two classes, lasting approximately 1 hour each. The length of the course may vary depending on how many Scouts are in the Den.

The first class of the course introduces Scouts to knives, knife safety and some basic principles. They will also have an opportunity to whittle a shape out of soap using a butter knife. Between the first and second class the Scouts will work with their parents at home to make a carving. The second course reviews what was learned in the first part of the course and allows Scouts to work with each other. At the end of the second class Scouts (with written permission) will be presented with their Whittling Chip cards. The Whittling Chip patch will be presented at a Pack meeting.

Class I

What is a Knife?

First, a knife is a tool not a toy. It is not something to use during playtime. It is not something to use to threaten other people with. Knives are to help you complete a task.

Knives come in many shapes and sizes. Some have only one blade. Others may many blades and tools. Some are small; some are big. Generally, a good Scouting knife will have blade, a punch, a can opener and a screwdriver blade in a foldable design. The blade is usually a little over 2" long. Such a knife is usually all that a resourceful Cub Scout will need.

Hands On Demonstration:

Display a variety of knives. Explain knife uses and which a Cub Scout can carry. Cub Scouts are only allowed to carry pocketknives on Scout activities. If other knives are needed, kitchen knives for example, they will be brought and used by adults. Display a fixed blade (sheath or hunting) knife. Explain that a pocketknife will do almost anything these knives do. Show how a sheath knife attached to the belt could injure someone by bending over with the sheath pointed against the leg and/or the sheath pointed up toward the stomach. Demonstrate that if someone was to grab the knife from its sheath, the natural reaction is to grab the knife, which could result in severe cuts. Cub Scouts should not need to carry a fixed blade (sheath) knife.

Display a variety of pocketknives. Display straight edge and serrated blades. Show that some have only a few blades and some have many. Explain that many of the extra blades are seldom used or don't work well. Example: Having fork and spoon blades on the knife would mainly be useful when backpacking, at other times you usually have better silverware available. They should learn the proper way to use each blade on their knife. Display a pair of scissors. Show how these are two knife blades that cut against each other. Explain that they should be treated with the same respect and safety rules as any other knife.

Display various kitchen knives like a table knife, paring knife, bread knife, and a butcher knife. Explain what they are used for. Explain that since they will probably use these in a kitchen in the future, they should be treated with the same respect and safety rules. Display a lock blade knife. Explain that the lock is a safety feature that keeps the blade from accidentally closing on the fingers. These may be better for the boys if they can release the lock easily enough. Some locks are hard to release and could result in an injury if the knife slips while trying to release the lock.

Getting started using a knife

If an accident happens

- Always tell an adult --especially if someone was injured and is bleeding.
- If the cut is minor, clean and treat it according to First Aid rules. If the cut is serious, get help quick. If you get "stabbed" by more than about $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the knife blade, do not pull it out unless you have too. The knife blade will help keep pressure on the wound and prevent heavy bleeding.

Safe Zone

Before you open or use your knife, you need to be sure that the area around you is safe and secure. Establish a "safe zone" or "blood circle" around you to protect yourself and other people and animals.

Do this:

- Choose a spot with fairly level ground
- Make sure that there are no small children or pets close by, even if they are outside of your safe zone
- Stand up with one arm out by your side, holding your CLOSED knife
- Slowly rotate yourself around
- If you hit something or someone, move until you can do this without interference
- Make sure that nothing or no one is in the imaginary circle that creates
- If you are going to sit, make sure that you have something steady and secure --the ground works really good for this
- If you are going to stand, make sure that your feet are secure and that the area is not slippery or contains items that may trip you if you move

Once you can do this, you have established your safe zone. At any time after you begin using your knife, the safe zone becomes unsafe, immediately stop and close your knife until it is safe again.

Hands on Demonstration:

Explain to the boys that anytime they are using a knife they should have a "safety zone" around them. Demonstrate holding your arm out as far as possible holding an object like a ruler and turning around. The boys should learn that whenever they are using a knife, they should be the only person in their safety zone. If someone else enters their circle for any reason they should close their knife and lay it down.

Explain to them that they are also responsible for anyone entering the circle, even from behind, so unless they have eyes in the back of their head, suggest that they always work with a wall behind them. Show them how someone could surprise them from behind and if they turn quickly holding a knife, they could hurt someone.

How to safely open a knife

Be sure that you establish your "safe zone" before you open your knife. Hold the knife in one hand, with the blade side facing away from you, and open the blade with your other hand. Most blades have a small semi-circle cut into the blade near the top to give you better hold on the blade while opening it. You can use your fingernail or grab that edge with your fingers to pull the blade open. Be sure to hold the sides of

the knife firmly as you open the blade. It is often easier to open if you pull both the blade and the knife apart at the same time --use a motion similar to those of bird wings flapping up.

Never sling the knife to “pop open” the blade. Be sure that the blade opens all the way; some will “click” when the blade is fully opened. If necessary, immediately turn the knife so that the point and blade edge face away from you.

Before you use it

Before you use your knife, do a quick inspection. If the knife handle or blade is loose, do not use it until it can be repaired. If the knife blade is cracked, broken or chipped, do not use the knife.

If the knife is too small for your hands or too heavy to easily control, do not use the knife.

How to safely handle a knife

It is important that you learn how to correctly and properly handle a knife.

Do's

- Remember to keep the knife closed when not being used
- Remember to keep the knife in your pocket
- Always hold the knife in the same hand that you would hold a pencil in
- Always keep the blade point and edge away from you --and anyone else who may be near
- Hold the knife tightly, but not so tight that your knuckles turn white
- If you have to carry an open knife (or scissors), always walk carefully with the blade pointed away from you and to the side
- Always cut or carve by moving the knife blade away from you

Don'ts

- When a knife blade is opened, never hold the knife by the blade, but always by the handle
- Never run or jump with the knife blade open
- Never use a knife to dig in the dirt
- Never cut the bark from a live tree
- Never carve on anything that does not belong to you
- Never throw your knife
- Never pry with your knife
- Never use the blade as a screwdriver
- Never leave your knife lying where a younger child could get it

If you drop a knife

If you accidentally drop an open knife, never try to catch it. Quickly step back and wait until it fails to pick it up. Before you use it again, always inspect the knife and blade for any damage.

Passing a knife

Whenever you need to pass the knife to another person, always close the knife first. Never throw the knife. While holding one end of the knife, allow the person to get hold of the other end of the knife. Do not release your hold on the knife until the person taking it from you says "Thank You". This indicates that the other person realizes that they are receiving the knife and are ready to accept responsibility for it. After hearing the "Thank You", say "You're Welcome" as you release the knife. This indicates that you have released the responsibility for the knife to the other person.

If you must pass a "fixed" or non-closing knife, firmly hold the dull side of the knife blade while extending the knife handle to the other person. Never throw the knife. Allow that person to grasp the knife blade and say "Thank You" before releasing the blade. The other person should hold the knife steady until you have released your hold on the knife.

Hands on Exercise:

Use a plastic silverware knife. Apply a small amount of bright red lipstick along the cutting edge. Show the boys how to hold the knife by the back (dull) side of the blade and pass it to another person, handle first using the same "thank you – you're welcome". After passing the knife around to everyone, including parents, check for lipstick on everyone's hands. Any lipstick marks indicate that the person could have been cut by a sharp blade.

How to safely close a knife

Wipe the blade clean. Hold the knife handle so that the point and edge of the blade are facing away from you and your fingers are not under the blade. If the blade has a lock, disengage the lock with your other hand. Slowly close the blade with the palm of your hand against the back of the blade. Once closed, place the knife back into your pocket for added safety.

How to cut

Hold the knife in the hand that you use to write with. This is your dominant hand and you will be able to better control the knife with this hand. Grasp the handle with your whole hand. Position the blade at a slant, pointing away from you. To cut, begin the cut then move the blade away from your body. If this is not possible, position yourself to the side of the object you are cutting. If you are cutting completely through something, be aware of what is under the object you are cutting. Cutting on rock, dirt, metal, some plastics, etc. can dull the knife blade as the cut is made. Always use something that 'gives' under the object (such as cardboard or a cutting board).

If you are carving or whittling, always hold the object you are cutting securely in front of you, place the blade against the object and apply slight pressure while moving the blade away from your body. It is better to make several cuts using light pressure than one cut by forcing the blade.

Hands on Exercise:

Let the boys practice carving on soft bar of soap with wooden craft stick knives or plastic tableware knives. This will allow them to start getting the feel of using a knife. Show the boys how to cut long thin shavings by cutting at the proper angle. Also show them how to carve out chips by making the first cut down into the soap and making a second angled cut until it reaches the first cut. Watch to see that they

are cutting off the thin shavings and small chips like they should. This will also let you catch some possible safety problems early and with less chance of a serious cut.

Homework

After the Scout has demonstrated good aptitude with the soap carving project, you can let them try their hands at carving and whittling wood. A good choice is balsa as it is lightweight and not too “tough”. It is a good idea to have some simple shapes (such as ice cream cones, cowboy hats or boots, etc) that can be traced onto the wood for a pattern. If you choose to do smaller patterns, you can mount the finished carvings onto a small piece of PVC and make neckerchief slides.

Please work with your Scout at home in making a carving with his pocketknife and bring the carving to Class II to share with his fellow Scouts.

Class II

How to care for a knife

Keep the knife clean and dry. Keeping the knife clean and dry will help prevent rust and keep the knife from getting “tight”. Rust will cause the knife to become dull and can make the blade weak. If a knife has become wet, be sure that it is completely dried. If possible, rub a thin coat of oil on the metal parts to help prevent rust and ensure that the knife opens smoothly. Never clean the knife in a dishwasher, always clean by hand. It is OK to use dish soap on the blade, but be sure that it gets completely rinsed and dried.

If you will be using the blade to cut food, be sure that the knife gets cleaned both before and after use. Knives can become dirty from being carried in your pocket. Also, be sure that the knife is properly cleaned to prevent cross contamination of food items. Keep the knife sharp

Be sure your knife is sharp. A sharp knife is safer to use than a dull knife because it does not require as much force to cut. Using too much force can cause the blade to slip, possibly resulting in an injury. The tip of the blade is often the part that dulls the quickest. This is because it is often in contact with other surface materials as you cut. When sharpening, be sure that you remember to sharpen the tip.

Sharpen the knife using stones usually called whetstones. These stones come in many sizes and “grits”, which describe the size of the stone’s particles. Rougher grits have smaller numbers and mean that their stones are made of large particles. These stones are used for grinding and repairing the edge of the blade, not for fine sharpening. Smoother grits have larger numbers, meaning that the stones are made of smaller particles. The larger the number, the finer the edge the stone will produce. These are the sharpening stones. Whetstones require some type of lubricant. Some use oil and some use water. Water stones are more practical because water is more easily obtained in most places.

Sharpening Steps

1. Place the stones on a level surface.
2. Wet the stone with a little water or oil.
3. Place the blade of the knife flat on the stone, then raise the back edge about the width of the blade itself, keeping the cutting edge on the stone.

4. Draw the knife straight back toward you, or move it straight back and forth putting pressure on it only when you pull it toward you. This is always better than moving it in a circular fashion.
5. Turn the blade over and repeat on the other side an equal number of times.
6. Repeat steps 1 thru 5 on a finer grit stone until the knife has a smooth, sharp edge.
7. If you have some leather available, you can use this to finish the edge by dragging the blade edge along the leather. Repeat the same number of strokes on each side of the blade.

Hands on Practice

Allow the Scouts to “practice” knife sharpening using a home-made stone and knife. Use a wood block with sandpaper glued to it and sharpen a craft stick into a knife shape. Show the boys how to angle the blade against the stone (or stick against the sanding block) to produce a sharp edge. Explain the importance of sharpening equally on both sides of the blade to prevent an uneven edge.

Cleaning your knife

Cleaning your knife is very important, if you let too much grime, grease, and grit build up, then it will be harder to clean your knife. Keep it as clean as you can while out in the field and do a more thorough job when you get home. Additionally, always keep the hinges of your knife lubricated either with light cooking oil, sewing oil or WD-40. Regularly check your knife for trouble spots. Inspect the blade for areas of rust. As soon as you see any rust spots you should immediately clean them. Inspect the handle. You are looking for any buildup of dust, dirt or grime. Especially inspect along the inside of the blade bed as well as around any pivot points.

To clean your knife, unfold all the blades. Using either a cotton swab, corner of a towel or a toothbrush, apply lubricant to the knife. The lubricant helps loosen any gunk or buildup on the knife. Use the toothbrush to scrub any hard-to-get places. Wipe off the excess (now dirty) oil with a towel and apply a drop of clean lubricant to the hinges. Apply a layer of oil to the blades and wipe of the excess oil.

Knife Safety Quiz

As a check to ensure that all Scouts understand the topics discussed as part of this course, have them complete a knife safety quiz. You can choose to have each Scout take the test individually or complete the quiz as a group. If you choose the group option, it may be good to have a completed copy of the quiz to send home with each Scout for later review.

Whittling Chip Pledge

Now that you have completed the knife safety course, you are eligible to be awarded the Whittling Chip. The final requirement in the course is that you agree to abide by the safe knife policy by signing the “Safe Knife Pledge”.

Knife Safety Quiz

Part I: Circle the correct answer

- True / False 1. A knife is NOT a toy.
- True / False 2. A dull knife is safer than a sharp knife.
- True / False 3. Dirt on a knife blade helps keep it sharp.
- True / False 4. Never carve your initials on anything that does NOT belong to you.
- True / False 5. When someone hands you a knife you say "Thank You" to show good manners.
- True / False 6. A knife is handy for cutting bark off trees.
- True / False 7. A pocketknife should always be closed when it is not in use.
- True / False 8. It's okay to keep your knife wet.
- True / False 9. A Cub Scout can take his knife to a pack meeting at the school if school is out.
- True / False 10. You should carry your open knife in your pocket.
- True / False 11. You should close the blade with the palm of your hand
- True / False 12. A Cub Scout should carry a fixed blade knife if it is kept in a sheath.

Part II: Fill in the blank

- Close the blade with the _____ of your hand.
- A _____ should never be used on something that will dull or break it.
- People watching you work with your knife should not enter your _____.
- Your knife should always be kept _____ and _____.
- Scissors should be handled with the same safety rules as a _____.
- Always _____ when carrying a knife or scissors.

Part III: Circle the correct answer

- Always keep your knife (dry / wet) so it will not rust.
- When using a knife, do not make (big / little) shavings or chips.
- A (dull / sharp) knife is more likely to cut you.
- A Cub Scout (can / cannot) take his knife to a den meeting at school if it is held outside.
- A knife should be cleaned (before / after) cutting food.
- A fixed blade knife or scissors should be passed to another person (blade / handle) first.

The Pocketknife Pledge (fill in the blanks)

- I understand the reason for _____ rules.
- I will treat my pocketknife with the _____ due a useful tool.
- I will always _____ my pocketknife and put it away when not in use.
- I will not use my pocketknife when it might _____ someone near me.
- I _____ never to throw my pocketknife for any reason.
- I will use my pocketknife in a safe manner at _____ times.

Choices: Close Respect Injure Promise All Safety

Knife Safety Quiz Answers

Part I: Circle the correct answer

- True 1. A knife is NOT a toy.
- False 2. A dull knife is safer than a sharp knife.
- False 3. Dirt on a knife blade helps keep it sharp.
- True 4. Never carve your initials on anything that does NOT belong to you.
- False 5. When someone hands you a knife you say "Thank You" to show good manners.
- False 6. A knife is handy for cutting bark off trees.
- True 7. A pocketknife should always be closed when it is not in use.
- False 8. It's okay to keep your knife wet.
- False 9. A Cub Scout can take his knife to a pack meeting at the school if school is out.
- False 10. You should carry your open knife in your pocket.
- True 11. You should close the blade with the palm of your hand
- False 12. A Cub Scout should carry a fixed blade knife if it is kept in a sheath.

Part II: Fill in the blank

- Close the blade with the __PALM__ of your hand.
- A __POCKETKNIFE__ should never be used on something that will dull or break it.
- People watching you work with your knife should not enter your __SAFE__ __ZONE__.
- Your knife should always be kept __CLEAN__ and __DRY__.
- Scissors should be handled with the same safety rules as a __KNIFE__.
- Always __WALK__ when carrying a knife or scissors.

Part III: Circle the correct answer

- Always keep your knife (dry) so it will not rust.
- When using a knife, do not make (big) shavings or chips.
- A (sharp) knife is more likely to cut you.
- A Cub Scout (cannot) take his knife to a den meeting at school if it is held outside.
- A knife should be cleaned (before / after) cutting food.
- A fixed blade knife or scissors should be passed to another person (handle) first.

The Pocketknife Pledge (fill in the blanks)

- I understand the reason for __SAFETY__ rules.
- I will treat my pocketknife with the __RESPECT__ due a useful tool.
- I will always __CLOSE__ my pocketknife and put it away when not in use.
- I will not use my pocketknife when it might __INJURE__ someone near me.
- I __PROMISE__ never to throw my pocketknife for any reason.
- I will use my pocketknife in a safe manner at __ALL__ times.

After the course

Now that your Scout has earned his Whittling Chip, he can bring his pocket knife to Scouting functions when the leadership deems it appropriate.

Appropriate

- Campout

Not Appropriate

- It is never appropriate to bring the knife to school for a Pack or Den function.

If you will be buying your Scout a knife, here are a couple of suggestions. Please take the time to find a knife that you feel will be appropriate for your Scout.

- A single blade, lock back knife may be a good knife for your Scout. However, if they are not strong enough to release the lock it may make the knife dangerous.
- Stay away from the Swiss Army style knives, the simpler the better and these large knives might not properly fit the hand of younger Scouts.
- Serrated knives are harder to sharpen than non-serrated.
- No fixed blades.
- It is a good idea to purchase a sharpening stone to keep the knife sharp.