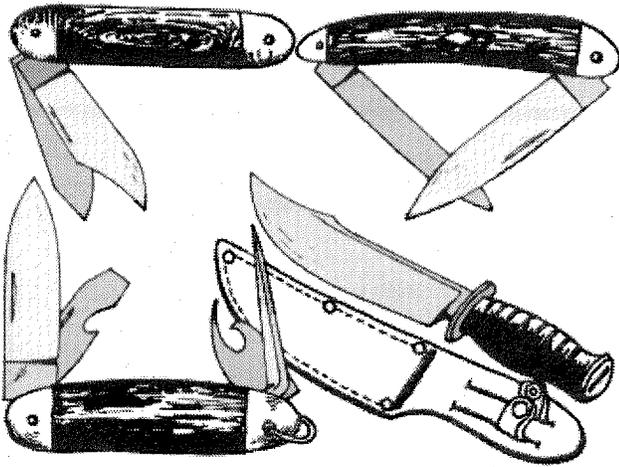




Knife Safety



Here is an activity that make many leaders are leery but can be a very positive influence on the boys. All boys will encounter knives sooner or later in Boy Scouting. Those that learned knife safety early and learned it well, have a definite advantage, since they will be given knives and expected to use them in Webelos and Boy Scouting.

Use your Den Chief or draft an Eagle Scout from a nearby troop to teach knife safety. Either should be knowledgeable and happy to help. Sometimes, the Cubs listen better to someone nearer their age. However, you should know how to handle a knife and its safety.

Safety Rules

Have enough adult supervision!

- If sitting at a table, have Cub Scouts put legs under. If sitting on the ground have them sit with their legs spread apart.
- No two people should be within reaching distance of an open knife. This means boys must be taught not to approach someone with an open knife since anyone with an open knife will not be moving anyway.
- Watch the Cubs closely, making sure their fingers and legs are kept clear of the knife blade.

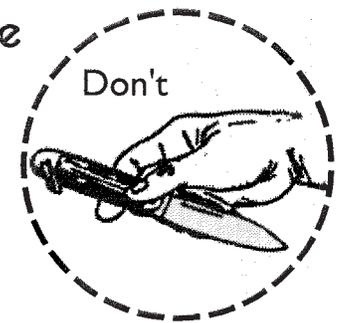
Moving With an Exposed Blade

Don't! Always close your knife before moving to a new location. If an exposed blade, such as a paring knife is being used, set it down and have the next person pick it up. This is also true when using any sharp object such as scissors.

Passing a Knife

Handing a knife from one to another should only happen in this sequence:

- First, the knife is closed.
- Then, the boy with the knife holds it out where the recipient can also grasp the knife.
- The boy with the knife does not let go until the recipient says, **“Thank You”**. This lets the offerer know the recipient has a firm grasp on the knife and is ready to assume responsibility.



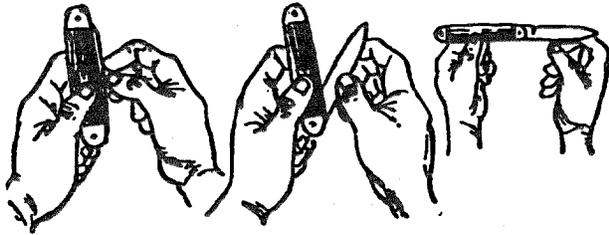
Toting Chips

Toting Chips are cards signifying that the bearer has passed a knife safety course and can be purchased blank from the Kansas City Scout Shop. Many packs have a policy of tearing a corner from the “chip” if a boy violates the rules for the first time. A second violation results in confiscation of the knife which is given to a parent with a requirement the boy must pass knife safety again before it can be returned.

Whatever enforcement method is used, never let knife safety be ignored.

Opening a Pocket Knife

1. To open a pocket knife, hold in left and, put right thumbnail into nail slot.
2. Pull blade out while pushing against hinge with little finger of left hand.
3. Continue to hold on handle and blade until blade snaps into open position.



Closing a Pocket Knife

1. To close a pocket knife hold handle with left hand with fingers safely on the sides.
2. Push against back of blade with fingers of right hand, swing handle up to meet blade.
3. Letting knife snap shut "kick" at base of blade keeps edge from touching inside handle.
4. For both the opening and closing process, both the blade and handle should be grasped firmly with the fingers on the sides. Holding the blade and handle gives more control than using an open palm to close the blade and is no more dangerous if the fingers stay clear of the sharpened edge.



Sharpening a Pocket Knife

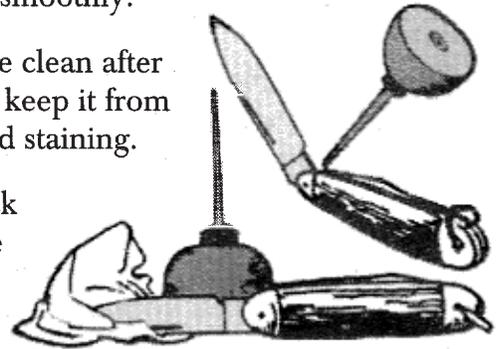
1. Moisten stone. Lay blade edge on stone. Raise back of blade about 1/8 inch above stone.
2. Sharpen against the edge (as if peeling off the top of stone) moving the blade toward you off the stone at the same time.
3. On every other stroke sharpen other side of blade, going the other way on the stone. Clean the stone after use.

Caring for a Pocket Knife

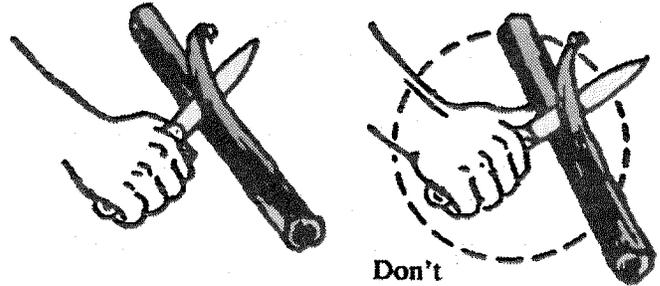
Oil blades at the joints to keep blades operating smoothly.

Wipe knife clean after using it to keep it from rusting and staining.

Never stick your knife in the ground

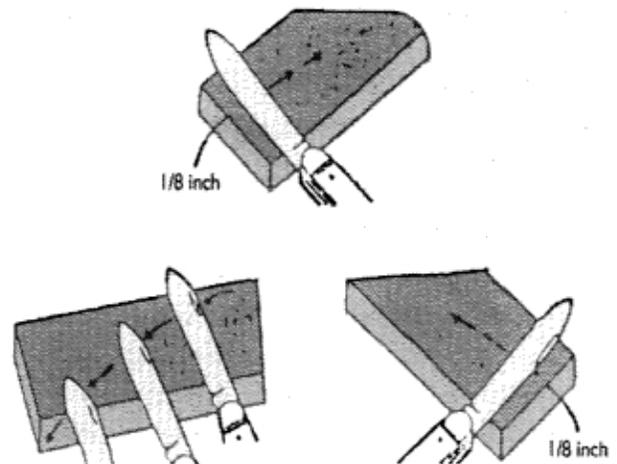


Using a Pocket Knife



Take a firm grasp on the handle. Push with whole hand, not with thumb.

Whittle away from you. Be sure that nothing (leg, another person, branch) is in the way of the sweep your knife will take if it slips. Move your hand over the arc the knife might cover, just to be sure.



Friendship Stick

The friendship stick is made of green wood and is a symbol of friendship. It is curved to fit the curve of the earth, symbolizing that friendship can grow just as the trees in the forest grow.

1. The green circle at the bottom is for Faith in God and one another. It is the first ring on the stick because it is the basis of a happy, meaningful life.
2. The next four circles represent the races of the world: red, yellow, white and black.
3. The green of Hope is above the races. This is the hope of the future—that everywhere people will try to overcome any difference of opinion and human failing.
4. Thus the four races are bound by Faith and Hope, the path leading toward a central goal signifying the attachment of this unity.
5. The Cross and Star of David are symbols of the way for all races to come together and work for world peace.
6. The smiling face is the result of Friendship based on Faith, Hope and Unity. To be greeted by the smiling face of a friend is one of the greatest joys which can be experienced.
7. The face is crowned with green of the forest, symbolizing the wonderful outdoors, and the friendships developed therein.

A friendship stick must be carved by the giver. It shows time, thought and effort.

Prepare a friendship stick for each boy in the den. When you present the sticks, read the symbolism to them.

Then furnish each boy with a green stick, uncarved, and ask him to carve his own story in the stick. He can paint the symbols which he feels are appropriate to the story. When he is finished, he can show his stick to the den and tell what the symbols represent.

