



Whittling Chip Training Guide, 2017

Trainer Preparation: This is a guide for **parents or Den Leaders** to conduct the training exercises and program to teach proper and safe handling of pocket knives. This guide is appropriate for Bears, Webelos I and Webelos II Scouts. **This guide will work for one-on-one OR group trainings.** (Note: This Guide covers content from the Bear Claw Adventure in the BEAR HANDBOOK)

GATHER/DO IN ADVANCE:

- LOCATION: Training location should have enough room to establish each Scout's safe boundary (see Blood Circle on next page, about 6ft diameter).
- TIME: 2 hrs. for the training, the written test and the Scout presentation including the hands-on safety demonstration and soap carving demonstration.
 - o Ensure each Scout has at least one of these two types of POCKET knives:
 - Jackknife: 
 - Pen Knife: 
 - o Obtain "Whittling Chip" cards from your Pack's Advancement Chairperson, or the Scout Store (wallet card #34223A)
 - o Make a cardboard knife (see diagram below).
 - o Have on hand:
 - a first aid kit with latex gloves, soap & water
 - toothpick and cotton swab for knife cleaning demonstration
 - sharpening stone and oil for lubricating the stone
 - Ivory soap for carving practice (softer than other soaps). Open the soap and let it dry 24 hours in advance.
 - Cooking skewers or Orangewood sticks to draw the pattern in soap.
 - Red lipstick to put on the cutting edge just before the presentation.
 - Extra pocket knives in case your scout doesn't have one
 - A few different types of knives to show differences between knives (French knife, pairing knife, serrated knife)

Definition of Terms and Activities

The following is a list of the terms and activities to be taught during this training exercise.

Establishing The Blood Circle:

To establish a “Blood Circle,” grasp the closed pocketknife in your hand. Extend your arm with the closed knife straight in front of you. Rotate your body to either side while continuing to extend the closed knife arm. No one or thing should be in the imaginary circle that you have created. Also check your overhead clearance, as this is part of your safety circle. If someone enters the circle, the knife should be closed up and laid down.

Closing a pocket knife:

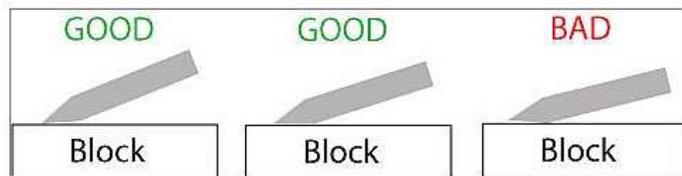
Hold handle in left hand with fingers safely on the sides. Push against the back of the blade with the heel of the right hand (sometimes easier for them to use the fingers instead of the heel), swing handle up to meet the blade. Let knife snap shut.

Passing a knife:

Always have the blade closed – never pass an open knife. The receiver should say “Thank you” to indicate that they have a good grip on the knife when taking it.

Sharpening a knife:

1. If the stone is large enough, place it on a level surface. Placing the stone on a dishtowel may limit slipping.
2. Wet the stone with a little water or oil (depending on the type of stone), unless it’s a dry or diamond stone.
3. Hold the handle of the knife in one hand and if the stone is on the table, place the fingers of your other hand on the flat of the blade as you lay the knife flat on the block with the blade facing away from you. Raise the knife slightly to bevel the edge of the blade for sharpening (about the width of the blade itself). Keep the knife at the same angle at all times.
4. Push the knife away from you, just like you are trying to carve a thin slice off the top of the stone, putting pressure on it as you slice. Repeat this PUSHING stroke 3 or 4 times. Try to keep the same sharpening angle.
5. all the time, since this is the key to obtaining the sharpest edge.
6. Turn the blade over. Place it at the far end of the stone and repeat the process on the other side an equal number of times by PULLING the knife toward you.
7. Wipe the blade off on a rag or towel. It will take 30 minutes to sharpen a dull knife, but once sharp, a minute a day will keep it in perfect shape.



Additional Den Leader Training Information:

<http://www.crossroadsbsa.org/pathfinder/ptc/whittlinchip.htm>

Training Course

Introduction: Your Cub Scout knife is an important tool. You can do many useful things with its blades, but must be very careful and alert when you whittle or carve. Take good care of your knife and always remember that a knife is a tool, not a toy. Use it with care so that you don't hurt yourself or ruin what you are carving.

Caring for your knife:

- A knife is a tool, not a toy.
- Never use your knife on something that will dull or break it (rocks, metal, cement, etc.)
- Never use your knife to cut living trees or plants, or poke it in the dirt. Moisture and dirt will ruin your knife.
- Keep your knife out of the fire. The heat will ruin the temper of the steel making the knife-edge soft and useless.
- Do not carve your initials into anything that does not belong to you
- Keep your knife dry and keep the blade clean. Wipe the blade before closing it.
- Clean your knife by hand; the heat and steam of the dishwasher can dull and damage the knife

Safety Rules:

- Establish a "Blood Circle". Before you pickup your knife to use it, stretch your arm out with closed pocketknife in hand and turn in a circle. If you can't touch anyone else, it's safe to use your knife. Demonstrate the "Blood Circle".
- Be alert; it may not be you who makes the mistake. Someone else may enter your Blood Circle by not being alert.
- When closing the blade, do so with the palm of your hand
- Always cut by pushing the knife away from you. Be sure your hands and body are out of the way.
- Never carry an open pocketknife.
- Always walk when carrying your knife – never run with it.
- Never throw your knife; it could easily deflect and hurt someone, or ruin the knife.
- A sharp knife is safer because it's less likely to slip and cut you. A sharp knife will "bite" the wood. Know how to sharpen your knife.
- When using the cutting blade, don't make big shavings or chips. Easy does it. Be careful not to cut yourself or anyone nearby.
- When you are not using your knife, close it and put it away. An open knife could hurt someone who doesn't realize it's there.
- Discuss cross contamination of food and the importance of cleaning the knife, not just wiping it off.

Taking Your Knife With You:

Knives are usually used as tools, but they can be weapons too. Many places do not allow knives. Always keep your knife at home unless your parent or Den Leader tell you otherwise. Places where knives are prohibited even if you have your Whittling Chip card with you:

- Knives are NOT allowed at School
- Knives are NOT allowed at Outdoor school events (school football games)
- Knives are NOT allowed at Airports
- Knives are NOT allowed at pack or den meetings, even after the Whittling Chip is obtained
- Knives are NOT allowed to be used at campouts unless there is adult supervision
- You must carry your Whittling Chip” card whenever you are using your knife.
 - o If you break any of the rules, a corner of the Whittling Chip card will be cut off.
 - o When the 4th corner is cut off, the card will be taken from you.
 - o If that happens, you must go through training again, in order to receive a new card.
 - o Any adult who feel safety has been violated can do the cutting of corners.
 - o For very serious infractions (such as threatening another scout), the card will be taken immediately.
- Cub Scouts (even Webelos) are not allowed to use an axe. Boy Scouts must earn the Totin’ Chip card. Webelos can use a bow saw after training.

Your knife and its sharpening stone are partners; where one is, the other should be also.

Hands on Training:

1. Discuss the difference between whittling and woodcarving.
2. Display different type of knives - knives with locking, non-locking blades, and fixed blades (not allowed). Scouts will be shown a French knife, pairing knife, and a serrated knife. Each will be explained for what they are used for. All types of knives must be treated with the same respect and safety rules.
1. Demonstrate how to safely open and close a pocket knife
2. Demonstrate how to pass a knife. (Blade closed, Insist on “Thank You”)
3. Pass around the Cardboard Knife and have them practice Open, Close and Pass the knife.
 - a. Apply red lipstick to the cutting edge of the cardboard knife.
 - b. The lipstick will transfer to the scouts hands if he unsafely handles the cutting edge.
4. Collect the Cardboard Knife, then check for lipstick on fingers
5. Demonstrate how to sharpen a knife.
6. Demonstrate how to clean the knife with toothpick and cotton swap
7. Using a bar of soap, demonstrate how to make a “stop cut” and “shaving cut” (Bear Handbook – 19b).
8. Demonstrate how to whittle away from yourself, not toward yourself

If Time Allows...More Hands on Training:

- Help each of them in turn to sharpen their knife
- Demonstrate the basics of how to carve a bar of soap. Show them how to use the skewer to draw the design, then rough out the basic pattern with their knife, then refine it. See “Soap Carving Instructions” for details.
- Give them a bar of soap and let them select a soap pattern and work on their own.
- Remind them to use a “stop cut” and make shavings not big chunks.

Final Quiz and hands-on Demonstration:

Have your scout take the written quiz and then have them preform the hands on demonstration of knife handling skills:

- Opening / closing the knife
- Demonstrating the establishing of a blood circle
- How to hold the knife safely
- How to sharpen the knife safely
- The soap carving demonstration

The Scout can take the Whittling Chip written test online. The Parent or Adult Leader hands on demonstration review forms can be completed online. Follow these links:

Scout Written Test: <https://goo.gl/forms/FhiLwRxbYbUzdpRP2>

Parent / Adult Leader review: <https://goo.gl/forms/wLw4t6KSACZ0ADWk1>

If you or your scout cannot access the online tests, please use the included written test and email your results to cubmaster@mvpack34.org .

Deadline for submitting completed written tests is **August 15, 2017.**

Whittling Chip Quiz:



Part I: Circle the correct answer

- True / False 1. It's OK to carry my knife to a Pack Meeting or school as long as I have my Whittling Chip card.
- True / False 2. As long as I get permission to bring my knife, I don't need to have my Whittling Chip card with me.
- True / False 3. Only a leader or **your** parent can cut off corners. Someone else's parent cannot.
- True / False 4. It's OK to bring your knife to a den meeting, if your Leader asks you to and your parents approve.
- True / False 5. It's OK to cut toward yourself.
- True / False 6. It's OK to pass an open knife as long as you're very careful.
- True / False 7. A dull knife is safer than a sharp knife.
- True / False 8. Dirt on a knife blade helps keep it sharp.
- True / False 9. Never carve your initials on anything that does NOT belong to you.
- True / False 10. When someone hands you a knife you say "Thank You" to show good manners.
- True / False 11. A pocketknife should always be closed when it is not in use, or in your pocket.
- True / False 12. You should close the blade with the palm of your hand
- True / False 13. A Cub Scout should carry a fixed blade knife if it is kept in a sheath.

Part II: Fill in the blank

1. Close the blade with the _____ of your hand.
2. A _____ should never be used on something that will dull or break it.
3. People watching you work with your knife should not enter your _____.
4. Your knife should always be kept _____ and _____.
5. Always _____ when carrying a knife.

Part III: Circle the correct answer

1. When using a knife, do not make (big / little) shavings or chips.
2. A (dull / sharp) knife is more likely to cut you.
3. A knife should be cleaned (before / after) cutting food.
4. A fixed blade knife should be passed to another person (blade / handle) first.

Part V – The Pocketknife Pledge: Fill in the blank

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

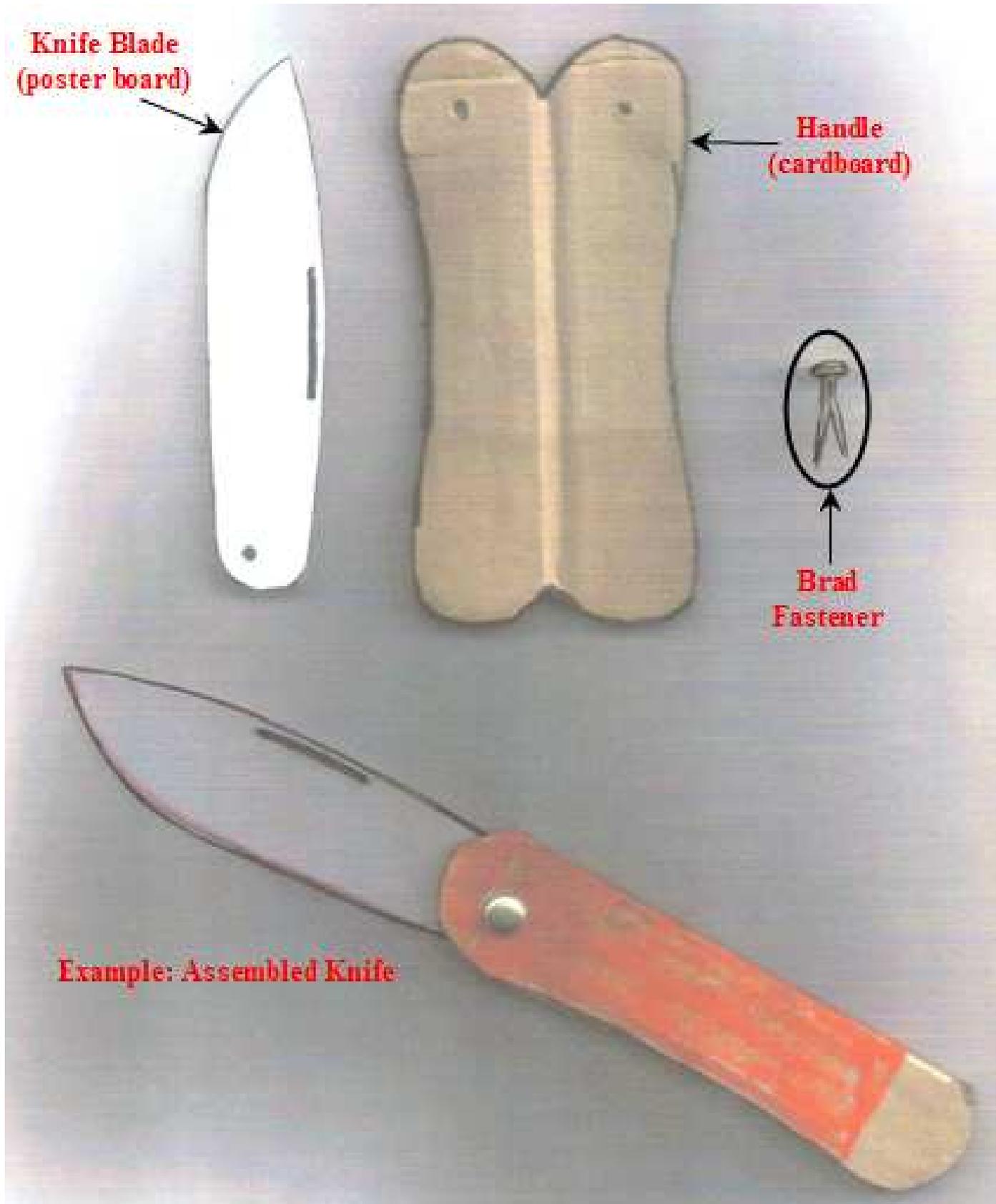
Whittling Chip Attendance:



	Scout Name	Den #	Den Leader Name
1			
2			
3			
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Cardboard Knife:

The following picture will help you to make a cardboard knife to use for the presentation. The picture below is actual size, so you can print it out and use it as a template to make the knife parts. Red lipstick should be applied to the cutting edge just before the presentation, in order to see if the scouts can open, close and pass a knife safely.



BEAR CLAWS





Pocketknives are great tools to have on campouts. You can use them to carve hiking sticks, cut up food when you are cooking, and even open bottles and cans. But you have to know how to use them the right way or you'll end up hurting yourself or others. Learning to use pocketknives—and making neat things with them—is what this adventure is all about.

When I was working on this adventure last year, my dad gave me the knife he carried when he was a Boy Scout. It was the coolest gift ever! Now I'm using it to carve a hiking stick to take on Webelos campouts. What will you make with your pocketknife?



Snapshot of Adventure

A pocketknife is a useful tool to have for Scouting activities. It can also be dangerous if you don't use it the right way. In this adventure, you will learn how to use a pocketknife safely. You will also get to learn the basics of carving.



A Scout is trustworthy. You can show that you are trustworthy by taking care of your pocketknife and using it safely.



REQUIREMENT 1 | Learn about three common designs of pocketknives.

Pocketknives come in all shapes and sizes. Some can be used for many different tasks. Others are designed for special purposes like fishing.

Three common designs used in Scouting are the jackknife, the penknife, and the multipurpose knife. Let's look at each type.

Jackknife

A jackknife is a good tool for campers and fishermen. It is hinged at only one end and may have one or two blades. Sometimes one blade has a very sharp point, while another blade has a more rounded point.



Some jackknives (and other knives) have locking blades. That means you have to push a release before you can close the blade.

Locking blades prevent you from accidentally closing the blade on your fingers.

Penknife

A penknife is small and lightweight, so it is easy to carry in your pocket. It is hinged at both ends and usually has one or two blades at each end. Penknives were originally designed to cut or sharpen quills used for writing. Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence with a quill pen.



Multipurpose Knife

Multipurpose knives can be used to do many things. In addition to one or two blades, a multipurpose knife might include a can opener, scissors, leather punch, tweezers, and screwdrivers.



These knives can be fun to have, but all those extra pieces can get in your way when you are just trying to carve or cut some string. Also, the more tools your knife includes, the heavier it will

be. Pick a multipurpose knife that has only the tools you really need.



Akela's OK

Date

Den Leader's OK



It's fun and useful to be able to carry a knife. Keep it clean, keep it sharp, and it will be ready when you need it.

REQUIREMENT 2 | Learn knife safety and earn your Whittling Chip.*

*One of the items carved for Bear Claws requirement 3 may be used to fulfill Whittling Chip requirement 3.

It is very important to be safe when you use your pocketknife.

In this requirement, you will learn the rules of knife safety and earn your Whittling Chip. When you have earned your Whittling Chip, you will be allowed to carry your pocketknife to designated Cub Scout activities. Your parent or den leader will tell you when you may bring your knife. Always keep your Whittling Chip card with you when you are carrying your knife.



A Scout is obedient. When you follow the rules of knife safety, you keep yourself from getting hurt and you show that you are obedient.

Knife Safety Rules to Learn and Live By

- ◆ A knife is a tool, not a toy.
- ◆ Know how to sharpen a knife. A sharp knife is safer than a dull knife because it is less likely to slip and cut you.

- ◆ Keep the blade clean and dry.
- ◆ Never carry an open pocketknife.
- ◆ When you are not using your knife, close it using the palm of your hand and put it away.
- ◆ When you are using the cutting blade, do not try to make big shavings or chips. Cut slowly and steadily.
- ◆ Make a safety circle. Before you pick up your knife to use it, stretch your arm out and turn in a circle. If you cannot touch anyone or anything else, it is safe to use your knife. While using your knife, be sure to watch in case someone walks toward you and gets too close. If that happens, put your knife away until it is safe to continue.
- ◆ Always cut away from you, never toward you.
- ◆ Never hand a knife to someone else blade first. Learn and use the “eye contact” method of handing a knife to someone else. Do not release the knife until the other person makes eye contact with you and acknowledges he is receiving the knife.



- ◆ Never use a knife on something that will dull or break it.
- ◆ Never throw a knife for any reason.
- ◆ Always think before you cut. Do not use your knife to strip bark from a tree or to carve your initials into something that does not belong to you.



Once you understand the safety rules, agree to abide by the Pocketknife Pledge, and have your den leader sign your card, you will have earned your Whittling Chip.

POCKETKNIFE PLEDGE

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 I am not using it.

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.

Keeping Your Knife Sharp

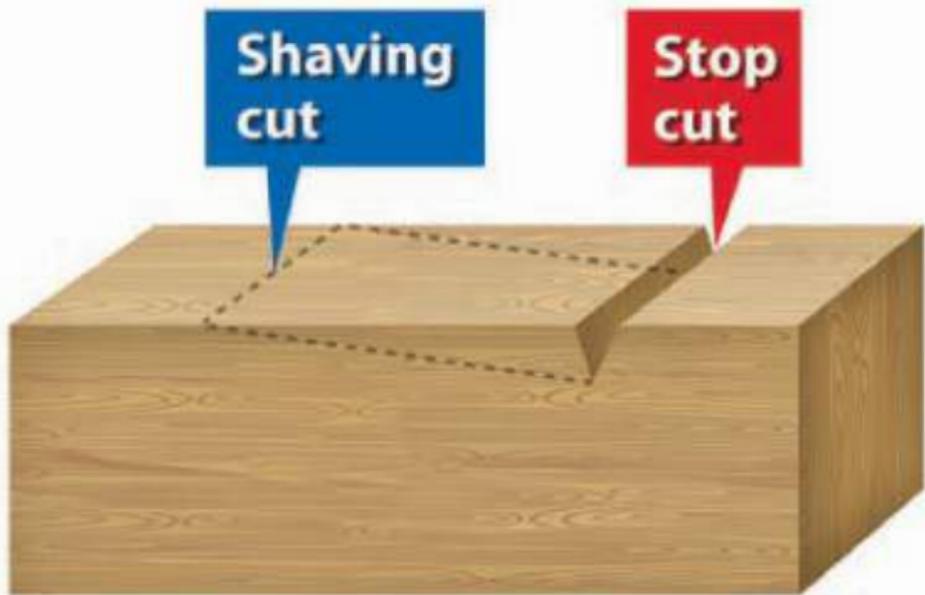
A good way to sharpen your knife is to use a sharpening stone. Lay the blade on the stone at a slight angle. Push the blade forward as if you were going to shave a thin sliver from the stone. Do not push down hard. Next, turn the blade over and shave the stone toward you. This is the only time you should move your knife toward yourself. Keep your fingers below the surface of the stone

to protect them. Continue this back-and-forth action until the edge is sharp along its entire length.



Making Stop Cuts

Here is a secret to use when you are whittling. Before you make a shaving cut, make a stop cut. At the place you want the shaving to stop, cut straight down with your knife. Press down and rock the blade back and forth until the cut is as deep as you want the shaving to go. This stop cut will prevent you from shaving off too much wood.



First Aid for Knife Cuts

Accidents can happen even when you are being careful. It is important that you know what to do if you or one of your fellow Scouts gets cut while using a pocketknife.

Small cuts in the skin can allow bacteria to enter the body and cause infection. Wash minor cuts with soap and water. Apply antibiotic ointment and cover with a dry, sterile dressing or an adhesive bandage to help prevent infection and protect the wound. Clean and rebandage wounds each day. If the cut is more serious, get help from an adult immediately.

Taking proper care of a wound will help prevent other health

issues like an infection.



Akela's OK

Date

Den Leader's OK



REQUIREMENT 3 | Using a pocketknife, carve two items.

It is fun to whittle sticks, but it is even more fun to make carvings of things like animals, acorns, and space aliens. A good way to learn to carve is to practice with a bar of soap. Carve a simple item and then try something a little harder.



What You Will Need

- ◆ A large bar of soap—it is best to unwrap the soap and let it dry for a day or two before you start carving
- ◆ A pocketknife
- ◆ One or two orangewood sticks (used for manicures) or a sheet of tracing paper
- ◆ Paper for sketching a design or a preprinted pattern
- ◆ A tray to work on—this will keep chips and shavings from going everywhere

What To Do

1. Choose a simple design that does not have too many projections or fine details. Start simple. You can pick a fancier design for your next carving.



2. Prepare the soap. Cut away the raised edges on the soap and scrape off the lettering. This will give you a nice, smooth block to work with.



3. Sketch the outline of your design on the soap. You can do this by drawing with an orangewood stick or by tracing your design using tracing paper.



4. Make your first rough cuts. Cut away small pieces and slices of the soap that are not part of your design. Do not cut big pieces; if you do, the soap might break. Leave a margin of about one-quarter inch outside your outline.



5. Shape the model. Continue carving so you get closer and closer to your outline. Keep turning the soap to work on all parts of your design. Do not try to finish one part before another. Pay special attention to high points and low points on the carving.



- 6.** Polish your carving. Let the soap dry for a day or two, then rub it gently to smooth it out. Use a paper napkin first and then your fingertips.



7. Add detail. Finally, use your knife to add details like eyes or hair. If you like, create a crisscross pattern to give the carving more depth.



Akela's OK

Date

Den Leader's OK

Wood carving is a fun hobby. When you become a Boy Scout, you can even earn a merit badge for carving. You might even carve a neckerchief slide like this one to wear with your Boy Scout uniform. How cool would that be?

