

Whittling Chip Class

Session 1

A. Overview

1. Review today's session.
2. Review the next two sessions.

B. Whittling Chip Card

1. Show Whittling Chip card and pass it around.
2. Explain what the card means.
 - a. A scout cannot carry a pocketknife to a den or pack meeting or event unless he has earned a whittling chip card.
 - b. In our den, to earn the whittling chip card, a scout has to:
 - 1) attend all 3 Whittling Chip sessions
 - 2) pass the Shavings and Chips Quiz
 - 3) the scout's parent has to give permission for him to receive the Whittling Chip Card.
3. Hand out and review the Whittling Chip Rules sheet.

C. Display a variety of knives and scissors

1. Start by telling scouts that they may not touch any of the items on display.
2. Review some rules about knives while showing them a variety of knives and scissors, and pointing out the different types of blades.
 - a. Scouts can only carry pocketknives to scout events; adults will bring and use other knives if needed.
 - b. Scouts should not need to carry a sheath knife. Injuries can happen with a sheath knife attached at the waist when bending over.
 - c. Scissors and other kitchen knives should be treated with the same respect and safety rules as any other knife.
 - d. Always walk when carrying an open knife or a pair of scissors. Carry it with the blade pointed away from you.

D. Passing a knife

1. First show scouts how to properly open and close a pocketknife using the palm of the hand.
2. Teach the scouts to pass a pocketknife to another person. Don't release the knife to the person until they say "Thank you," then you say "You're Welcome." Saying "Thank you" means that you are taking responsibility for the knife. Saying "Your Welcome" means that you are releasing your responsibility for the knife to the other person.

E. Safety Circle

1. Explain to the scouts that when using a knife they should have a safety circle around and above them. They are responsible for their knife at all times.
2. To create a safety circle, hold your arm out and turn all the way around. Then, raise your hand above your head. You should be the only one in this circle.
3. If someone enters your safety circle, you should close your knife and lay it down or put it away.
4. If possible, work with a wall behind you, since you can't see someone entering your circle from behind you.

F. Pocketknife Safety Rules

1. Hand out the PKnife Safety sheet.
2. Review each rule with the scouts.

G. Cleaning a Pocketknife

1. Explain to the scouts that knives need to be cleaned by hand, not in a dishwasher. Dry the knife so that the blade doesn't rust. Rust will affect the sharpness of the blade.
2. A knife should be cleaned before and after being used on food since the knife can become dirty from being in your pocket. Don't just wipe it. Food can be contaminated if you do not use a clean knife.

H. Sharpening a pocketknife

1. Display a sharpening stone. Explain that you can either wet it with water or oil before you use it. Ask the scouts how long they think it takes to sharpen a dull knife (answer: about ½ hour).
2. Show the scouts how to sharpen a knife (see instructions in the Bear Scout book) using a Popsicle stick and let them try it.

Session 2

- A. Review the Whittling Chip Card rules and the Pocketknife Safety Rules.
- B. Quiz
 1. Have the scouts and their parents take the Shavings and Chips Quiz.
 2. Review answers, have the parents correct their son's quiz.
- C. Practice whittling with ivory soap and plastic knives.

(We made sailboats. We cut sails from plastic cups, punched a hole in the top and bottom, and put a coffee stirrer through the holes for the mast)

 1. Review safety circle. Have the scouts create their own safety circle.
 2. Demonstrate shaving on the soap with the plastic knife, emphasizing cutting away from you. Explain that they should make little shavings or chips instead of big. Safety Circle
 3. Show scouts how to make a stop cut for shavings. Pocketknife Safety Rules
 4. Let the scouts carve a shape using Ivory soap and a plastic knife or a sharpened Popsicle stick.

Session 3

1. Review
 - a. Safety Circle.
 - b. Opening and closing a pocketknife.
 - c. Demonstrate cutting away from you.
 - d. Demonstrate making little shavings or chips instead of big, and making a stop cut.
2. Whittling Chip Card
 - a. Have the scouts create their own safety circle.
 - b. Trace a pattern or use a precut design - can be found at the Scout Store (balsa wood works well for beginners)..
3. With parent's permission, give out the Whittling Chip Cards
4. (Optional) Give the scouts the Whittling Chip patch at the end of the session or at the next Pack meeting.

Supplies

- Ivory soap (1 per scout, plus extras)
- Plastic knives (1 per scout, plus extras)
- Popsicle sticks (1 per scout, plus extras)
- Sharpening Stone (1 per scout if possible)
- Sails (cut from plastic cups) and masts (coffee stirrers), (1 per scout), if carving a sailboat
- Wood for carving (balsa wood is good for beginners), OR a wood carving kit-can be found at the scout store
- Patterns for carving wood (optional)
- Pocketknife (for display at first session, then 1 per scout for third session)
- A selection of kitchen knives, scissors, utility knives
- Whittling Chip Card (1 per scout)
- Whittling Chip patch (optional)
- Whittling Chip Quiz
- Whittling Chip Rules
- Pocketknife Safety List

Whittlin' Chip Course presented at the Spring 2008 University of Scouting. Course developed and presented by Tony Laska. Edited by Greg Linden, Pack 429, Lake Minnetonka District.

Pocketknife Safety Rules

- A knife is a tool, not a toy.
- Know how to sharpen a knife. A sharp knife is safer because it is less likely to slip and cut you.
- Keep the blade clean.
- Never carry an open knife in your hand.
- When you are not using a knife, close it and put it away.
- Keep your knife dry.
- When you are using the cutting blade, do not try to make big shavings or chips. Easy does it.

Shavings & Chips Quiz

By Barb Stephens, modified by Marty Linn

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

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. Scissors should be handled with the same safety rules as a _____.
6. Always _____ when carrying a knife or scissors.

Part III: Circle the correct answer

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

The Pocketknife Pledge (fill in the blanks with words below)

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.

Close, respect, injure, promise, all, safety.

Shavings & Chips Quiz – Answer Sheet

By Barb Stephens, modified by Marty Linn

Part I: Circle the correct answer

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

1. Close the blade with the PALM of your hand.
2. A POCKETKNIFE should never be used on something that will dull or break it.
3. People watching you work with your knife should not enter your SAFETY CIRCLE .
4. Your knife should always be kept CLEAN and DRY .
5. Scissors should be handled with the same safety rules as a KNIFE .
6. Always WALK when carrying a knife or scissors.

Part III: Circle the correct answer

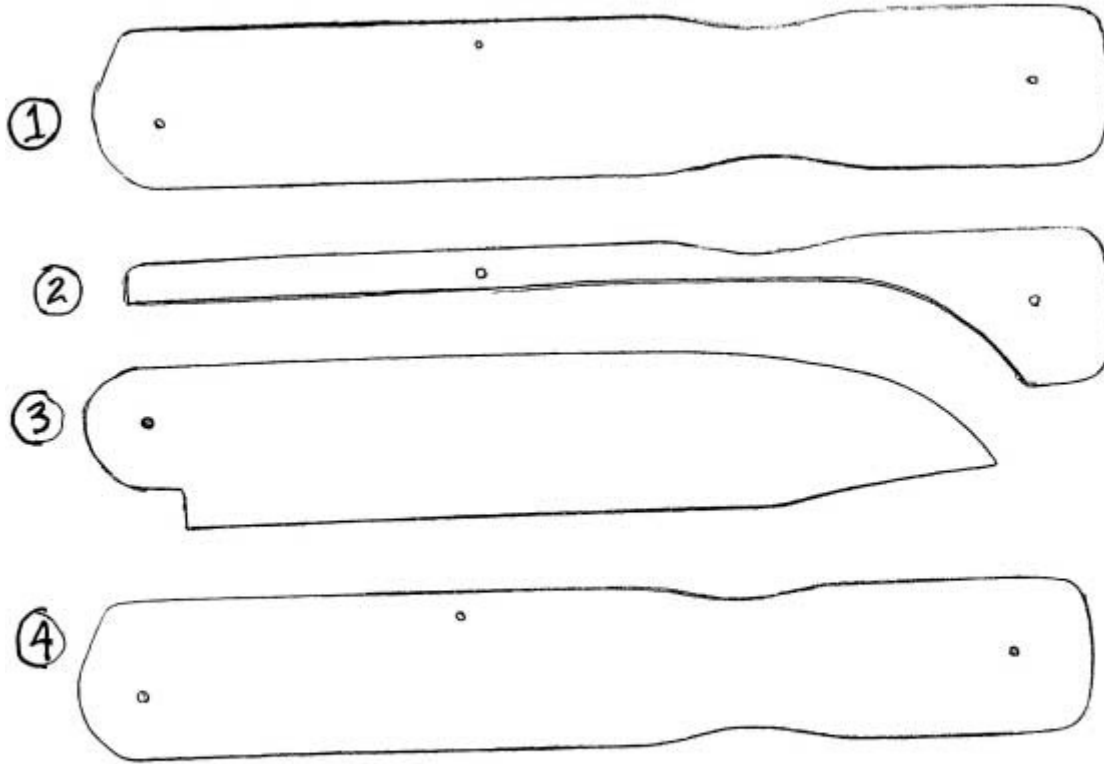
1. Always keep your knife (dry / wet) so it will not rust.
2. When using a knife, do not make (big / little) shavings or chips.
3. A (dull / sharp) knife is more likely to cut you.
4. A Cub Scout (can / cannot) take his knife to a den meeting at school if it is held outside.
5. A knife should be cleaned (before / after) cutting food.
6. 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 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.

Close, respect, injure, promise, all, safety.

WOODEN
DEMONSTRATION
KNIFE



Materials

1. 2 - paint stir sticks
2. 3 - 1/8 diameter X 1/2 rivets with washer or pop rivets (same size)

Demonstration Wooden Knife

CUB SCOUTS, BSA

Materials and Tools needed:

- 2 paint stir sticks
- 3 – 1/8-inch diameter x 1/2-inch rivets washer or pop rivets (same size)
- Coping saw
- Hand drill
- 1/8-inch drill bit
- 120 grit sandpaper
- 2 clamps
- Scissors
- Hammer —or— pop rivet tool
- Cellophane tape

Construction steps:

1. With scissors cut out patterns for knife parts (see pattern sheet).
2. Tape patterns onto paint sticks.
3. Clamp prepared sticks to a counter top and cut out the four pattern pieces.
4. Sand any rough edges before assembly (Step #5).
5. Starting with part number 1, stack four parts in the same sequence (#1-4) and direction as indicated on the pattern sheet.
6. With parts lined up evenly, clamp to bench top and drill three 1/8-inch holes exactly on the black dots.
7. Insert rivets into three holes and turn assembly over.
8. Place washers over protruding rivets and then set with hammer or pop rivet tool.
 - a. NOTE 1: Open blade before securing blade rivet.
 - b. NOTE 2: Secure blade rivet gently to allow blade to open and close.
9. Sand completed knife handle to shape both ends.
10. Enjoy

Sample Letter From Den Leaders to Parents of Bear Cub Scouts

<Date>

Dear <Parent>,

In our past two den meetings we have discussed safety rules for handling a pocketknife. We understand that this is a matter of concern for some of you and we feel that you must decide if you want your son to be allowed to carry and use a pocketknife.

Each one of the boys will have earned his Cub Scout Whittling Chip card. This card entitles that each boy has learned the safety rules and is capable of carrying a pocketknife. Under these conditions pocketknives can be carried and used at outdoor Scout functions or with your direct approval; never at school.

Each boy must have the card with them when carrying or using a pocketknife. If a boy is found using the knife in an unsafe manner, a corner will be removed from his card. If all four corners are removed then he will not be allowed to carry or use a pocketknife.

With your son, please read over the attached safety rules from Achievement 19 in the Bear Book. [NOTE: Attach safety rules to letter.] Please work with your son if you choose to complete Achievement 19 by teaching him how to sharpen the pocketknife, as we do not provide these items for the Scouts.

<Bear den leaders names and signatures>