

KNIFE SAFETY AND BEAR CUB SCOUT ACHIEVEMENT 19 SHAVING AND CHIPS

CUB SCOUTS CANNOT CARRY OR USE A POCKETKNIFE AT ANY SCOUTING ACTIVITY UNLESS THEY HAVE THE WHITTLING CHIP CARD IN THE POSSESSION. THE WHITTLING CHIP CARD MUST BE SIGNED BY THE DEN LEADER WHO STATES THE CUB SCOUT KNOWS, UNDERSTANDS, AND HAS DEMONSTRATED SKILLS AND ALL SAFETY RULES RELATED TO THE USE OF A POCKETKNIFE.

Whittling chip

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

1. I will complete the Shavings and Chips Achievement 19 in the Big Bear Cub Scout Book. I understand the rules for safe use of a pocketknife.
2. I will handle my pocketknife with care.
3. I will always close my pocketknife and put it away when not in use.
4. I will not use my pocketknife when it might injure someone near me.
5. I promise never to throw my pocketknife for any reason.
6. I will use my pocketknife in a safe manner at all times.

HINTS FOR TEACHING CARVING

Stop by YE OLD KNIFE SHOPPE here at the POW WOW or contact your District's Merit counselor for Woodcarving.

Knife Safety P05

CUB SCOUTS CANNOT CARRY OR USE A POCKETKNIFE AT ANY SCOUTING ACTIVITY UNLESS THEY HAVE THE WHITTLING CHIP CARD IN THE POSSESSION.

In reality, Cub Scouts should never carry their knife with them, especially because of the rules that prohibit the POSSESSION and carrying of knives on Public School property. As Cub Scouts, and Webelos, there should be no real need for them to use a knife. You may find it prudent to enforce the policy of NO KNIVES at all times, with the exception of doing Achievement 19 in the Bear Book and thereby earning the WHITTLING CHIP Card(BSA#4223) and or other supervised related activities.

Cub and Webelos Scouts need to be introduced to using a knife (or any sharp tool), so they become aware of the SAFETY RULES of tool use. And so they are somewhat familiar with using a pocketknife when they become BOY SCOUTS. Safe knife usage is one of the skills that new Scouts are expected to know and practice when they bridge over into a troop.

Connecticut Rivers Councils "Guide to Safe Scouting" States; "A sharp pocketknife with a can opener on it is an invaluable backcountry tool. Keep it clean, sharp, and handy, *Avoid large sheath knives*. They are heavy and awkward to carry, and unnecessary for most camp chores except for cleaning fish. Since its inception, Boy Scouting has relied heavily on an outdoor program to achieve its objectives. This program meets more of the purposes of Scouting than any other single feature. We believe we have the duty to instill in our members, youth and adult, the knowledge of how to use, handle, and store legally owned knives with the highest concern for safety and responsibility." NOTE: SHEATH KNIVES are inappropriate for Cub Scout age scouts.

WHAT KIND of KNIFE?

Most Cub Scouts, if asked would want and need the knife with the most gadgets and preferably the one with the Cub Scout logo on it, and quite often, parent will agree with them. Wrong!! What is needed is a knife, which fits his/her hand COMFORTABLY, and has a SHARP BLADE. Most Scout age boys would lose their heads if they weren't attached to their bodies. Why should parents expect knives to be different from any of their other possessions? While the loss of anything will upset most parents, somehow the loss of a knife costing \$7.00 - \$12.00 is somehow easier to accept than the loss of one that cost \$70.00. One of the key items to look for in purchasing a knife is to find one that has a stainless steel blade: because it will remain sharper longer, can be sharpened easily, and will not rust. If it has a locking blade, so much the better.

FOR TEACHING PURPOSES, Consider using XACTO KNIVES – wit a # 11 blade. They are inexpensive(about \$3.00) are small enough to fit Cub Scout hands easily; have a knurled handle for good grip; have blades that can be changed when they become dull, or between uses by more than one person; as you become more skilled, you can buy additional specialized blades inexpensively and you can give the same instructions to everyone, and you know every one has a very sharp blade and its only 1 inch long. The other big advantage is that XACTO knives are not easily carried in a boy's pants pocket. So the temptation to carry and use It is lessened.

KNIFE SAFETY

A KNIFE IS A TOOL, NOT A TOY.

DO NOT OPEN YOUR KNIFE (Remove the protective cap from the XACTO knife) WITHOUT ESTABLISHING YOUR CIRCLE OF SAFETY.

The circle of safety means you extent your arms with your knife (Closed) in your hand, and make a full circle around yourself, and there is no one else anywhere in your space. If some one enters your Circle of Safety, IMMEDIATELY lay down your knife until they move out of your area. If you see someone is using a knife, ASK PERMISSION TO ENTER HIS SPACE, AND WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE GIVEN VERBAL PERMISSION TO ENTER.

KNOW HOW TO OPEN AND CLOSE YOUR KNIFE SAFETY. Make sure you have a firm grip on your knife at all times. Keep at least 2 fingers on the blade at all times when you are opening or closing your knife. MAKE SURE THAT YOUR FINGERS (or any other part of you) ARE NOT IN THE WAY BLADE THAT IS BEING OPENED OR CLOSED. Do not close your knife blade by using a table or your lag, etc. to close it.

NEVER CARRY AN OPEN KNIFE IN YOUR HAND.

NEVER HAND YOUR KNIFE TO SOMEONE WHEN IT IS OPEN. Close the knife, hand it to the person, BUT DO NOT RELEASE YOUR GRIP ON THE KNIFE UNTIL THEY SAY "THANK YOU".

WHEN YOU ARE NOT USING YOUR KNIFE, CLOS IT AND PUT IT AWAY.

KEEP YOUR KNIFE CLEAN AND PROPERLY SHARPENED. A sharp knife is less likely to slip and cut you, and a cut from a sharp knife heals faster and with less scarring (and hurts less). A clean knife will last much longer, and cut better than one which is dull and dirty. To clean your knife, wipe the blade with a dry cloth, and use alcohol and a Q-tip to clean the inside of the handle, so that there is no dirt buildup to dull the blades. Oil the hinges after cleaning the knife.

SHARPENING DEVICES

There are four major kinds of devices to sharpen the blade of the knife; which one to use is a matter of personal preference. No matter what method you use, the important thing to remember is to KEEP SHARPENING THE BLADE UNTIL THERE ARE NO BRIGHT SPOTS ON THE EDGE. Bright spots are nicks in the edge, which are reflecting the light. Remember, you can see a dull edge; you can't see a sharp one.

The whetstone, used with a little bit of oil (to float the filings out of its pores) is probably the most traditional sharpening device. However, it is also the most difficult to use, because of the need to maintain a set angle of 30 degrees (For most knives) between the knife and the stone. The technique to use is to lay the knife blade on the stone as if you were going to shave a very thin sliver from the stone, going away from you, and then to repeat the maneuver, shaving toward you. Do this as many times as you need to; just remember to do it equally on both sides of the blade. These are relatively inexpensive (\$8 –20). The main disadvantage to this method is the need to carry a stone and oil with you.

Commercial Knife sharpener, is the one which has 2 blades already positioned at the proper 30-degree angle, and may be either ceramic or carbide. You merely have to draw it across the blade from hilt to tip, until no bright spots remain. Most of these devices have a finger guard to protect the hand, and quite a few have blades which can be reversed after a couple of years of hard use, to double the life of the sharpener. The important thing to remember is to place the knife on a hard surface, with the blade edge pointed upwards and draw the sharpener across the blade. Which is the opposite of the technique used with the other sharpeners. These sharpeners are relatively inexpensive (\$6-15), lightweight, and easy to use.

Choosing the wood

SOFT WOOD IS EASIER TO CARVE. Look for wood that has little or no grain, and if you must settle for wood that has a grain, choose one that has a **STRAIGHT GRAIN AND AN EVEN TEXTURE**, and for beginning woodcarvers—one in which you can leave a mark with your thumb or finger nail. You may want to use balsa wood, sugar or white pine (check for grain in the white pine), yellow poplar, basswood or linden.

CUTTING ACROSS THE GRAIN MAY BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR CUB SCOUTS. When you alternate bands of hard grain with areas of soft wood, it is extremely easy for the knife to bounce off the hard grain and cause an injury to the carver.

SIMPLE WOODCARVING TEMPLATES

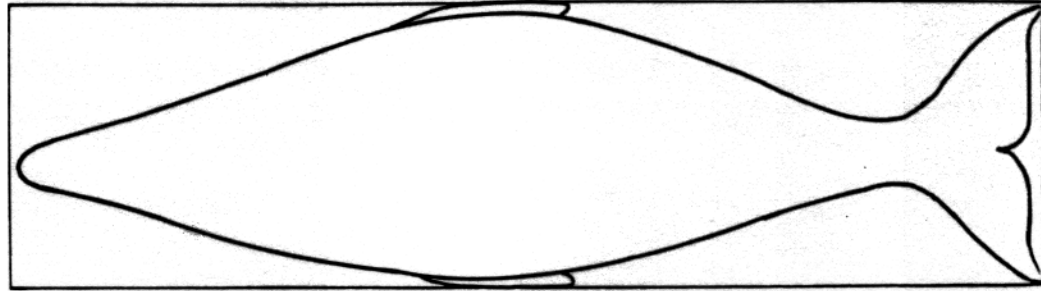
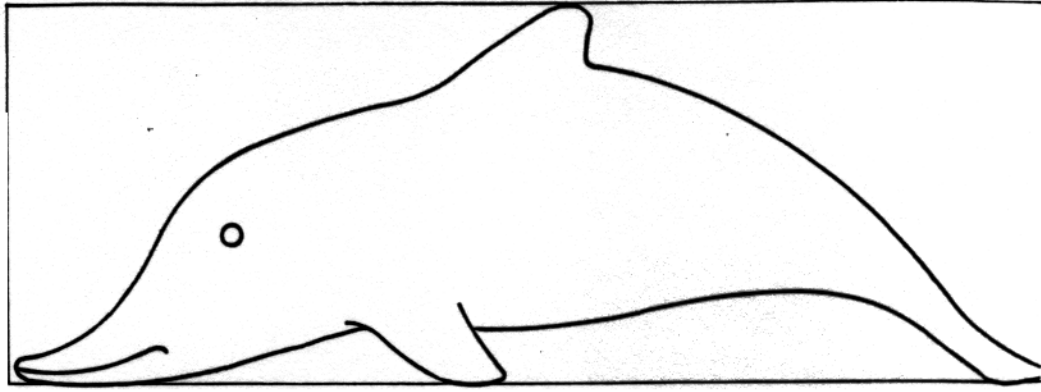
Dolphin

You will need:

Block of wood 5 1/2" X 2" X 1 1/2"

Knife

Paint or Varnish to finish



Old Hiking Boot

You will need

Block of wood 3 3/4" X 2" X 1/2"

Knife

Drill (optional)

Brown Shoe Polish or Paint

