

WHITTLING

ELECTIVE ADVENTURE



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.

Completing the Whittling Adventure allows you as a Bear Scout to use a knife, with adult permission, during Cub Scout activities.

Your pocket certificate for this Adventure may serve as proof you have earned this Adventure.

Next year as a Webelos Scout you will need to earn the Chef's Knife Adventure to use a knife, with adult permission, during Cub Scout activities.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Read, understand, and promise to follow the "Cub Scout Knife Safety Rules."
2. Demonstrate the knife safety circle.
3. Demonstrate that you know how to care for and use your pocketknife safely.
4. Make two carvings with a pocketknife.



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- [Scan for this Adventure page](#)

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 when camping and fishing. 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're 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.



REQUIREMENT 1

Read, understand, and promise to follow the
"Cub Scout Knife Safety Rules."

There are four Cub Scout Knife Safety Rules that focus on knife safety. Your parent, den leader, and other adults may have additional rules you must follow.

CUB SCOUT KNIFE SAFETY RULES

Stop – make sure no one else is within arm's reach by making a knife safety circle

Away – always cut away from your finger or other body parts

Sharp – a sharp, clean knife is a safe knife

Store – knives closed, in a sheath or knife block

Source: American Knife and Tool Institute

OTHER RULES I MUST FOLLOW



Date

Adult's Signature

REQUIREMENT 2

Demonstrate the knife safety circle.



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's safe to use your knife. While using your knife, be sure to watch in case someone walks toward you and gets too close.



Date

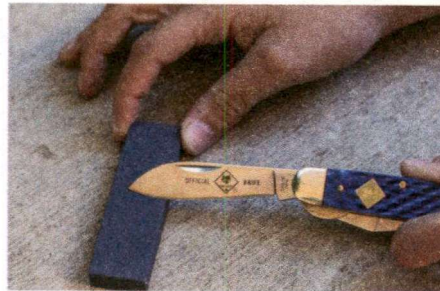
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REQUIREMENT 3

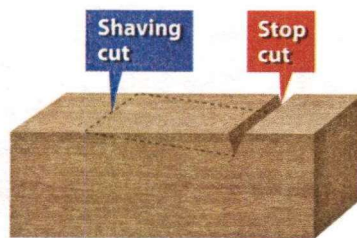
Demonstrate that you know how to care for and use your pocketknife safely.

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're 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're 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. Check to see if they have any allergies to the first-aid items that you plan to use. Wash minor cuts with soap and water. Apply first-aid 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.



Date

Adult's Signature

REQUIREMENT 4

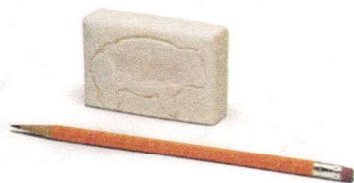
Make two carvings with a pocketknife.

It is fun to whittle sticks, but it's 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's 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

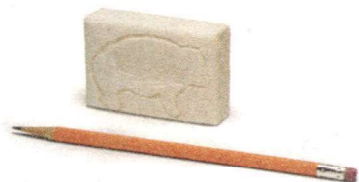
WHAT TO DO



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.





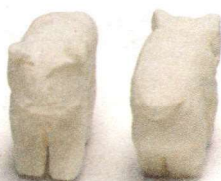
3. Sketch the outline of your design on the soap. You can do this by drawing with an orangewood stick or by tracing your design using tracing paper.

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.



Date _____

Adult's Signature _____

Special Thank You

On behalf of the BSA, a special thank you to the more than 25,000 volunteers and parents who provided feedback and guidance in developing the updates for the Cub Scout program that are reflected in this handbook.

A special thank you to Lisa Wylie, who served as the national Cub Scouting chair from 2019 to 2022 and continued as the project manager for the Cub Scouting program updates. She gave exceptional leadership to the committee, to subject matter experts, and to staff. These revisions would not have happened without her leadership.

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Outdoor Ethics: Scott Anderson – chair and members of the committee.

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BEAR HABITAT
(OUTDOORS)

BEAR STRONG
(PERSONAL FITNESS)

PAWS FOR ACTION
(CITIZENSHIP)

STANDING TALL
(PERSONAL SAFETY AWARENESS)

FELLOWSHIP
(FAMILY & REVERENCE)

A BEAR GOES FISHING

BALANCING BEARS

BALOO THE BUILDER

BEARS AFLOAT

BEARS ON BIKES

CHAMPIONS FOR NATURE

CHEF TECH

CRITTER CARE

FORENSICS

LET'S CAMP

MARBLE MADNESS

RACE TIME

ROARING LAUGHTER

SALMON RUN

SUMMERTIME FUN

SUPER SCIENCE

WHITTLING

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

Trustworthy
Loyal
Helpful
Friendly
Courteous
Kind
Obedient
Cheerful
Thrifty
Brave
Clean
Reverent



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