

SHAVINGS AND CHIPS Bear Scout Achievement 19



IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PARENTS

At his next meeting, your son will work towards Bear Scout Achievement #19. He will learn safe handling rules for pocketknives and will also earn his Whittling Chip card that will allow him to carry a pocketknife to designated scouting events.

I **STRONGLY** encourage you to review the enclosed information with him before and after camp. We will learn to safely handle a knife, carve and whittle a piece of soap, and test the boys on their new learned skill.

Please read through this pamphlet. Make sure you understand the rules, which are the same rules that your son will be tested on, so you can enforce them. All boys must pass their written test with a 100% score. It is also very important for you to understand the rules as well. Remember that carrying a knife in scouting is an **earned privilege** that can be revoked if the proper safety rules are not applied.



KNOW THE SAFETY RULES FOR HANDLING A KNIFE (19A)

A sharp pocketknife is an invaluable scouting and survival tool. Keep it clean, sharp, and handy. **Cub Scouts may not use sheath knives.** They are heavy, awkward to carry, and unnecessary for most scout functions.

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.
- Keep your knife dry.
- Never carry an open pocketknife.
- When you are not using your pocketknife, close it and put it away.
- When you are using the cutting blade, do not try to make big shavings or chips. Easy does it.
- **Make a safety circle:** Before you pick up your knife to use it, stretch your arm out and turn in a circle. If you can't touch anyone else, it is safe to use your knife.
- **Never bring a knife to school.**
- Never engage in horseplay around knives.

- Never use a knife to pry something open.
- Never pass a knife across other people.
- Never carve in your lap or near your face.
- Never hammer the top of a knife to make a cut.



SHOW THAT YOU KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF AND USE A POCKETKNIFE (19B)

General Care of Knives

You should have a general knowledge of caring for and sharpening the knives you use.

Check knives for dirt and rust on a regular basis. A knife that you carry in your pocket may also pick up lint. Use a light coat of honing oil and let it set for awhile. Then wipe off the excess oil before using.

Keep knives in the best possible condition by making sure they are dry. Wipe off fingerprint marks and moisture with a dry cloth. Apply a couple of drops of oil to the blades and joints of a knife.

Sharpening a Knife

Lay the blade on a sharpening stone as though you were going to shave a thin sliver from the stone. Push the blade forward. Turn the blade over and shave the stone toward you. It is not necessary to push down hard. Continue this back and forth action until the edge is sharp along its whole length.



MAKE A CARVING WITH A POCKETKNIFE (19C)

Draw or score the design onto the wood (or soap). Keep it simple; complicated drawings are difficult to carve!

Some Basic Cuts

- **Push Cut** – The most basic cut in carving. With your thumb on the back of the blade, push away from you, taking small pieces of wood.
- **Score Line** – This cut gives you a line that you can cut back to, to make a clear line or feature.
- **Stop Cut** – Used when scoring a line; cutting back to the line you scored.



EARN THE WHITTLING CHIP CARD (19D)

Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts **may earn the privilege** to carry a pocketknife to designated scouting functions by completing requirements for the Whittling Chip card. When carrying a pocketknife to designated scouting functions, Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts must also carry the Whittling Chip card and be able to present it to any leader when asked. **If the Scout fails to follow safety and handling rules, the knife may be taken from him and he will lose the privilege to carry the Whittling Chip card.** Pack 811 uses the four corner rule: If a scout is not using the knife correctly, a corner will be removed or torn off; after four corners are gone, and the Scout will need to re-earn the Whittling Chip card in order to carry a pocketknife to future scouting events..

Knives Are Not Toys Guidelines

- Close the blade with the palm of your hand.

- Never use a knife on something that will dull or break it.
- Be careful that you do not cut yourself or any person nearby.
- Never use a knife to strip the bark from a tree.
- Do not carve your initials into anything that does not belong to you.

Pocketknife Pledge

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

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

