



Whittling Chip Requirements

Bear Scouts may earn the privilege of carrying a pocketknife to Cub Scout functions when required and asked to do so. The objective of this award is to make scouts aware that:

- A Cub Scout knife is an important tool. You can do many things with its blades. The cutting blade is the one you will use most of the time. With it you can make shavings and chips and carve all kinds of things.
- You must be very careful when you whittle or carve. Take good care of your knife. 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.

The requirements to earn the Whittling Chip card and patch are:

- ___ Complete the knife safety and training course with an adult
- ___ Take the shavings and chips quiz with an adult
- ___ Read and sign the Pocketknife Pledge Form
- ___ Demonstrate knowledge and practice the use of a pocketknife

The requirements to keep the Whittling Chip card are:

- Be careful that you do not cut yourself or any person nearby.
- Do not carve your initials into anything that does not belong to you.
- Treat your pocketknife with the respect due a useful tool.
- Always close your pocketknife and put it away when not in use.
- Do not use your pocketknife when it might injure someone near me.
- Promise never to throw your pocketknife for any reason.
- Use your pocketknife in a safe manner at all times.
- Never use a knife to strip the bark from a tree.
- Never take your pocketknife where it is not allowed.

The scout must sign and carry the Whittling Chip card whenever he has his pocketknife. It is expected that an adult leader should ask a scout to see his card, and if it cannot be produced, to confiscate his knife until the event is over or return it to his parent.

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.

Knife Safety Reminders:

DO's

1. Remember to keep the knife closed when not being used.
2. Close a pocket knife with the Palm of your hand.
3. When handing another person a knife wait until the other person acknowledges that they have control of the knife before releasing. A simple Thank You or I have it will do.
4. Remember to keep the knife in your pocket.
5. Always hold the knife in the same hand that you would hold a pencil in
6. Always keep the blade point and edge away from you -- and anyone else who may be near
7. Hold the knife tightly, but not so tight that you knuckles turn white
8. If you have to carry an open knife (or scissors), always walk carefully with the blade pointed away from you and to the side
9. Always cut or carve by moving the knife blade away from you.
10. Always keep your Pocket Knife, Clean, Dry and Lubricated

DON'T'S

1. When a knife blade is opened, never hold the knife by the blade, but always by the handle
2. Never run or jump with the knife blade open
3. Never use a knife to dig in the dirt
4. Never cut the bark from a live tree
5. Never carve on anything that does not belong to you
6. Never throw your knife
7. Never pry with your knife
8. Never use the blade as a screwdriver
9. Never leave your knife lying where a younger child could get it

How to Sharpen a Pocket Knife

What good is a knife that is so dull it will not cut anything? Pocket knives are handy, but because of their accessibility, they get used for all sorts of purposes. It is common to see a person use a pocket knife for carving wood, cutting up boxes, opening food packages, even poking at an unidentified bug, and then wiping the blade on his or her pants and putting it back in a pocket. People endure a dull blade senselessly--even though a dull knife takes more force to use. Knives only take a few minutes to sharpen. Try these two methods to sharpen your blade.

1. **Choose the kind of sharpening stone you wish to use to sharpen your pocket knife.** No matter which type of stone you select, keeping to one that is at least 2x6 inches will make your sharpening job easier. The several options available for purchase that include diamond stones, ceramic stones, and whetstone.^[1]
 - Whetstone: These stones generally considered the easiest to use and are made from fine to coarse grit stone. You must soak your whetstone in cold, clean water for ten minutes before you sharpen your blade on it. Keep in mind that when a whetstone is used a lot, it often develops valleys or grooves where the knife is rubbed.
 - Ceramic Stones: These stones must also be soaked in water before use, but only for three to five minutes. They are harder than whetstones which means that they will sharpen your blade faster. Ceramic stones generally last longer than whetstones but are a bit more challenging to use.
 - Diamond stones: These stones come in several different varieties including harder, fine, and superfine. Diamond stones are very hard and very porous.^[2] In many cases, diamond stones are actually metal plates with small diamonds attached to their surfaces. These stones are the hardest sharpening stones and will sharpen your blade the quickest. Keep in mind, that diamond stones are also by far the most expensive sharpening stone.



2. **Lubricate your sharpening stone.** If you are using a whetstone or ceramic stone, you should soak the stone in the water for the correct amount of time. Knife sharpening experts also recommend using a lubricant such as mineral oil. You can buy this oil at your local hardware store. The purpose of lubricant is to prevent the stone's pores from clogging up with filings and grit. It also reduces the heat caused by the friction that is created when the knife is rubbed on the stone. Too much heat can warp your blade.^[3]
- Sharpening or machine oil can be used with a whetstone or ceramic stone, and thinned dish washing soap is handy for use with a diamond stone



3. **Identify the bevel angle of the blade.** This is also called the rough grind angle. The blade of every knife is honed at a particular angle to suit the purpose of the knife. Most pocket knives have a bevel edge of 25 to 30 degrees.

- If you are wary of sharpening your knife without knowing the exact angle, you can go into your local knife shop for help, or call the manufacturer of the knife. You may also be able to find the specific bevel angle for your knife online



4. **Position the knife at the proper angle against the stone.** Maintain the knife's position with the blade facing away from you at the determined bevel angle against the whetstone when sharpening.

- Holding your knife in the same position for a long period of time can be challenging. If this is your first time sharpening a knife, or you feel like your hands may not stay steady for long enough, you should consider buying a sharpening guide. Sharpening guides attach to the knife and hold it at a steady angle. Keep in mind that guides do not do very well with a curved blade.



5. **Glide the knife along the stone.** Sweep the knife down and off the end of the whetstone. Repeat as many times as necessary to produce a sharp edge, usually about 12 times. As you perfect your sharpening skills, this will become a more circular motion of the blade over the stone.

- Blades that are curved or longer than your whetstone will need to be swept down and across the stone to evenly sharpen the entire blade.



- 6. Sharpen the other side of the blade.** Flip the knife over and draw the blade across and off the whetstone, guaranteeing the angle. Do this between 6-8 times or until a sharp edge is accomplished.
- 7. Flip the stone over so that the finer side is facing up.** Run your blade, at its proper bevel angle, along the finer side of the stone. Doing this will remove any bumps or ‘burs’ that may have formed along the edge of the blade during the sharpening process.^[6]
 - Instead of using the finer side of the stone, you can also run each side of the blade down a honing rod at an angle more open than the one you held the blade at to sharpen it. This removes the burrs and fine tunes the blade's sharpness. Honing is also a quick way to refresh an edge in between sharpenings.

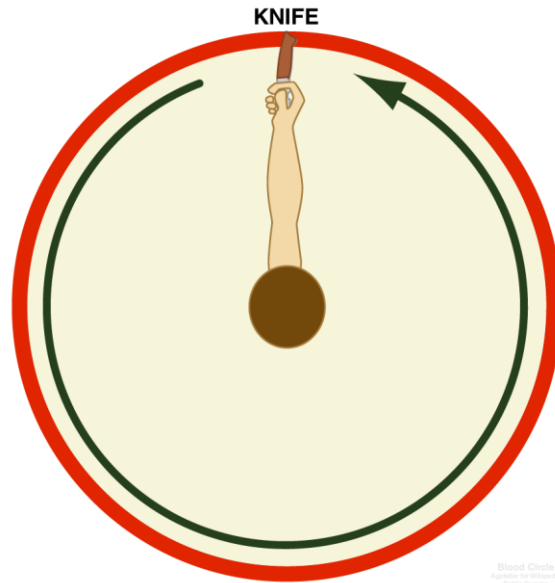


8. **Test your pocket knife for sharpness.** Hold up a piece of paper, and try to slice down through the paper with your knife. A sharp blade will easily slide through the paper.
 - You can also test for any rounded part of the blade or imperfections by holding your knife up to a light (you could also use the sun) and looking for a bright light reflection. Reflections only exist when there is a rounded edge somewhere along your knife, or a section of a knife that is no longer sharp.



Caring for your Pocket Knife

- **Keep your knife dry -the entire knife, not just the blade.**
- **Keep your knife clean, particularly moving parts and locking device.**
- **Keep your knife oiled; especially pivot points and the blade.**
- **Keep your knife sharp. A sharp blade is safer than a dull one.**



The Blood Circle for Scouting Knife Safety

So what exactly is the “Blood Circle” also known as the “Safety Circle” and how are knives involved? This term used by the Boy Scouts pertains to the area found within the radius of the arm as well as the blade length combined together. In instructional terms, the Boy Scouts teach that the Blood Circle applies not just to knives but also to axes and even pocket knives. This is a key concept in Boy Scout knife safety, as it highlights that when handling an edged device like an axe or knife that the edged device acts as an extension of the body. As a result, thinking differently when handling a blade of any kind is critical. The Blood Circle or Safety Circle is an invaluable learning aid, as it reminds Boy Scouts that they must be very mindful when using a pocketknife, knife, axe or other edged device.

The area of the Blood Circle can be thought of as being a sphere with the Boy Scout, or any person, and their edged device standing in the center. Boy Scouts learn that any person standing within the Blood Circle is in danger of being injured, wounded or cut. As a result, Boy Scouts are taught to keep others outside of their personal Blood Circle whenever they are using a sharp instrument such as a knife or axe.

How does one calculate the Blood Circle/Safety Circle? The Blood Circle is calculated by holding the hand of the instrument and then slowly moving the extended arm in a 360 degree arc. It is important to note that the end of the handle is generally viewed as being the end of the Blood Circle.

Ultimately, it is seen as vital to Boy Scout knife safety that others are kept outside of one’s Blood Circle. In general, it is viewed as the responsibility of the person holding the knife to exercise caution as others move closely. But, of course, all Boy Scouts learn of the importance of the Blood Circle and that they need to respect it. The consequences of not respecting the Blood Circle/Safety Circle could be serious injury. The Blood Circle and importance of Boy Scout knife safety is yet another valuable and important life skill that one learns when he is a part of this organization.

Shaving and Chip



Part I: Circle the correct answer

1. True / False A knife is NOT a toy.
2. True / False A dull knife is safer than a sharp knife.
3. True / False Dirt on a knife blade helps keep it sharp.
4. True / False Never carve your initials on anything that does NOT belong to you.
5. True / False A knife is handy for cutting bark off trees.
6. True / False A pocketknife should always be closed when it is not in use.
7. True / False It's okay to keep your knife wet.
8. True / False You should carry your open knife in your pocket.
9. True / False You should close the blade with the palm of your hand
10. True / False 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 knife should be cleaned (before / after) cutting food.
5. A fixed blade knife or scissors should be passed to another person (blade / handle) first.

The Pocketknife Pledge (fill in the blanks)

Choose from the following: *close, respect, injure, promise, all, safety*

- 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.

Whittling Chip 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, but dangerous 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.

Scouts Signature