

Woods Tools

Learning Objectives	As a result of this training experience, participants should be able to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate the proper methods for using a pocketknife and camp saw.• Properly care for and sharpen woods tools.• Explain when woods tools should be used.• List the requirements for the Whittling Chip card and explain how it is used.
Trainer Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study the training outline.• Review the information on the pocketknife in chapters 13 and 29 of the <i>Cub Scout Leader Book</i> and the camp saw in chapter 4 of the <i>Boy Scout Handbook</i>.• Gather the necessary materials and equipment for this session.• Practice and time your presentation in advance to help you stay within the time limit.
Materials	Provide one of each of the following items for every two participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pocketknife• Saw• Sharpening stone• Honing oil 33229, <i>Boy Scout Handbook</i> 34223, Whittling Chip card
Handout	34223, Whittling Chip card
Time	35 minutes (20-minute combined session with “Woods Tools—Knife, Camp Saw, and Ax” followed by 15-minute separate session for Webelos den leaders). Start on time. End on time.

Begin With Outdoor Leader Skills Webelos den leaders join the Outdoor Leader Skills session at its beginning.

Woods Tools *Woods Tools Know-How*
Whether you are splitting firewood, repairing equipment, or clearing a trail, woods tools can make your work easier. Proper use and care of your pocketknife, camp saw, and ax will help ensure that these tools will be in tip-top shape whenever you need them.
You should also know how not to use them. Carving or chopping on live trees can kill them. Hacking at dead trees and logs can leave unsightly scars. Don't cut any trees without the permission of a landowner or land manager.

Pocketknife Tips

Use a pocketknife to cut rope or cord, open a can of food, whittle a tent stake, tighten a screw, make wood shavings for fire starter, trim a bandage. A good general knife has a can opener, screwdriver, and a blade or two for cutting.

Note: The Boy Scouts of America does not encourage the use of large sheath knives, which are heavy, awkward to carry, and unnecessary for most camp chores.

Cleaning. Keep your pocketknife clean. Open all the blades, then twirl a small bit of cloth onto the end of a toothpick, moisten the cloth with light oil, and wipe the inside of the knife. Wash any blade that has been exposed to food using hot, soapy water.

Sharpening. Sharpen your knife with a whetstone (follow the manufacturer's instructions). Most knives can be sharpened as follows:

- Hold the blade against the stone at about a 30-degree angle. Tilt the blade off the stone about one-third of the way to vertical. (Some specialty knives may require a sharper angle to produce a keener edge.)
- Push the blade along the stone as though you were slicing layers off the top, or use a circular motion. Sharpen the other side of the blade in the same manner.
- Wipe the knife clean and examine the edge of the blade under a bright light. A dull edge reflects light and looks shiny; a sharp edge is so thin it has no shine at all.

USING A POCKETKNIFE SAFELY

Do

- Keep the blades closed except during use.
- Cut away from yourself.
- Close the blades before passing a knife to someone else.
- Keep fingers clear of the sharp edge as you open and close the blades.
- Keep your knife sharp and clean.

But

- **Don't** carry a knife with the blade open.
- **Don't** throw a knife.
- **Don't** cut toward yourself. If the blade slips, you could be injured.
- **Don't** strike a knife with another tool or pry with the point of a cutting blade.

Camp Saw Tips

The camp saw works well for most outdoor woodcutting. The blades of a folding saw close into their handles (like those of a pocketknife). The bow saw has a curved metal frame that holds its blades in place.

- When sawing a branch from a tree, first make an undercut, then saw from the top down.
- Keep folding saws closed when they aren't in use and store in a secure place.
- Protect the blade of a bow saw with a sheath when not in use.
- Replace dull blades, which make sawing hazardous. Take along a spare if you have to do a lot of cutting.

When cutting firewood:

- Brace the piece of wood against a solid support.
- Use long, smooth strokes.
- Let the weight of the saw pull the blade into the wood.

SAFE SAW USE

Do

- Sheathe a saw whenever it's not in use.
- Carry a saw with the blade turned away from your body.
- Replace dull blades. Sharp saws are easier to use and to control.
- Use care when passing a saw to another person.
- Wear gloves and protective eyewear when using a saw.

But

- **Don't** cut any trees—alive or dead—without permission.
- **Don't** allow the saw's blade to cut into the ground because soil and rocks will quickly dull the blade.
- **Don't** leave a saw lying around camp. Store it properly, out of harm's way.

Webelos den leaders leave the Outdoor Leader Skills session after the discussion of camp saws, before the discussion turns to axes.

Webelos Scouts and Knives

After leaving the Outdoor Leader Skills session and returning to the Webelos den leader meeting place, review the following material.

Explain that some Webelos Scouts may have learned how to sharpen a knife and the safety rules for handling a knife when they completed Bear Achievement 19. If so, the Webelos den leader can make sure the boys remember how to use a knife properly and provide opportunities for them to use their knives in outdoor activities.

Whittling Chip

Hand out the Whittling Chip cards and explain the card's use.

Resources

Show the *Boy Scout Handbook*, page 77–85, as a resource for information on woods tools. Explain that boys should not use other woods tools, such as axes, until they become Boy Scouts.