



Email to parents prior to Whittling Chip training:

Dear parents & Scouts,

You may have noticed that “Whittling Chip” is on the agenda for our upcoming Camporee. If you choose to have your scout participate in this for Achievement 19 - Shavings and Chips, then you will need to bring a small pocket knife for your scout to use. If you decide to buy him one, then be aware of the following:

- Blade must be 3 ½ inches long or less
- A simple Cub Scout knife IS recommended. It can have a locking blade or not. Locking blades are good, but depending on the knife, they be a problem for small hands to close safely.
- Fixed blade knives are NOT recommended because they can drop out of sheaths, or tilt and jab the wearer.
- Swiss army or multi-tools are NOT recommended because they are difficult for small hands to hold.
- Military knives are NOT recommended because they can have a laser sharp edge.
- Knives are NOT allowed at pack or den meetings, even after the Whittling Chip is obtained
- Knives are NOT allowed to be used at campouts unless there is adult supervision.

You should also consider getting a small sharpening stone or other sharpening device. The stone should be carried by the scout whenever they have their knife.

A parent/guardian is required to attend Whittling Chip training with the scout to ensure rules are understood. At the completion of training your son will be given a “Whittling Chip” card - assuming you approve. **This card must be carried by your scout whenever they are using their knife.** Any leader, parent, or adult can ask for the Whittling Chip at any time a Cub Scout has a pocketknife in his possession. If the Cub Scout does not have the card in his possession, the knife will be collected and returned to the parent. A corner of the Whittling Chip card will be cut off for each violation of the rules. When the 4th corner is cut off, the card will be taken from the scout and the scout must go through training again, in order to receive a new card. The cutting of corners can be done by any adult who feel safety has been violated. For very serious infractions (such as threatening another scout), the card will be taken immediately and permanently.

While I am sure some of you may be concerned with the idea of the boys carrying a pocketknife, this program is designed to teach knife safety. Even if the boys do not get the card the class is important since most boys will use kitchen and other knives in the future. The actual Whittling Chip card will be given to the boys only with the parent’s approval at the end of the class. Since we have been offering this training, there have been no safety problems brought to my attention. Again you will ultimately have the final say at the end of class on whether your son gets a card, or even when and where your son carries a knife after the card is issued.

If you have any questions or concerns about the class, please feel free to contact me.

Paul Ziegler

Bear Den 5 Leader

Den Leader Preparation:

- Make sure the training location will have enough room for each scout's Blood Circle (about 6ft diameter)
- You will need 2 hrs for the scout presentation (1 hr for the discussion part and 1 hr for the soap carving project).
- Obtain "Whittling Chip" cards from your pack's advancement chair, or the Scout Store (wallet card #34223A)
- Have a first aid kit with latex gloves, soap & water on hand
- Have toothpick and cotton swab for knife cleaning demonstration
- Have sharpening stone and oil for lubricating the stone (if required for that type of stone)
- Have Ivory soap for carving practice (softer than other soaps). Open the soap and let it dry 24 hours in advance.
Note: If you are teaching Boy Scouts, you may want to use Dove which is harder and cuts more like wood.
- Make a cardboard knife (see diagram). Have red lipstick to put on the cutting edge just before the presentation.
- Have cooking skewers or Orangewood sticks (for manicures) to draw the pattern in soap.
- Have a few different types of knives to show (French knife, pairing knife, serrated knife)
- Have a few extra knives available, in case the scout's knife is too dull or falling apart.
- Print out enough "Whittling Chip Quiz" and "Quiz Answer" pages for your group

The Blood Circle:

To establish a "Blood circle", grasp a closed pocket knife in your hand. Extend your arm with the closed knife straight in front of you. Rotate your body to either side while continuing to extend the closed knife arm. No one or thing should be in the imaginary circle that you have created. Also check your overhead clearance as this is part of your safety circle. If someone enters the circle, the knife should be closed up and laid down.

To Close a pocket knife:

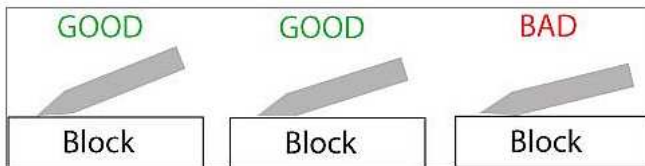
Hold handle in left hand with fingers safely on the sides. Push against the back of the blade with the heel of the right hand (sometimes easier for them to use the fingers instead of the heel), swing handle up to meet the blade. Let knife snap shut.

Passing a knife:

Always have the blade closed – never pass an open knife. The receiver should say "Thank you" to indicate that they have a good grip on the knife when taking it.

Sharpening a knife:

1. If the stone is large enough, place it on a level surface. Placing the stone on a dish towel may limit slipping.
2. Wet the stone with a little water or oil (depending on the type of stone), unless it's a dry or diamond stone.
3. Hold the handle of the knife in one hand and if the stone is on the table, place the fingers of your other hand on the flat of the blade as you lay the knife flat on the block with the blade facing away from you. Raise the knife slightly to bevel the edge of the blade for sharpening (about the width of the blade itself). Keep the knife at the same angle at all times.



4. Push the knife away from you, just like you are trying to carve a thin slice off the top of the stone, putting pressure on it as you slice. Repeat this PUSHING stroke 3 or 4 times. Try to keep the same sharpening angle all the time, since this is the key to obtaining the sharpest edge
5. Turn the blade over. Place it at the far end of the stone and repeat the process on the other side an equal number of times by PULLING the knife toward you.
6. Wipe the blade off on a rag or towel. It will take 30 minutes to sharpen a dull knife, but once sharp, a minute a day will keep it in perfect shape.

Other Den Leader Training Information:

<http://www.crossroadsbsa.org/pathfinder/ptc/whittlinchip.htm>

Scout Presentation:

1. Before the presentation (and without scouts seeing), apply lipstick to the cutting edge of the cardboard knife.
2. Pass around attendance sheet.
3. Collect scout's knives before beginning the presentation to avoid distractions.

Introduction:

Your Cub Scout knife is an important tool. You can do many useful things with its blades, but must be very careful and alert when you whittle or carve. Take good care of your knife and 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.

Rules Below cover 19a and 19d in Bear Handbook:

Caring for your knife:

- A knife is a tool, not a toy.
- Never use your knife on something that will dull or break it (rocks, metal, cement, etc.)
- Never use your knife to cut living trees or plants, or poke it in the dirt. Moisture and dirt will ruin your knife.
- Keep your knife out of the fire. The heat will ruin the temper of the steel making the knife edge soft and useless.
- Do not carve your initials into anything that does not belong to you
- Keep your knife dry and keep the blade clean. Wipe the blade before closing it.
- Clean your knife by hand; the heat and steam of the dishwasher can dull and damage the knife

Safety Rules:

- Establish a "Blood Circle". Before you pickup your knife to use it, stretch your arm out with closed pocket knife in hand and turn in a circle. If you can't touch anyone else, it's safe to use your knife. Demonstrate the "Blood Circle".
- Be alert; it may not be you who makes the mistake. Someone else may enter your Blood Circle by not being alert.
- Always cut by pushing the knife away from you. Be sure your hands and body are out of the way.
- Never carry an open pocketknife
- Always walk when carrying your knife – never run with it.
- Never throw your knife; it could easily deflect and hurt someone, or ruin the knife.
- A sharp knife is safer because it's less likely to slip and cut you. A sharp knife will "bite" the wood. Know how to sharpen your knife.
- When using the cutting blade, don't make big shavings or chips. Easy does it. Be careful not to cut yourself or anyone nearby.
- When you are not using your knife, close it and put it away. An open knife could hurt someone who doesn't realize it's there.
- Discuss cross contamination of food and the importance of cleaning the knife, not just wiping it off.
- Close the blade with the palm of your hand

Taking Your Knife With You:

Knives are usually used as tools, but they can be weapons too. Many places do not allow knives. Always keep your knife at home unless your parent or Den Leader tell you otherwise.

Places where knives are prohibited even if you have your Whittling Chip card with you:

- School
- Outdoor school events (school football games)
- Airport

- Your knife and its sharpening stone are partners; where one is, the other should be also.
- Knives are NOT allowed at pack or den meetings, even after the Whittling Chip is obtained
- Knives are NOT allowed to be used at campouts unless there is adult supervision
- You **must** carry your Whittling Chip” card **whenever you are using your knife**. If you break any of the rules, a corner of the Whittling Chip card will be cut off. When the 4th corner is cut off, the card will be taken from you. If that happens, you must go through training again, in order to receive a new card. The cutting of corners can be done by any adult who feel safety has been violated. For very serious infractions (such as threatening another scout), the card will be taken immediately.
- Cub Scouts (even Webelos) are not allowed to use an axe. Boy Scouts must earn the Totin’ Chip card. Webelos can use a bow saw after training.

Hands on Training:

1. Discuss the difference between whittling and wood carving. Show wood carving tools. Pass them around.
2. Show them knives with locking, non-locking blades, and fixed blades (not allowed). Show them a French knife, pairing knife, and a serrated knife. Explain what they are used for. Explain that since they will probably use these in a kitchen in the future, they should be treated with the same respect and safety rules.
3. Demonstrate how to open and close a pocket knife
4. Demonstrate how to pass a knife. (Blade closed, Insist on “Thank You”)
5. Pass around the Cardboard Knife and have them practice Open, Close and Pass the knife.
6. Collect the Cardboard Knife, then check for lipstick on fingers
7. Demonstrate how to sharpen a knife.
8. Demonstrate how to clean the knife with toothpick and cotton swap
9. Using a bar of soap, demonstrate how to make a “stop cut” and “shaving cut” (Bear Handbook – 19b).
10. Demonstrate how to whittle **away** from yourself, not toward yourself

Closing:

- Have them take the “Whittling Chip Quiz”. Give parents the “Quiz Answers” version. Discuss the quiz questions and answers.
- Pass out Whittling Chip cards. Ask them to read the card and sign it.

If Time Allows.....More Hands on Training (before passing out cards):

- Help each of them in turn to sharpen their knife
- Demonstrate the basics of how to carve a bar of soap. Show them how to use the skewer to draw the design, then rough out the basic pattern with their knife, then refine it. See “Soap Carving Instructions” for details.
- Give them a bar of soap and let them select a soap pattern and work on their own.
- Remind them to use a “stop cut” and make shavings not big chunks.

Soap Carving Instructions:

http://www.ivory.com/PureFun_IvoryProjects_SoapCarvingTips.htm

From Design to Soap Carving

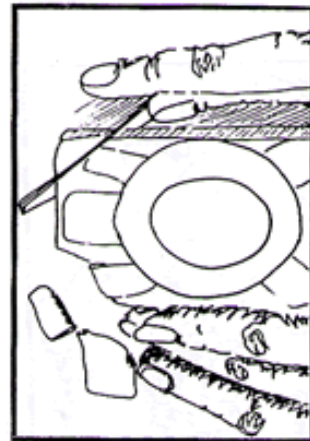
- If you have a clear mental picture of your idea or have carved before, you can begin by carving directly on the soap.
- Or, you can use the orangewood stick to outline a rough sketch on each surface before you carve.
- Beginners may want to sketch or use a pre-existing pattern on paper and trace it onto the soap.



Begin with Rough Cuts

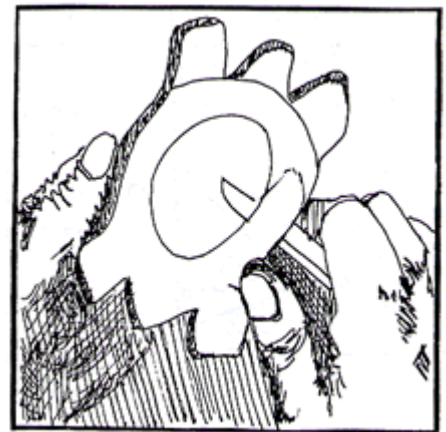
The actual carvings begin with rough cuts that remove the large parts of the soap not necessary for your design.

- Place the soap on the table or tray.
- If you are right-handed, hold the soap with your left hand and start cutting at the upper right-hand corner. (If left-handed, use the opposite hand.)
- Leave about 1/4" margin beyond your outlined sketch to allow for mistakes and more detailed work later.
- Cut clear through the bar, removing excess soap all the way around.
- ALWAYS CUT AWAY ONLY SMALL PIECES OR SLICES. Soap often breaks if cut in big chunks.



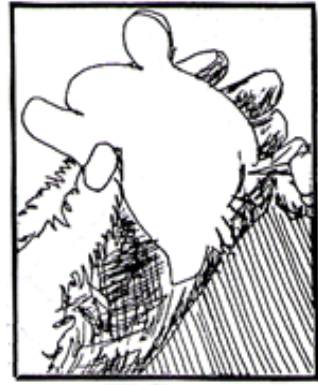
4. Adding the Details

- After the first cuts, you may find it more comfortable to use the knife as if peeling a potato. Continue to stay 1/8" to 1/4" away from your sketch guidelines to allow for finer work later.
- As you work, keep turning the soap, always keeping the shape of the piece in mind. Step back from time to time to look at the entire piece.
- Watch your high points -- those that jut out farthest from the surface -- and your low points -- those farthest in.
- Carve gradually from the high points toward the deepest cuts. Your knife point is useful for this.
- Don't try to finish any one part in detail before another.
- When the piece is almost finished, smooth rough edges with the knife's edge and mark in details like eyes or ears with the knife tip or an orangewood stick.

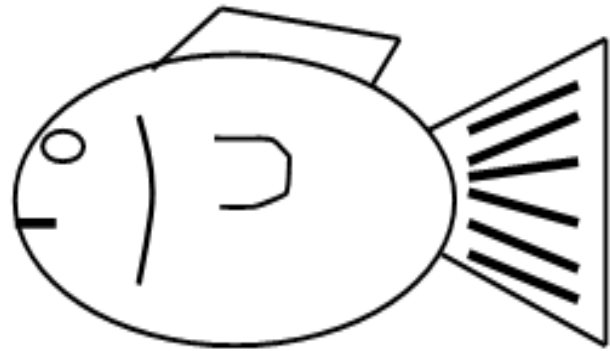


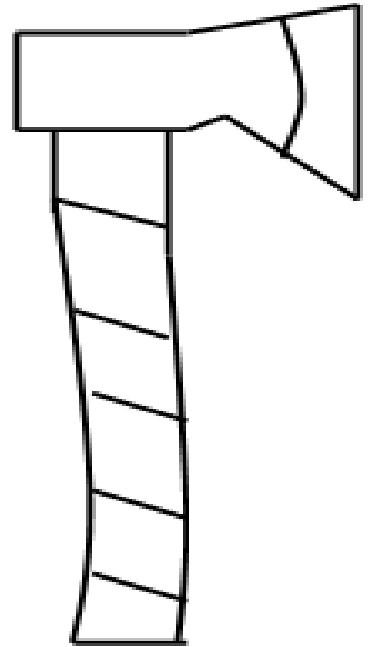
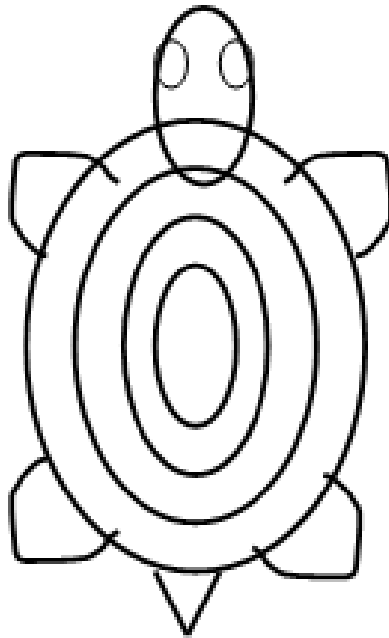
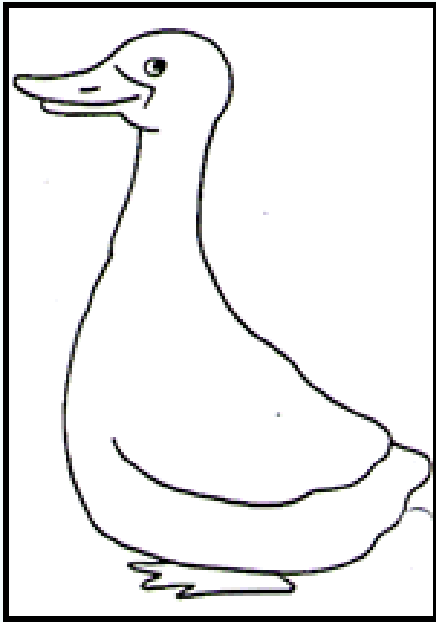
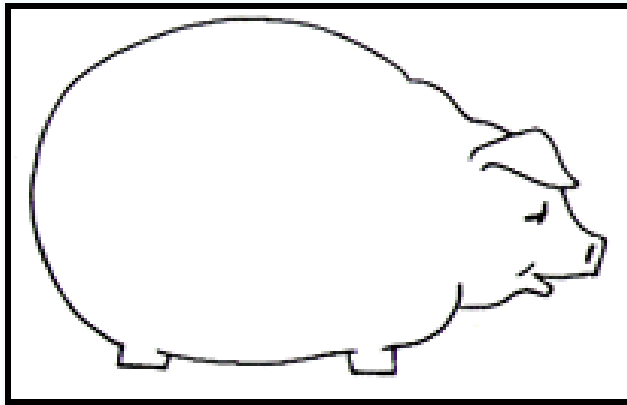
5. Polishing

- Allow your sculpture to dry for a day or two.
- Then, rub it with a soft paper napkin, being careful not to break off corners or high points.
- Finish by rubbing it gently with finger tops or palm.



Soap Carving Patterns:





Whittling Chip Quiz:



Part I: Circle the correct answer

- True / False 1. It's OK to carry my knife to a Pack Meeting or school as long as I have my Whittling Chip card.
True / False 2. As long as I get permission to bring my knife, I don't need to have my Whittling Chip card with me.
True / False 3. Only a leader or **your** parent can cut off corners. Someone else's parent cannot.
True / False 4. It's OK to bring your knife to a den meeting, if your Leader asks you to and your parents approve.
True / False 5. It's OK to cut toward yourself.
True / False 6. It's OK to pass an open knife as long as you're very careful.
True / False 7. A dull knife is safer than a sharp knife.
True / False 8. Dirt on a knife blade helps keep it sharp.
True / False 9. Never carve your initials on anything that does NOT belong to you.
True / False 10. When someone hands you a knife you say "Thank You" to show good manners.
True / False 11. A pocketknife should always be closed when it is not in use, or in your pocket.
True / False 12. You should close the blade with the palm of your hand
True / False 13. 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. Always _____ when carrying a knife.

Part III: Circle the correct answer

1. When using a knife, do not make (big / little) shavings or chips.
2. A (dull / sharp) knife is more likely to cut you.
3. A knife should be cleaned (before / after) cutting food.
4. A fixed blade knife should be passed to another person (blade / handle) first.

Part V – The Pocketknife Pledge: Fill in the blank

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

PARENT & DEN LEADER: Whittling Chip Quiz Answers



Part I: Circle the correct answer

- F** True / False 1. It's OK to carry my knife to a Pack Meeting or school as long as I have my Whittling Chip card.
- F** True / False 2. As long as I get permission to bring my knife, I don't need to have my Whittling Chip card with me.
- F** True / False 3. Only a leader or **your** parent can cut off corners. Someone else's parent cannot.
- T** True / False 4. It's OK to bring your knife to a den meeting, if your Leader asks you to and your parents approve.
- F** True / False 5. It's OK to cut toward yourself.
- F** True / False 6. It's OK to pass an open knife as long as you're very careful.
- F** True / False 7. A dull knife is safer than a sharp knife.
- F** True / False 8. Dirt on a knife blade helps keep it sharp.
- T** True / False 9. Never carve your initials on anything that does NOT belong to you.
- F** True / False 10. When someone hands you a knife you say "Thank You" to show good manners.
- T** True / False 11. A pocketknife should always be closed when it is not in use, or in your pocket.
- T** True / False 12. You should close the blade with the palm of your hand.
- F** True / False 13. 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 PALM of your hand.
2. A POCKETKNIFE should never be used on something that will dull or break it.
3. People watching you work with your knife should not enter your SAFETY CIRCLE.
4. Your knife should always be kept CLEAN and DRY.
5. Always WALK when carrying a knife.

Part III: Circle the correct answer

1. When using a knife, do not make (big / little) shavings or chips.
2. A (dull / sharp) knife is more likely to cut you.
3. A knife should be cleaned (before / after) cutting food.
4. A fixed blade knife should be passed to another person (blade / handle) first.

Part V – The Pocketknife Pledge: Fill in the blank

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.

Whittling Chip Attendance:



	Scout Name	Den #	Den Leader Name
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Cardboard Knife:

The following picture will help you to make a cardboard knife to use for the presentation. The picture below is actual size, so you can print it out and use it as a template to make the knife parts. Red lipstick should be applied to the cutting edge just before the presentation, in order to see if the scouts can open, close and pass a knife safely.

