

Whittling Chip and PocketKnives

To parents of Webelos level Cub Scouts,

I will be presenting a special class on knife safety next month, in March. The class is designed to teach the safe handling and proper care of pocketknives. This will fulfill requirements and allow Webelos level boys to earn the Whittling Chip card which is required for any Cub Scout to carry a pocketknife at Cub Scout functions. The Webelos age boys will have projects where the pocketknives will be used.

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 parents approval at the end of the class. You will have the final say at the end of the class.

Besides the basic knife safety rules, the boys will learn these additional rules that must be followed.

1. They must have the card in their possession at all times while carrying or using a pocketknife.
2. At any time Akela (any adult including parents) can ask for the card and it must be presented or the pocketknife will be collected and returned to the parent.
3. No pocketknife will be carried on school property at any time even by mistake. Violation of this rule means permanent loss of the card as well as any punishment from the school.
4. Any injury to another person will result in permanent loss of the card.
5. Any time a safety rule is violated, Akela may tear a corner off the card. Loss of all four corners result in the loss of the card which must be re-earned by attending and passing another Whittling chip class.

Due to safety concerns a parent or other adult must attend with each boy. This person will make the decision of whether or not the card will be issued. The following items should be brought to the class by the parent.

1. A pocketknife. (Does not have to be new but should be sharp and in good condition)
2. Lawn Chairs (The class will be held outdoors to allow more space for safety reasons)

If you have any questions about the class, please call me at (805) 798-3430, or by e-mail at bert.mahoney@gmail.com.

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