Totin’ Chip Training Outline

* **Supplies Needed:**
* **Boy Scout Handbook**
* **Training Outline**
* **Totin’ Chip Cards**
* **Pocketknife (each scout should bring)**
* **Toothpicks & Tissue**
* **Honing Oil**
* **Sharpening Stone/Whetstone**
* **Knife Sharpener**
* **Bow Saw with sheath**
* **Fixed Blade Saw**
* **Mill Bastard File**
* **4-6 Large Tent Stakes**
* **Long Ax with sheath**
* **Hatchet with sheath**
* **Posts. Safety Tape, Rope or Fencing for Ax Yard**
* **Gloves**
* **Eye Protection**
* **Chopping Block**
* **Saw Horse**
* **Medium and Small Limbs**
* **Large Log for bracing**

# Part One - Pocket Knife

## A. Selecting a pocket knife.

1. Blade no longer than 4 inches.

2. Must be a folding blade, no sheath knives.

3. Should have a minimum of 1 or 2 cutting blades, can opener, flat bladed screwdriver.

4. All cutting blades must lock in open position.

5. Should be made of a material which will not rust. i.e.; Stainless steel

6. More accessories are generally not needed.

7. Discuss various uses for pocket knives. Involve scouts in discussion.

## B. Parts of a Pocket Knife



## C. Passing the Knife

1. Make sure the knife blade is closed before passing.

2. Recipient should ask “Will you please pass the knife?”

3. Pass the closed knife, but do not let go of knife until recipient says “Thank You”. At that point you know they have a good grip and you can release the knife.

4. Passer should say “You’re Welcome”.

## D. Safe Work Area

1. Hold closed knife out at arm’s length away from your body and turn 360°. There should be no other people, tree limbs, tents, walking paths within this area.

2. This “bubble” around you is known as your “blood circle”.

3. It is the responsibility of the knife user to find a safe area to work. It is not the responsibility of others to leave your vicinity if you decide to bring out your knife.

4 If you are working in an unsecured area such as a trail use "Coming Through" and "Go For It".

a. "Coming Through" tells someone nearby that you would like to pass through his work space.

b. "Go For It" tells you that person has acknowledged that you are there and has stopped working to let you safely pass through.

## E. Care of the Pocket Knife

1. Carefully wash with dish soap and water, and rinse after using to cut food, make sure to dry.

2. Keep inside clean of dirt.

a. Open all blades and accessories.

b. Using a toothpick and a small patch of lightly oiled rag, clean the blade storage area.

c. Using a light oil, slightly oil all hinges. Wipe off any excess oil before closing.

## F. DO’S for pocket knives.

1. Make sure your work area is clear of other people and hazards before opening and using knife.

2. Keep blades closed except for when using them.

3. Keep your fingers clear of the sharp edge as you open and close the blade.

4. Cut away from your body.

5. Close the blades before you pass the knife to someone else.

6. Keep the knife sharp and clean. A sharp blade is easier to control then a dull one.

7. Obey any school regulation that prohibits carrying knives on school property.

## G. DO NOT’S for pocket knives.

1. Do not use if others are within your “blood circle”

2. Do not carry any knife with the blade open

3. Don't throw a knife.

4. Do not stick knife in ground, it will dull the blade.

5. Don't cut toward yourself, or toward anyone else.

6. Don't strike a knife with any other tool or pry with the point of a cutting blade, or use knife for any purpose other than what it was intended for.

## H. Sharpening your pocket knife.

1. Use a *whetstone* or *oilstone.*

2. Hold the blade at a 30 degree angle to the stone, 1/3 from vertical.

3. Using a circular motion move the blade around the stone using moderate pressure.

4. Wipe the blade clean with a cloth.

a. When looking straight onto the blade in sunlight or a bright light a dull blade will look shiny. A sharp blade will have no shine at all.

## I. Demonstrations:

1. Have scout demonstrate the correct way to open and close a blade.

2. Have the scout demonstrate safely passing a pocket knife to another scout, and have that other scout safely pass the knife back.

3. Using a whetstone or oilstone, have the student demonstrate the proper method of sharpening at least one blade.

4. Using proper technique and safety, have the student demonstrate how to make a fuzz stick, using his pocket knife.

# Part Two - Camp Saw

## A. The Camp Saw

1. Is the proper tool for most outdoors wood cutting and the wood tool scouts will use most after their pocket knife.

## B. Parts of a Camp Saw



## C. Types of Camp Saws.

1. Folding saw has a blade that folds into the handle of the saw.

2. Bow saw has a metal frame that the blade is tightly suspended between.

## C. When Cutting Downed Wood (firewood).

1. Brace the piece of wood against a chopping block, sawhorse, or other solid support.

2. Use long, smooth strokes.

3. Let the weight of the saw pull the blade into the wood.

## D. When Cutting Standing Wood (Tree trimming).

1. Never cut from a standing tree, dead or alive, without the permission of the ranger, property owner, property manager, or scoutmaster.

2. First make an undercut on the bottom of the limb to be cut, then cut from the top. This

will keep the saw from binding and bark from stripping down the side of the tree.

3. Cut as close to the tree trunk as you can without damaging trunk with saw.

4. When cutting saplings cut as close to the ground as you can without grounding saw.

## E. DO’S for camp saws.

1. Do keep the saw sheathed whenever it is not in use. If saw has no sheath, make one from old garden hose split once along its length and slid over blade.

2. Do carry a saw with the blade turned away from your body.

3. Do replace blades when they become dull. Sharp saws are easier to use and control.

4. Do use care when passing a saw to another person. Always turn the blade away from both

persons. Use the same “May I”, Thank You”, and “You’re Welcome” rules as when passing a pocket knife.

5. Do wear gloves and protective eyewear whenever using a camp saw.

## F. DO NOT’S for camp saws.

1. Do not cut any trees, alive or dead, without permission.

2. Do not allow the saw's blade to cut into the ground. Soil and rocks will quickly dull the

teeth.

3. Do not leave a saw lying around camp.

## G. Demonstrations:

1. Have scouts demonstrate the proper and safe way to cut firewood of at least 3 inch diameter.

2. **Note:** Always sheathe and put away the saw, gloves, and eye protection when finished.

# Part Three – The Ax

## A. Types of Axes

1. Hand Ax, also called a Hatchet.

a. Generally handle is 12 inches or less in length.

b. Will always have a single cutting edge.

c. Is held with one hand.

d. Used for cutting small pieces of wood or for limbing.

e. Primary Ax used by Boy Scouts.

2. Ax

a. Handle can be from 2 – 4 feet in length

b. Can have either a single or double cutting edges.

c. Is held with two hands.

d. Is heavier and used for splitting large pieces of wood or felling trees.

e. Generally not used in scouts due to heavy weight and difficulty to control.

## B. Parts of an Ax

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## C. Setting Up Your Ax Yard

1. Cordon off area using safety tape or fencing at least 20 feet in diameter in all directions.

2. No scouts allowed in ax yard without adult supervision and permission of Scoutmaster.

3. Only one scout allowed in ax yard at a time.

4. Keep ax yard clean – All tools off the ground at all times. Pick up all debris and remove from yard.

5. An ax may not be used outside the yard unless permission is received from the Scoutmaster.

6. Never swing an ax is any person is within 10 feet of you.

## D. Swing of the Long Ax.

1. Wear gloves and protective eyewear whenever using an ax.

2. Securely hold the belly of the handle in one hand, (right handed people hold with the left hand)

3. With the other hand grasp the handle just under the head of the ax.

4. Position the ax about eye level.

5. Bring the ax down with a smooth motion allowing the upper hand to slide down the ax handle to meet the stationary hand which on the belly of the handle.

6. Allow the weight of the ax to do the cutting.

## E. Swing of the Hatchet

1. Hold hatchet in one hand similar to how you would hold a hammer.

2. Position legs and feet out of direct line of the swing.

3. Swing with the same force as a hammer, the weight of the hatchet will do most of the work.

## F. Limbing.

1. Cutting branches off a log.

2. Stand on the opposite side of the log as the limb to be removed is.

3. Cut close to the log.

4. Keep the log between you and your cuts.

## G. Bucking.

1. Cutting through a log.

2. Cut a "V" notch twice the width at the top as the log is thick.

3. Use proper swinging technique.

4. Keep your eye on the spot you wish to cut.

## H. Splitting wood.

1. Splitting a log lengthways.

2. Use a chopping block. Flat wooden surface.

3. Stand the log to be split on the chopping block.

4. Select an *age crack.*

a. An age crack is a natural split through the diameter of a log caused by the drying of the wood.

5. Using proper swinging technique bring the ax down striking the log at the age crack.

6. Remove the log from the ax, reposition on the chopping block, and use the swinging

technique again.

7. Never swing the ax while the log is still attached to the blade.

## I. Contact method for stick splitting.

1. Used to split a small stick of wood.

2. Best to use a hatchet.

a. Place the bit of the ax against the end of the stick.

b. Bring the ax and stick down together against the chopping block.

c. Twist the ax to break the pieces of the stick apart.

## J. Carrying of the ax.

1. Always place the sheath on the ax before carrying.

2. Grasp the ax by the handle just under the head of the ax.

3. Carry the ax with the blade turned away from yourself.

4. Never carry and ax over your shoulder.

## K. Passing the ax.

1. Always place the sheath on the ax before passing it to another person.

2. Grasp the ax by the knob of the handle.

3. Turn the blade away from the two persons. To the outside.

4. "Thank you” . The receiving person always uses the line, "Thank you" before the ax is released to him. This is an indication that he has total control of the camp tool.

## L. Sharpening the ax.

1. Use a 8 or 10 inch mill bastard file to sharpen the ax.

2. Wear leather gloves to protect your hands and use a knuckle guard on the file.

3. Place the ax head against a log of about 6 inches diameter. Use 2 pegs or tent stakes to secure it at the butt.

4. Place the file at a 30 degree angle against the blade and push it into the bit.

5. Sharpen with firm, even strokes.

6. Lift the file from the bit when recovering from a stroke.

7. Turn the ax around and sharpen the other side of the bit.

a. When looking straight onto the bit in sunlight or a bright light a dull blade will look shiny. A sharp blade will have no shine at all.

## M. DO’S for axes.

1. Do keep the ax sheathed whenever it is not in use.

2. Do Carry an ax by the handle just under the ax head, and with the blade turned away

from your body.

3. Do keep your ax sharp. Sharp axes are easier to use and control.

4. Do use care when passing an ax to another person. Always turn the blade away from

both persons.

5. Do Wear gloves and protective eyewear whenever using an ax.

## L. DO NOT’S for axes.

1. Don't cut any trees, alive or dead with permission.

2. Don't allow the blade to cut into the ground. Soil and rocks will quickly dull it.

3. Don't leave an ax or hatchet lying around camp.

4. Don’t ever throw and ax or hatchet.

## M. Demonstrations:

1. Using a mill bastard file, have the student demonstrate the proper method of sharpening.

2. Using proper technique and safety, have the student demonstrate splitting wood.

3. Using proper technique and safety, have the student demonstrate the proper carrying and passing of an ax.

## N. Responsibility, Safety & Compliance

**NOTE: Axes and hatchets can be extremely dangerous if used incorrectly. Misuse will not be tolerated!**

**NOTE: An ax must be in top condition to use. If the head is loose, handle is cracked , or blade is dull, DO NOT USE IT! Report unsafe tools to adult leaders.**

# My Responsibility

**I will take this card to my Scout leader or someone designated by my leader and do the following:**

1. Read and understand woods tools use and safety rules from the *Boy Scout Handbook.*

2. Demonstrate proper handling, care, and use of the pocket knife, ax, and saw.

3. Use the knife, ax, and saw as tools, not playthings. use them only when you are willing to give them your full attention.

4. Respect all safety rules to protect others.

5. Respect property. Cut living and dead trees only with permission and with good reason.

6. Subscribe to the Outdoor Code.

# The Outdoor Code

**As an American, I will do my best to -**

**Be clean in my outdoor manners.**

**Be careful with fire.**

**Be considerate in the outdoors, and**

**Be conservation minded**