

BSA Troop 810 has developed this guide to provide consistent and thorough instruction and practice for the handling and caring for wood tools: pocketknife, saw and ax. Instructors should follow this guide, referencing the Boy Scout Handbook, as necessary. Recognizing that wood tools proficiency can only be acquired after significant experience, the instructor should keep in mind that the goal of the Totin' Chip is merely to introduce the concepts of wood tools use and safety to relatively new scouts. To that end, your job as an instructor is to present the material clearly, answer all questions, compassionately assist scouts who may be struggling, and encourage all the scouts in a supportive manner.

This Totin' Chip course works best with a group of 5-10 scouts and should take approximately 45-60 minutes to complete. It is designed to cover the material found in the Boy Scout Handbook pp. 77-85.

TOTIN' CHIP

Pocketknife Instruction

<p>Scout Materials:</p> <p>Boy Scout Handbook pp. 77-79</p> <p>Pocketknife</p> <p>Stick off of ground - Approx. 12" long and 1" in diameter.</p>	<p>Instruction Materials:</p> <p>Boy Scout Handbook pp. 77-79</p> <p>Pocketknife</p> <p>Toothpicks</p> <p>Tissue Paper</p> <p>Whetstones</p> <p>Honing oil</p>
--	--

Discussion Points	Scout Practice
Describe some uses for a pocketknife: cut a rope, slice a biscuit, tighten a screw, make wood shavings to start a fire (page 77).	Have the scouts describe some other uses for a pocketknife.
Discuss and demonstrate the proper way to open and close a pocketknife (p.78).	Have the scouts practice opening and closing their pocketknife properly five (5) times.
Discuss and demonstrate the proper passing technique. Blade is closed and do not release until receiver says "thank you".	Have the scouts pass a pocketknife around a circle a few times- opening, closing, passing and thank you's.
Discuss and demonstrate cleaning of a pocketknife (p.79) Wash blades in hot soapy water and dry. To clean inside, wrap a moistened cloth around the end of a toothpick, open all blades and wipe out the blade compartment.	Have the scouts clean the inside of their pocketknives with toothpicks and cloth.
Discuss and demonstrate how to sharpen a pocketknife (p.79) Show and discuss a whetstone - made of stone that is harder than knife metal. Some people sharpen with a dry whetstone (now that's an oxymoron), others put water or light oil on stone. Show how to sharpen blade - hold blade at 30 degree angle (1/3rd to vertical) and push blade away as if slicing a layer off of the stone or move blade in a circular motion. Sharpen both sides of the blade. Wipe blade with clean cloth and examine in light. A sharp blade has no shine, a dull blade reflects light and looks shiny.	Have the scouts practice sharpening their pocketknives using a whetstone and the proper technique. Have them do 20 strokes per side of the blade. Then have them examine for sharpness.
Discuss and demonstrate the proper cutting technique. Holding blade at an angle and cutting away. Before opening your knife for use, check your blood bubble - no one should be within at least 4 feet of user.	Have the scouts find a stick (approx. 1 inch in diameter) on the ground. Have them whittle it for 2 minutes. Or have them make fuzz sticks (p. 251) using proper technique.
Wrap-up	Have scouts take turns reading out loud the do's and don'ts of knife safety found on p. 78.

TOTIN' CHIP

Saw Instruction

<p>Scout Materials: Boy Scout Handbook p. 80</p>	<p>Instruction Materials: Boy Scout Handbook p. 80 Bow saw w/ rubber sheathing Fixed blade saw Goggles Gloves Logs off of ground - approx. 4' long and 4-5" in diameter. Large log for bracing</p>
--	--

Discussion Points	Scout Practice
Discuss a saw is usually the most efficient way to cut wood. Show different types of saws: bow saw - note replaceable blade, fixed blade saw. Need to keep blades sharp for most efficient cutting.	
Discuss and demonstrate sheathing of a saw when not in use. Keep saws off ground and out of way when not in use.	
Discuss do not cut trees without permission of ranger, landowner, or scout leader. When cutting a limb off a tree - make an undercut first, then saw from the top down to prevent stripping bark from the trunk.	
Demonstrate proper carrying technique of a saw - carry at side with the blade turned away from body.	
Discuss and demonstrate proper sawing technique - brace wood against a larger log or chopping block. Use long, smooth strokes. Do not press down on the saw, let the weight of the saw pull the blade into the wood.	Have the scouts practice carrying the saw correctly and sawing through a log 4-5 " in diameter. Each scout should try to saw completely through the log at least one time. Should wear goggles and gloves.
Wrap-up	Have scouts take turns reading out loud the do's and don'ts of saw safety found on p. 80.

TOTIN' CHIP

Ax Instruction

<p>Scout Materials: Boy Scout Handbook p. 81-85</p>	<p>Instruction Materials: Boy Scout Handbook p. 81-85 Large Ax Small Hatchet Ax yard - caution tape and 4' stakes Mill bastard file Goggles Gloves Large logs for splitting - approx. 8-12" in diameter Chopping Block</p>
---	--

Discussion Points	Scout Practice
<p>Discuss and acquaint scouts with an ax yard. Only one scout may be in yard at a time. A scout may be in the yard provided there is adult leader supervision. Keep yard clean - tools off the ground and clean up debris. An ax may not be used outside the yard unless instructed and supervised by an adult leader. Never swing an ax if someone is within 10 feet of you. (p. 82)</p>	
<p>Discuss uses of an ax - falling trees, splitting large logs, etc. (p. 81)</p>	<p>Have the scouts describe some other uses of an ax.</p>
<p>Review the different parts of an ax: Handle- shoulder and heel; Head - butt, face, toe, blade, and bit (p. 81).</p>	<p>Point to an area of the ax and have the scouts call out its name.</p>
<p>Discuss safety - do not use an ax if handle is split, head is loose, or blade is dull. Report an unsafe ax to the adult leaders. When not in use, sheath the blade and store out of the way.</p>	
<p>Discuss and demonstrate safe carrying technique. Carry ax with one hand at your side. Carry by the head with the blade facing away from the body. Do not carry on your shoulders (p. 84)</p>	<p>Have the scouts practice carrying an ax.</p>
<p>Discuss and demonstrate safe passing techniques. Pass with ax head down and the bit turned away from both of you. Do not release until the receiver says "thank you" (p. 84)</p>	<p>Have scouts practice passing an ax to each other.</p>
<p>Discuss and demonstrate how to sharpen an ax, using a mill bastard file, thick gloves and goggles.</p>	
<p>Discuss and demonstrate chopping techniques, especially bucking (cutting through) a horizontal log using a V notch and splitting an upright log on a chopping block. Discuss hand and feet positioning and swing technique.</p>	<p>Have scouts practice receiving, carrying, chopping and passing an ax. Have each scout try to chop approx. 10 times, concentrating on proper technique.</p>

TOTIN' CHIP

Outdoor Code & Recognition

Explain the Outdoor Code is similar to the Scout Promise and Law, it is a statement of our beliefs in protecting our environment and being good stewards of our natural resources.

Say each line and pause for the Scouts to recite.

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.

RECOGNITION:

This completes the Totin' Chip course.

Award scouts the Totin' Chip card and patch. Sign-off on Second Class Requirement 2c.

Scouts should sign the back of the card and keep with them at all times.

Explain that you must have the card with you to possess or use wood tools (knife, saw, and ax) at future scout meetings or events. A scout/adult leader can ask to see your Totin' Chip if you are carrying or using wood tools. If you do not have it with you then you will not be allowed to use the tools. Likewise, if you are carrying a pocketknife and do not have your Totin Chip with you, the knife may be confiscated until the end of the event.

With the right to use these tools comes a responsibility to use them safely. Your right to use these tools at scout events may be taken away if you do not follow the safety rules we discussed today.

Each time you are caught handling the tools in an unsafe manner, a corner will be removed from your card. Once all four corners have been removed you will forfeit your privilege to use wood tools for one full year. In the case of severe safety issues (e.g., using a tool as a weapon or in a manner that causes bodily injury to others) your privileges may be forfeited immediately and indefinitely.

Congratulations on earning the Totin' Chip.