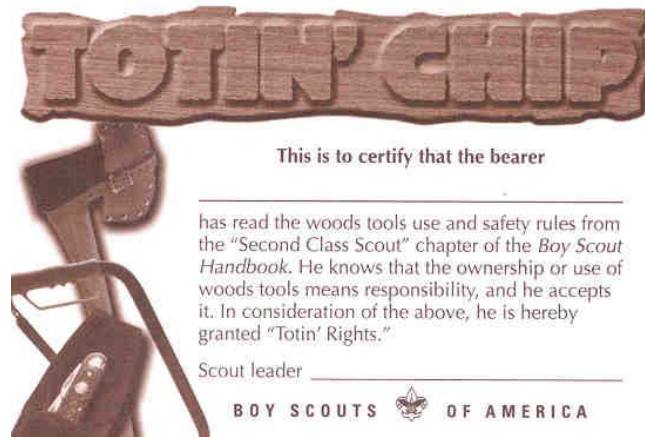


## Totin' Chip Lesson Plan

**Introduction:** The Totin' Chit card is granted to Scouts who have demonstrated the proper procedures for handling a knife, campsaw, and ax. These are commonly referred to as woods tools. Scouts are not permitted to use a knife, campsaw, or ax at a Troop function unless they are in possession of their Totin' Chip card.



The ability to properly use this equipment is one skill that can truly make the difference between life and death. You may need to use a knife, campsaw, or ax to cut firewood and keep you warm.

Totin' Chit cards will be issued by the Scoutmaster at the end of this training. Scouts will sign their card indicating agreement to abide by Boy Scouts rules with respect to woods tools. If the Scout feels that he cannot abide by the rules on the front and backside of the Totin' Chit card, he will not be issued a card.

**Objectives of This Lesson:** By the end of this session, the Scout should be able to:

- a) Properly use, carry, and sharpen a knife.
- b) Properly use and carry a saw
- c) Properly use, carry and sharpen an ax.

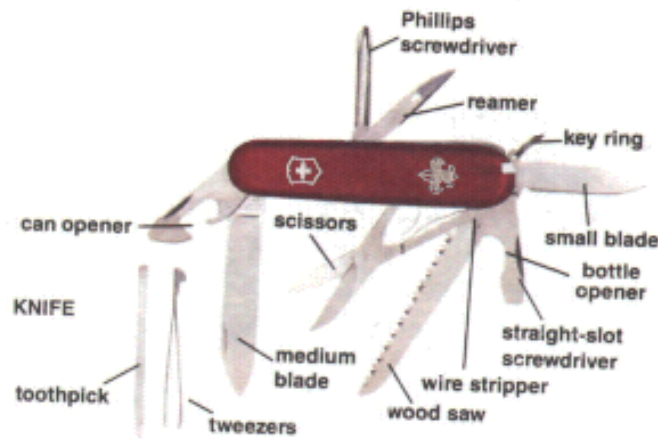
**Materials Needed:**

- a) Pocketknife
- b) Camp saw
- c) Sharpening File (triangular and mill bastard)
- d) Sharpening Stone
- e) Protective Eyewear
- f) Gloves
- g) Pine Stakes for Whittling
- h) Cleaning Materials for Knives
- i) Ax (Troop Trailer)
- j) Rope

**Totin' Chip Card:** Discuss the front and backside of the Totin' Chip card. Have one card to demonstrate. Discuss the responsibility rules on the front and back of the card.

- a) Read and understand woods tools use and safety rules from the *Boy Scout Handbook*.
- b) Demonstrate proper handling, care, and use of the pocketknife, ax, and saw.
- c) Use the knife, ax, and saw as tools, not playthings. Use them only when you are willing to give them your full attention.
- d) Respect all safety rules to protect others.
- e) Respect property. Cut living and dead trees only with permission and for good reason.
- f) Subscribe to the Outdoor Code

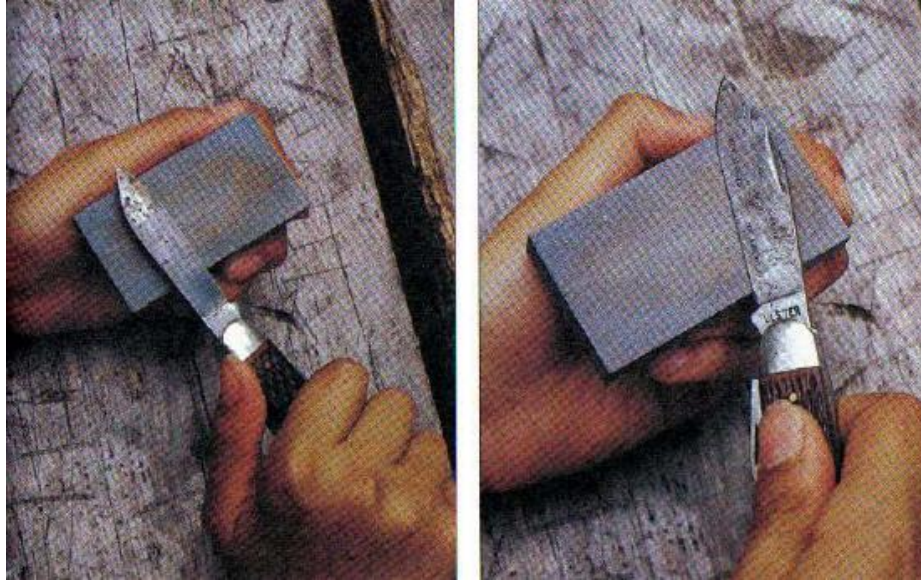
**Knife:** Boy Scouts do not allow sheath knives. The only authorized type of knife is a folding blade knife.



- a) Proper Passing a Knife - A folding blade knife should always be passed closed. Open and close a knife with both hands. Receiver says "Thank You" when he receives a knife from a giver. **Have Scouts open and close the knife. Pass it to neighboring Scouts.**
- b) Use of knife.
  - 1) Keep the blade closed except when using the knife.
  - 2) Cut away from yourself.
  - 3) Close the blade before you pass the knife to someone else.
  - 4) Keep your knife sharp and clean
  - 5) Never carry a knife with the blade open.
  - 6) Never throw a knife.

**Have Scouts demonstrate cutting with some of the pine stakes.**

- c) Sharpening a Knife.
  - 1) Sharpen knife with a whetstone.
  - 2) Hold the blade against the stone at a 30 degree angle.
  - 3) Push the blade across the stone as if you were slicing a layer off the top. The stone's gritty surface will sharpen, or hone, the blade much the same as that sandpaper smoothes wood. To sharpen the other side, turn the blade over and pull it along the stone toward you.
  - 4) Wipe the knife with a clean cloth and examine the edge. A dull edge reflects light and looks shiny. A sharp edge is so thin that it has no shine at all.



**Have Scouts demonstrate sharpening a knife.**

d) Cleaning a knife

- 1) Open all blades.
- 2) Twirl small bit of cloth onto the end of a toothpick
- 3) Moisten the cloth with light oil
- 4) Wipe inside of knife
- 5) If you have used your knife to cut food or spread peanut butter, get rid of bacteria by washing the blade in hot soapy water.
- 6) Keep you knife dry, oiled, and clean at all times.



**Have Scouts demonstrate cleaning a knife.**

## Campsaw (Discuss with Scouts)

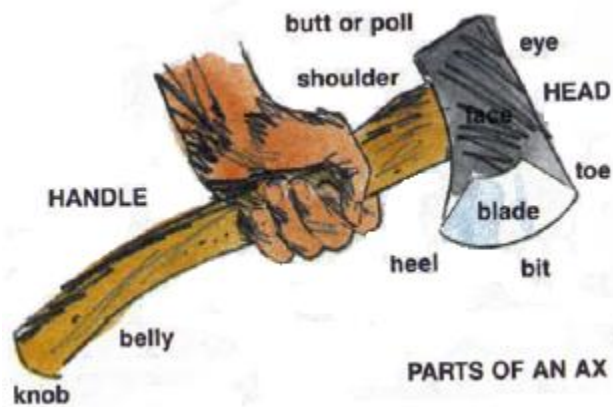
- a) Use - A campsaw will cut wood faster than an ax. It is the right tool for most outdoor woodcutting
- 1) Saw teeth are razor sharp. Treat every saw with the same respect that you would give a pocketknife.
  - 2) Sheath a saw when it is not in use. A old garden hose makes a great sheath for the campsaw.
  - 3) Carry a saw with the blade turned away from your body.
  - 4) Use care when passing the saw to another person.
  - 5) Wear gloves and protective eyewear.
  - 6) Do not cut any trees, alive or dead, without permission.
  - 7) Do not allow the saw blade to cut into the ground.
  - 8) Do not leave a saw lying around camp.
  - 9) Hold the wood firmly in place with one hand while you use your other hand for long smooth strokes that the weight of the saw of the saw pull the blade through the wood.
  - 10) When sawing a dead branch from a tree, make an undercut first, then saw from the top down. The undercut prevents the falling branch from stripping bark and wood from the trunk.
- b) Passing a saw - blade facing out and not across the body. Receiver says thank you when he has control of the saw.
- c) Sharpening - Touch up the teeth of your saw with a small triangle file or ignition file. Put on leather gloves and protect your hands, and then stroke the file upwards. Following the shape of each tooth. Sharpen one side of the saw and then the other



**Have Scouts demonstrate using and passing the campsaw. Have them saw a log.**

## Ax

a) Parts of the Ax - Go over parts of the ax.



b) Use – An ax requires a safe tool, safe shoes, safe working area, and safe technique.

1) Safe Tool – An ax must be sharp and in top condition. Remove the sheath only when you are prepared to use your ax correctly. See sharpening ax later.

2) Safe Shoes – Wear sturdy leather boots when you are chopping with an ax.

3) Safe Working Area - Rope off area. Hold ax by head and move in a circle so you know nothing is around you to get in the way of a swinging ax. Hold ax above you to make sure there are no low branches to caught ax while chopping. If someone is in ax yard already, ask permission before you enter. People must be 10 feet away before you can chop. Wear long pants and leather boots.



*Question: What is wrong with wearing sandals or tennis shoes when chopping wood?*

*Answer: If the ax slips then the sandals and tennis shoes provide no protection for the feet while leather boots do provide some protection.*

**Have Scouts set up an ax yard and then comment on quality of their ax yard.**

c) Safe Technique

1) Holding - The correct way is to hold it by the axe's shoulder and heel. The ax handle rests along the persons arm and the ax bit points down.

*Question: Why is this a good way to carry an ax?*

Answer: It helps prevent people getting hurt when a person carrying an ax falls. An ax should never be waived in the air and held still when being carried.

2) Passing - The proper way is to pass the ax is along the side of the body with the bit facing out and never across the body. If the passer passes the ax with his right hand then the receiver will take the ax with his left hand and vice versa. Say thank you when receiving an ax? It lets the passer know you have control of the ax.

3) Carrying - Place sheath over the ax blade whenever it is not in use

a) Carry ax at your side with one hand with the blade turned out from your body. If you stumble or fall, the ax blade is away from you.

b) Never carry an ax over your shoulder.



**Have Scouts get into a circle. Pass the ax around. Once the ax has been passed to someone they must show the correct way to hold and carry the ax.**

d) Cutting Wood

1) Limbing – use for chopping branches off a log

a) Stand on the side of the log opposite the branch you want to remove.

b) Chop close to the base of the branch

c) Drive ax into the topside of the limb



**LIMBING**

- 2) Bucking – used cutting through a log
- a) Hold ax with one hand near the head and the other close to the knob of the handle
  - b) Lift the head above your shoulder, slide hands together, swing the bit into the log
  - c) Let the falling weight of the ax do the job.
  - d) Aim blows so a “v” shape twice as wide as the log is thick.
  - e) Repeat process

**BUCKING A LOG**



### 3) Splitting

- a) Best done on a chopping block – a piece of a log that provides a solid flat surface.
- b) Stand wood to be split upright and drive ax into the end of it using the same handling procedure as bucking.
- c) Do not swing an ax with a piece of wood attached to it.



◀ Use a chopping block to split a large round of wood. Always remove the ax after driving it into the end of the round until the wood splits.

### **Have Scouts demonstrate limbing, bucking, and splitting.**

#### e) Sharpening an ax

- 1) Clamp ax on bench, table or use the technique as shown below.
- 2) Use a *mill bastard file* 8 or 10 inches long. The lines across the face of the file are the teeth.
- 3) Wear gloves to protect your hands.
- 4) A file only sharpens when you push it away. Dragging the file across the blade on the return will break off the teeth and ruin the file.
- 5) Sharpen with firm, even strokes. After you have filed one side of the bit from heel to tow, turn the ax around and do the other side.
- 6) Under bright light, a dull edge reflects light. Continue to file until the edge appears to disappear.





**Have Scouts sharpen the ax.**

**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.**