

Earn the Official BSA Whittling Chip Wallet Card!

The Official Whittling Chip wallet card can be earned by Bear Cub Scouts by mastering the "Knife Safety Rules" on this page. The object is to teach a boy that:

A Cub Scout knife is an important tool. You can do many things with its blades. The cutting blade is the one you will use most of the time. With it you can make shavings and chips and carve all kinds of things.

You must be very careful and think when you whittle or carve. Take good care of your knife. Always remember that a knife is a tool, not a toy. Use it with care so that you don't hurt yourself or spoil what you are carving.

Know the safety rules for handling a knife

A knife is a tool, not a toy.

Know how to sharpen a knife. A sharp knife is safer because it is less likely to slip and cut you.

Keep the blade clean.

Never carry an open knife in your hand.

When you are not using a knife, close it and put it away.

Keep your knife dry.

When you are using the cutting blade, do not try to make big shavings or chips.

Easy does it.

Knives are not toys!

Close the blade with the palm of your hand.

A knife should never be used on something that will dull or break it

Be careful that you do not cut yourself or any person nearby.

A knife should never be used to strip the bark from a tree.

Do not carve your initials into anything that does not belong to you.

Activities for the boys to test/reinforce their understanding of knife safety

The Pocketknife Pledge (fill in the blanks)

I understand the reason for _____ rules.

I will treat my pocketknife with the _____ due a useful tool.

I will always _____ my pocketknife and put it away when not in use.

I will not use my pocketknife when it might _____ someone near me.

I _____ never to throw my pocketknife for any reason.

I will use my pocketknife in a safe manner at _____ times.

Close, respect, injure, promise, all, safety,

Test your knowledge:

You should close the blade with the palm of your hand

True

False

A knife is just a toy.

True

False

It's okay to keep your knife wet.

True

False

A dull knife is more likely to slip and cut you.

True

False

You should carry your open knife in your pocket.

True

False

Carving your initials into a tree is okay.

True

False

Preparation for your knife safety and Whittling Chip Card – Cub Scout Bear requirement:

When your Cubs learn that they are going to get to whittle, their eyes will probably light up with excitement. This can be a lot of fun for Bears and in their excitement many of them are going to want to carry their knives with them to make sure that they can do the whittling at the den meeting.

Although you will be teaching the safe handling of knives and helping the boys to learn a skill, most schools will not find this a very satisfactory explanation for having a knife on school property. Worse, some schools have a zero-tolerance policy regarding weapons and having a Cub Scout knife at school could result in expulsion from the school. The trick is to work around this so that all of your Scouts get to have fun, but without innocently running into trouble. For example, if your meeting is after school and on school grounds, you probably should plan to hold your meeting at a home or in someone's workshop when you teach whittling. Because boys of this age tend to forget to give mom and dad important information items, you may want to have a personal word with each parent to make sure that an adult brings the knife to the meeting for each Bear.

Bear Cub Scouts are ready to learn how to care for and use a pocket knife, so training in the Den meeting is good for them. Hard woods are difficult to carve and ask for accidents and

discouragement. Pick up soft wood scraps at the lumber yard, purchase some balsa wood blocks, or, better yet, ask each Cub to bring a bar of soap from home to carve. (Ivory is fairly hard and flakes off when it is carved. It works better if you unwrap the bar a day or two before use.) There are pre-printed Scout slide kits available at Scout stores.

Some ideas for carving projects are arrowheads, shamrocks, flowers, baby animals, or the Cub Scout sign.